

Jan. 1988



# WININGS

596  
PARACHUTE  
COMBAT  
ENGINEER  
COMPANY



596 Parachute Combat Engineer Company



596 PARACHUTE ENGINEERS - ALBANY, N.Y. 1987



" W I N G S "

Official Publication of the  
596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company  
Published at least twice yearly

Editor: Edward P. Phillips  
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South Paris, Maine  
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### Past Chief Engineering Officer

Earl H. Dillard  
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## 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team Association



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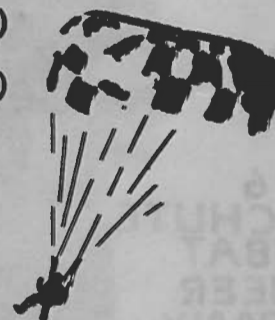
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Henry (Hank) Simpson (596)  
Cameron Gauthier (460)  
Joe A. C. Williams (B-517)  
Robert Edmond (460)  
Frank Grbinich A-517)  
Clinton Lowe (C-517)



## THE EDITOR'S DROP ZONE---

This past year, 1987, was a good year for me. In May a friend invited me to tour Israel with his family. We had a fantastic time. Then in June I attended the reunion in Albany, N.Y. It is always a wonderful experience to attend a reunion of the 517th P.R.C.T. The fellowship started over forty years ago is renewed and expanded. Any one who has not attended a reunion should make an effort to attend and I promise that you will return year after year.

The highlight of 1987 for me was the visit of Bob & Garnet Dalrymple to my home. They were visiting friends in New Hampshire and made a special trip to have lunch with me and toured the area with me as guide. It was a good day.

Received a letter back in July from Don Saunders. He reported that he was operated on July 14th and now has a complete new knee. He is now in Florida and I hope I can contact him in February when I attend the mini=reunion in Orlando. He sent me some photos of the Albany reunion which you can see in this issue.

I also received letters from Ray Hild, Charley Pugh, Hal Roberts and Joe D. Miller. All sent pictures and told of the great time they had at the reunion. They are all planning for 1989.

Joe Senter called from Texas to tell me that he and George Mitchell were on their way to Europe to revisit many of the places they saw in 1944-45.

This issue of WINGS is a bit incomplete. The printer is pushing me to get the copy to her so I can get it to you around the first of February.

Some of the items that has not been mentioned are the Airborne Birthday party in Washington, D.C. in 1990 and the drive to have a stamp issued to honor the fiftieth anniversary of the Airborne troops of the U.S.Army.

Joe D. Miller and Charley Pugh are involved in both of these projects. I understand that Charley is part of a three man committee planning the party in 1990. Plans include everything from reunions, demonstrations, speeches and a parade down Pennsylvania Avenue. At the same time Joe Miller is heading a group who is trying to get the Post Office Department to issue a stamp to honor the Airborne Troops. We all can assist him by writing to our Senators and Congressmen asking them to rattle the cage and get the Post Office Dept. off the stick. Since they have issued stamps honoring everything from lace-making to Morocco, it is about time a stamp is issued to honor the best troops in the Military - THE AIRBORNE.

One last item. I enjoy writing and editing the WINGS. However two things are needed if you wish to continue to receive the newsletter. One is news the other is funds. So, please write me with news of your activities past or future including families. Also a picture or two - and with the items you may include a check. THANKS



### 517th PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

#### ELEMENTS OF THE TEAM

517th Parachute Infantry Regiment  
460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion  
596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company

#### CAMPAIGN CREDITS

Rome-Arno	WDGO	99	6 Nov 45
Southern France	WDGO	87	16 Oct 45
Airborne Assault	WDGO	70	20 Aug 45
Rhineland	WDGO	118	12 Dec 45
Ardennes-Alsace	WDGO	114	7 Dec 45
Central Europe	WDGO	116	11 Dec 45

The 517 PRCT fought on battlefields in Italy, France, Belgium and Germany  
The Team sustained over 1500 casualties and had 245 men killed in action

#### UNIT DECORATIONS

517 PRCT	French Croix de Guerre with Silver-Gilt Star, World War II		
	Streamer embroidered DRAGUIGNAN. French Decision	247,	15 Jul 46
517 PRCT	Belgian Croix de Guerre	Belgian Decree Number 6185,	4 Jul 49
1/517 PIR	Belgian Croix de Guerre	Belgian Decree Number 1329,	7 Nov 45
2/517 PIR	Belgian Croix de Guerre	Belgian Decree Number 7253,	13 Jul 50
1/517 PIR	Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation	DAGO 10,	30 Jan 48
	Streamer embroidered SOY-HOTTON. Executive Order 9396		

#### INDIVIDUAL DECORATIONS

Medal of Honor	1	Bronze Star	631	Soldiers Medal	4
Distinguished Service Cross	6	Purple Heart	1576	Air Medal	2
Silver Star	131	Legion of Merit	5	French Croix de Guerre	17

#### UNIT HISTORY

PARATROOPERS' ODYSSEY A History of the 517th Parachute Combat Team  
Published 1985 by the 517 PRCT Association  
6600 Josie Lane Hudson, FL 34667



Members of the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion shortly after landing in southern France. (Author's collection)

From Charley regarding the above photo.

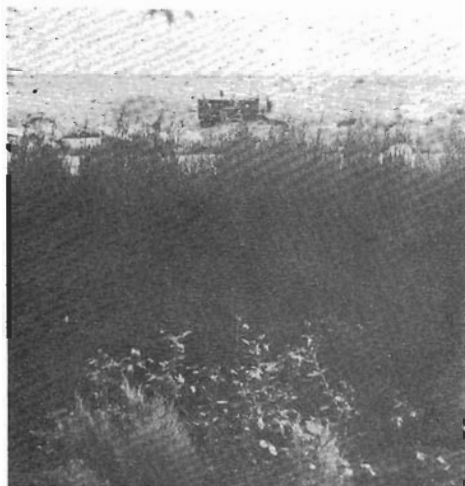
The enclosed photocopy is from the new book by Bill Brewer, It is OPERATION DRAGON. Moses wrote me to say that he believes the first three men (left to right) in the photo are 596 men - Costello, Christian and Kunzer. The fourth man is from the 517th or 460th. I too believe his identification is correct. Perhaps you can run this photo in WINGS and get the opinion of others.

Charley

Well, it is being printed in this issue and I hope it turns out clearly so you can make your decisions. I agree with Charley and Moses. Drop us a line if you agree or disagree.

Ye Editor

See the review of the book Operation Dragoon on the following page. Review is by CHARLES PUGH.



Minefield on beach in Nice (MacFadden)



In textbook-perfect formation, Lt. Col. Wood Joerg's 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion bails out behind the Riviera on the evening of D-Day. (U.S. Army)

AUG. '87

THE STATIC LINE,

## — BOOK REVIEW —

OPERATION DRAGON  
THE ALLIED INVASION OF  
THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

By William B. Breuer

Although overshadowed by Operation Overlord (6 June D-Day) and only slightly noted by the news media at the time, Operation Dragoon was the second largest combined airborne/seaborne invasion of WW II. It involved 1,000 ships, several thousand warplanes, and 300,000 men that included a 9,100 man contingent of airborne troops.

The author recreates events at all echelons on both the German and Allied sides. The greatest emphasis is on the airborne part of the assault and attention is focused on the time period from D-Day through D plus 4.

Breuer's writing style is an admixture of a chronological narrative of military operations and personal anecdotes. The military history is intertwined with personation in a tapestry of hilarious, tragic, courageous, and incredible experiences that hold one's unwavering interest and attention.

This is the fascinating story of the most successful Allied airborne assault of WW II. It was also the worst kept secret of the war, as Axis Sally was broadcasting the time, place, and military units involved, weeks before the impending invasion. The paratroopers' only advantage, the element of surprise, did not exist. A heavy cover of fog over southern France caused the pathfinders to be mis-dropped and unable to function at all. Consequently, the main body of paratroopers was widely scattered. In spite of that problem, within 48 hours of landing, all objectives of the First Airborne Task Force had been seized. These men wreaked havoc inland from the beaches, snarled German communications and, most importantly, blocked enemy efforts to rush reinforcements to the coastline to attack seaborne troops as they waded ashore.

General of the Army Dwight Eisenhower characterized the operation this way: "There was no development of that period which added more decisively to our advantage or aided us more in accomplishing the final and complete defeat of German forces than did this attack coming up the Rhone Valley from the Riviera."

Operation Dragoon was originally planned to coincide with Operation Overlord on 6 June, but had to be postponed because there were not enough LSTs (landing ship, tank) for both. Neither were there sufficient numbers of transport planes or glider pilots.

Bill Breuer is one of America's most eminent and prolific military historians. His books include, DROP ZONE SICILY, HITLER'S FORTRESS CHERBOURG, BLOODY CLASH AT SADZOI, AGONY AT ANZIO, THEY JUMPED AT MIDNIGHT, CAPTAIN COOL-PARATROOPER LEGEND, and DEATH OF A NAZI ARMY; THE FALAISE POCKET. His description of combat, the sights, sounds, smells and emotions, all come alive in this book as they only can when written by an author who knows them first hand.

As a participant in Operation Dragoon, this reviewer can attest that the events described are accurately recapitulated in such a way as to make this a thoroughly enjoyable read even for those who think books of military history are dull and boring. Not this one. The book is dedicated to the late General Melvin Zais.

REVIEWED BY DR. CHARLES E. PUGH



----- Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of OPERATION DRAGON, \$19.95 per book, plus \$2.25 postage and handling for entire order.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Mail check or money order to: Cash Sales, Static Line Books, PO Box 87518, College Park, GA 30337)



MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS-----



George (Pappy) Jones & Ed Larivey  
Trooper in Rt. rear unknown



Cpl. Clarence Hatlestad



Warren Sandberg



Francis Lester, Driving - Russ Pearson in front  
Joe Miller & Cpl. Earl Thomas in back



A German gun emplacement  
going up. We used extra  
explosive - MacFadden



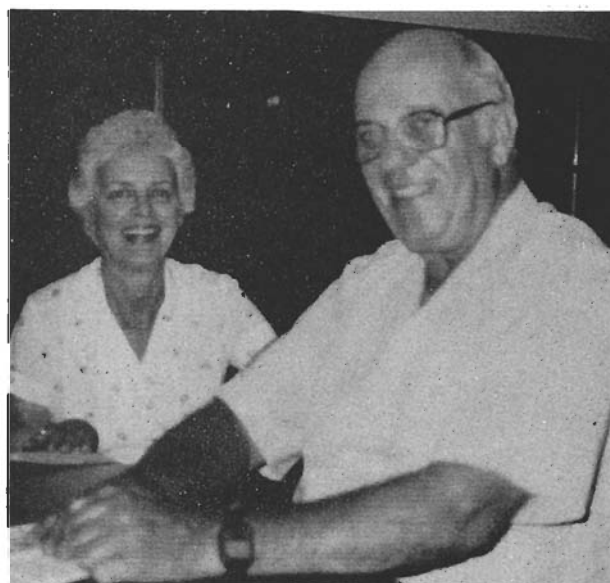
Paris-1945 -- MacFadden



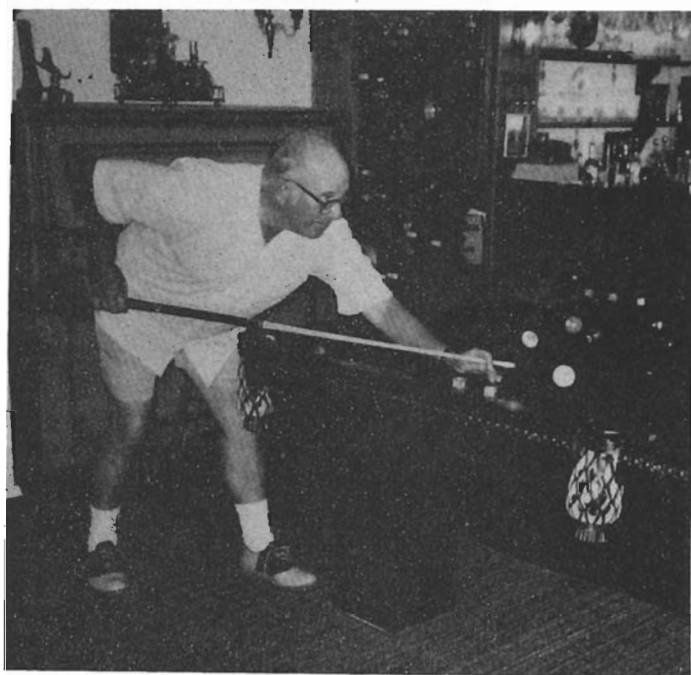
Al Goodman - Airborne Walk



Corey Gibbon-Al Goodman -- 1987



Alice & Al Goodman - Charley's Pub



Al Goodman - Charley's Pub



Scenery in South France - 1944



Dedication Day - Airborne Walk - Ft. Benning

MEMORIES OF CAMP MACKALL



Headquarters platoon



First Sergeant Barnes



Loading plane - ready to jump



MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL

Hi Charley,

It is always good to hear from you. Your letters are all so full of cheer, and information, particularly of our group.

LaVerne and I are certainly looking forward to our reunion in Albany. We have had reservations made for months. I hope we will have as fine an attendance as we have had in the past. The program laid out is superb and would certainly be a loss to miss any part of it.

The Citation you speak of Charley, on the Southern France jump and being awarded a second French Croix de Guerre. Well, I was in one of the first planes off the ground, on the first wave and landed in the town of Calion, infested with Germans and pill boxes. From there we battled our way along with the British Red Devils, the Scots and French underground, toward the South.

I didn't get back to the Company for months, packing my 30 caliber machine gun all the way. I was taken prisoner for awhile, broke away with the British wounded and wound up in a hospital in Naples, and on returning, requested regrouping with my old outfit in Nice, and that's when I ran into all you guys again.

I was reported missing in action -- my parents were sent a telegram to that effect. However, on corresponding with them in Italy, it countered the War Dept.'s shock. Capt. Dalrymple like to jump out of his skin when I showed up.

So anyhow, Charley, after reliving all this and visualizing all our Comrades, here and there, it comes to the point that I did jump in Southern France and went with the Company, sweeping through the rest of France, Belgium, Luxembourg and finally wound up in Berlin as occupational forces with the 82nd Airborne Division.

However, you know all this anyway, Charley, we were there together. Some of us got scattered around a bit, but somehow or other, the more fortunate are able to talk about it and regroup at the reunions.

However, much to our dismay, our ranks are dwindling, but due to the exceptional invigorating correspondence and care that you, Ed Phillips and many others show keeps us alive. Bless you all. I remain Most Sincerely,  
Your friend,  
Manny (Ventoza)



Only about 1000 from Los Angeles or San Diego by car or bus

# Welcome to Palm Springs (CALIFORNIA)

## WEST COAST PARTY!

## 517 PARACHUTE COMBAT TEAM

MARCH 11-12, 1988

Hello Trooper

SURPRISED!!??

SOME OF US COULDN'T WAIT ANY LONGER FOR A SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REUNION. SO WE CHOSE BEAUTIFUL PALM SPRING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PRIME WINTER SEASON... WE ENVISION THIS AS AN ANNUAL EVENT HELD IN DIFFERENT WESTERN CITIES. SO WHILE IN PALM SPRINGS, WE WILL TAKE TIME TO PLAN THE NEXT..

PALM SPRINGS IS IDEAL. A WARM CASUAL AND UNIQUE "SMALL TOWN" - INTERESTING SHOPS, SCENERY EVERYWHERE - IT'S THE WINTER PLAYGROUND OF THE U.S.A. .... OPTIONAL GOLF, A CELEBRITY BUS TOUR, THE AERIAL TRAM RIDE TO 9,000 FT. ARE AVAILABLE. ... OF COURSE, THE WARM FELLOWSHIP MOSTLY FROM THE WEST, BUT MANY FROM THE EAST, IS THE HIGH LIFE.

...GET YOUR RESERVATIONS IN, PACK YOUR FUN CLOTHES AND JOIN YOUR BUDDIES IN PALM SPRINGS!!

NEED MORE INFO? Call

AL SOBELS

BARNEY HEKKALA

LUD GIBBONS

GEORGE CORREA

ALAN GOODMAN

CARL KIEFER

BILL BRANNON  
MARK BAIRD (AZ.)

# INTERNATIONAL HOTEL RESORT PALM SPRINGS, 92262

(619) 323-1711  
1800 EAST PALM CANYON DRIVE

## PLEASE RESERVE:

Number of rooms with one Queen or one King Bed \_\_\_\_\_

Number of rooms with two Queen Beds \_\_\_\_\_

Single Rate \$69.00 + Tax 9% \_\_\_\_\_

Double Rate \$69.00 + Tax 9% \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of people in my party \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You!

\*Amount of deposit Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## 517th Parachute Infantry Cpmbat Team Reunion

Arrival Date March 11, 1988 Departure Date March 13, 1988

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

## 517 Parachute Combat Team Mini Reunion Orlando, Florida 12-13 February 1988

Where: International Inn  
6327 International Drive  
Orlando, FL 32819

When: 12-13 February 1988

What: A friendly gathering of old time troopers  
in a friendly, warm atmosphere during the  
cold, cold winter months.

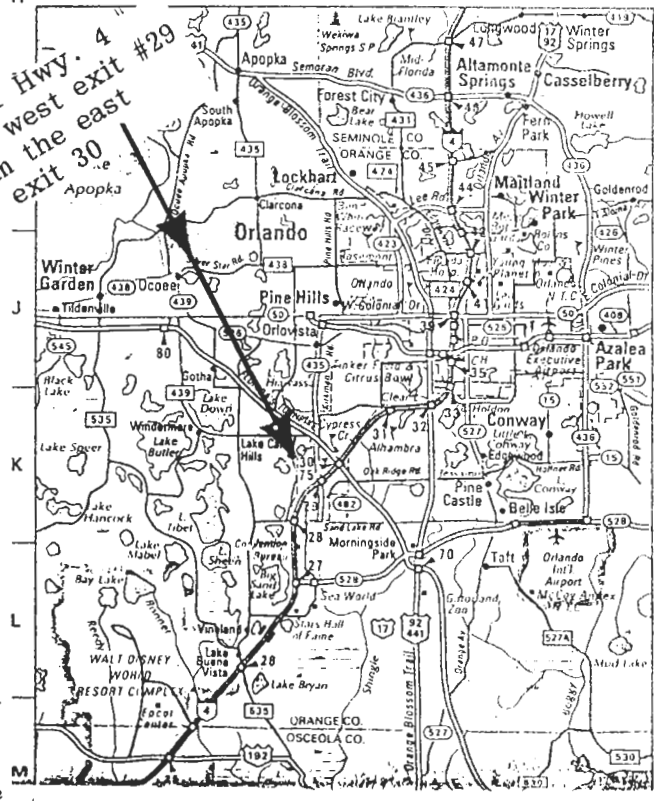
Cost: \$14.50 per person...This will include food  
in the hospitality room Friday and Saturday  
and the Buffet Dinner Saturday evening.

Jump master: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee: The registration fee for this  
event, \$14.50 per person should be sent to  
Bill Lewis at the above address. Make check  
payable to Bill Lewis-517 Mini.

Hotel reservation: Make your reservation direct-  
ly with the hotel at the hotels address above.  
The room charge for one or two persons is \$29  
per day. Send a check with the reservation  
form. The hotel will hold rooms for us at the  
listed price until January 12. Please get your  
reservation in as early as possible.

Inn off Hwy. 4  
From the west exit #29  
from the east  
exit 30



19 May 1987

Dear Ed,

Here is some material for the next issue of Wings. Please return the photos to Jim MacFadden and also change his address to Kenwood Court, Apt. A-9, Levittown, PA 19055. I doubt that few if any of these photos are worthwhile to you.

Don Saunders recently found out that Laverne B. Moore died in New York state 3 years ago. Dick Bartholomew plans to retire later this year.

There is a check for \$50 from Pete Lannen. Please send him a thank you note.

See you soon.

Charley

4-24-87

Dear Ed,

Received my copy of Wings a few days ago and have enjoyed reading it and catching up on the news of the 596.

You're doing a great job - about as good as "tending bar"!

Winston and I are looking forward to seeing the gang in Albany.

Regards,

George (Schull)

P.S. Enclosed is a small check to help run this outfit.

Geo.

May 5, 1987

"Hi' Pugh - "Duke of Paducah",

I didn't learn to type yet. A few other things I didn't learn to do, but I'm still learning.

After 4 years at U.T.I., traveled as Civil Engr. on heavy construction. I came back here eleven years ago and started surveying. It took all my savings to get started. Five years ago, my wife and I started, or added, real estate to our business. Didn't sell one piece of property the first year and wiped out our savings again. We are beginning to catch up - not enough to save anything yet, but things are looking better. I appreciate hearing from you and realize it takes a lot of money and time to do what you and the others are doing and I would like to make a large donation in time and money, but I'm still too busy keeping bread on my table.

Can you tell me if I can still get the History Book of the 596th? Do you ever hear from Sgt. Drisco or Bob Agler? Can't see you in New York. Hope to see you next time. Sincerely,

M.H. & Devona Turner



MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL

Dear Ed,

I have wanted to do this for a long time, and I have procrastinated enough.

The fact is, Polly and I are busy as bees. She doing her income taxes, and I driving cars. Eight years ago, Polly and I started driving cars for dealers. We now drive (all over) for four dealers and also have several other drivers who drive for us. I also (for three years now) have been driving Veterans to Veterans Hospitals for the V.A. man. I am on the road almost every day. Sometimes more than one trip a day. The half owner of one of the agencies lives in Florida and he comes up here every two weeks and one of my jobs is picking him up at O'Hare Field in Chicago and taking him back in again.

Last summer Polly and I did not once get the chance to drive our motor home out of our driveway! We hope this summer will be different. We have been training some of the other drivers to take over for us. We hope to see you all in Albany, but it just won't be the same without Lt. Dillard there.

I am sending a check for you to use for postage or whatever. Also all my love to my 596th buddies. Polly says Hi!

Best wishes,

Polly & Hal (Eddy)

May 11, 1987

Dear Charley Pugh,

Hi. I'll just write a note that I jumped in south France August 15 a long time ago. I was in the 596th. I was in the first platoon, and I think the 1st squad. The 596th was quite the outfit. I think they had more combat deaths than the 517 inf. company wise, but the whole Eng. Co. jumped the same time.

Just to let you know, I feel fine, but my eyesight is very poor. But I still eat & sleep & drink beer. I haven't driven a car in the last 8 years, but we live in this little town, and walking is good exercise. I have a hell of a time writing a letter, but what the hell.

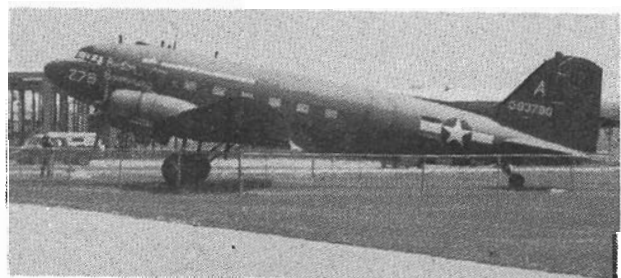
I was 68 years old last March. My wife is 60 years old but in good health, so everything is okay.

It has been quite dry here this spring for farmers, but everything will shape up I hope.

I often think of the war times we had, but what the hell.

Well, bye now and be good.  
Your old buddy,

Harold Johnson



May 10, 1987

Dear Charles,

I have received the Croix de Guerre citation with great pride--and am most grateful to those of you who bird dogged this matter out and made this decoration available to us. I look forward to receiving the one from Belgium. It is a sad commentary on our government that they did not make these decorations available to us after they were awarded by the governments of France and Belgium more than 40 years ago. In a little ceremony at Chablis in the spring of 1945, we ceased to exist as a unit. As you recall, this was shortly before the war in Europe ended. We came home in the fall of '45, and, while at sea, learned that the war in the Pacific was also over.

At the conclusion of the war, France and Belgium were in a shambles and confronted a long, difficult rebuilding process. Yet, with all their problems, they found time to express their gratitude to us who fought to liberate their countries. It is disgraceful that our own country did not transmit the kindly sentiments of France and Belgium toward us to us. We must remember that in those years, our country was not run by a bunch of god damned Marines,

5-23-87

Dear Ed,

Thanks for your efforts in the 596th's behalf.

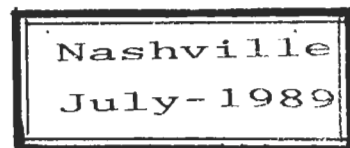
Gloria and I won't get to Albany. Our last dog is 15 years old and crabby. It takes the two of us to give him his eyedrops (3 X per day). Also, I won't retire until Dec. 1988, but I'm working  $\frac{1}{2}$  time now.

Enclosed is something to help out in your publishing efforts, and if anything's extra, I'm sure it can be used well at Albany.

Bill & Gloria Hudson

P.S. My next door neighbor is moving to Geneva, Switz., & just sent a container with all his furniture which will take a month to arrive. It recalls your "slow boat to Naples" trip in 1944.

\*\*\*\*\*



(Lannen letter con't.)

led by a make believe cowboy.

I am enclosing a check to help in a small way the commendable efforts of you and other troopers in making sure that the 596 will not be deep-sixed in American military history.

Sincerely,

Pete Lannen

25 April 1987

Hi Charles,

Thank you for your letter.

Had talked to Ned Hosterman hoping to bring him along. He's not feeling up to par, but plans on attending reunion. For past seven months and perhaps yet another year I, like so many, taking Chemo - Myelmo Multiple. And the week of reunion - more Chemo. Had heart set on attending, maybe last minute can drive up. Good luck to all, have wonderful time. Good health!

Respectfully yours,

Bob Wilson

P.S. The enclosed to help with your expenses. We can never repay you for your work, Charley. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*



Bill Lewis--Sec-Treas-517th P.C.T.  
with Charley Pugh at the 517th  
memorial - Airborne Walk

1 May 1987

Dear Ed,

The most recent issue of Wings was at the usual high standard of interest and excellence that we have come to expect from you. Thanks for this company publication that I doubt has a peer. I know it is the source of great pleasure and enjoyment to our members.

Enclosed is a note and \$10 from Robert Wilson and \$20 from me. My only criticism of this most recent issue of Wings is that you didn't ask for some contributions to cover the costs of printing and posting. It is enough that you do the work. The postage costs alone are considerable. Don't be bashful about asking our guys to send you a few bucks. Most will not respond but, if asked, enough will come through that you can maintain some degree of enthusiasm for the job. See you soon,  
Charley

Dear Charley & Ann,

First of all, Bernie and I want to thank you for sending him that award and yes, he was in the first Platoon of the 596 PCEC. He was so happy when I showed it to him and he cried. He has been pretty sick since Easter, but he seems to be doing much better now again. Oh, yes, Charley, I hear someone is going to give the men a hat. Could I get one for Bernie? I want to come for the dinner. I know Bernie wouldn't be able to come. How can I just come for the dinner? I am going to go with Mike & Kathy Balino. Who can I send the money to for the dinner?

We will be looking forward to seeing you and Ann. Oh, yes, thank you for all the cards and other things you have sent Bernie. Sorry I am slow in writing.

Love,

Thelma & Bernie Barnes

\*\*\*\*\*

Thelma Barnes attended the reunion and the banquet. It was wonderful to see her again. A group of us visit Bernie at the convalescent home. He looked great. A picture of the group with Barnes is on another page of this newsletter. (editor's note)

7 May 1987

Dear Charley,

Re your note regarding jumping with the 1st Platoon/596. I believe I was with the 2nd platoon from the forming of 'C' Company/139 until just prior to shipping to the P.O.E. when I was transferred to E/517 where I served until St. Vith was in sight. I was then hospitalized and sent to the Air Corps, limited service, not fit for further combat duty.

I thank you for thinking of me once again, though. I didn't know we were awarded the first Croix de Guerre, let alone a 2nd one. I didn't realize until the last few years that we did anything unusual. Having been Airborne from the first, I just thought everyone was as crazy as we were.

Charley, I sure appreciate hearing from you from time to time. It's hard for me to remember a lot of the names after I see them in print, but that's about it. We're sure losing a lot of them, aren't we? It's sad, but inevitable. I was sure sorry to hear about Lt. Dillard and Sgt. Morgan. The training those two gave me kept me alive. Sincerely,  
Don Smith

MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL

May 8, 1987

Dear Charles,

Received your letter and citations today and thank you. Am very proud all of us are finally being awarded.

If I had to remember the names of the 1st Platoon members, doubt if I could manage over 75%, but luckily, about 2 years ago Ernie Kasan sent me a copy attached. As to the accuracy of it and date, am not sure, but it looks O.K.

After we left Frascati the 1st went to the 509, at Villa Roma, by the sea. We were attached for the joy ride to France only, and once there were to revert back to 517 control.

We landed south of LeMuy a dense fog and I think about 10 of us assembled and managed to make it to the high ground south of LeMuy, and join Col. Graves and a few of his troops.

Since things were still in a state of turmoil in LeMeig and the few remaining Germans there, we didn't move down for a day or two. By then, American troops had secured it and shortly after we went down. Most all units had gathered and the march at last started.

Have included a small check, Charles, and would appreciate it if you'd send me one of the small 596 patches, and keep the

May 7, 1987

Hello Charles,

I received the Citation, but I'm sorry to say I was second platoon.

Everything else is fine. We have our tickets and room for Albany so I'll see you up there.

I'm building a large garage at the lake as soon as road restrictions go off. They will pour the slab and me and my sons and sons-in-law will put up the garage. My son in the 82nd has 2 years to go and he will be home. We may go over to see him next year.

See you at the reunion,  
Warren Sandberg

\*\*\*\*\*

(Hild letter con't)

balance to help out on postage, which I know is costing beaucoup.

Also received a letter from the Turf Inn saying they were booked solid and were referring my reservation to the Hampton House, next door.

Looks like there will be a good attendance for all units.

Am anxious to see you and all the others.

Sincerely,

Ray Hild

P.S. We plan to fly Continental and arrive in Albany about noon Friday, returning Sunday noon.

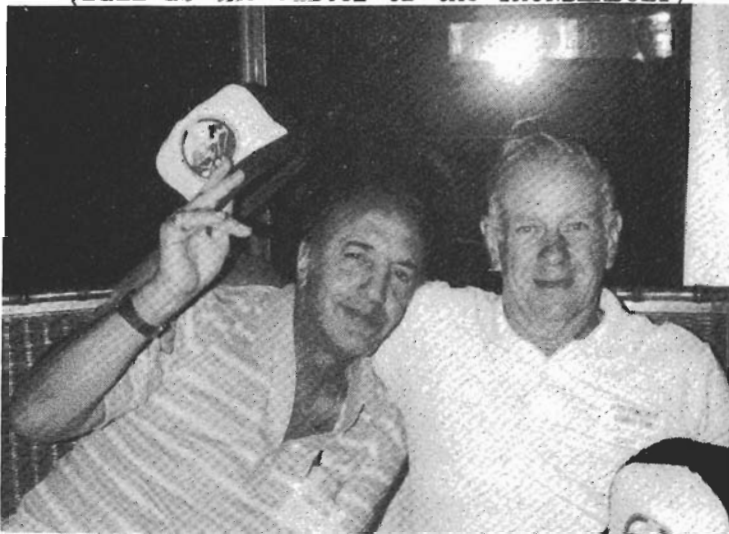
REUNION ALBANY, NEW YORK 1987



Charley Pugh, Dick Bramley, Bill Lewis  
(Bill is the editor of the THUNDERBOLT)



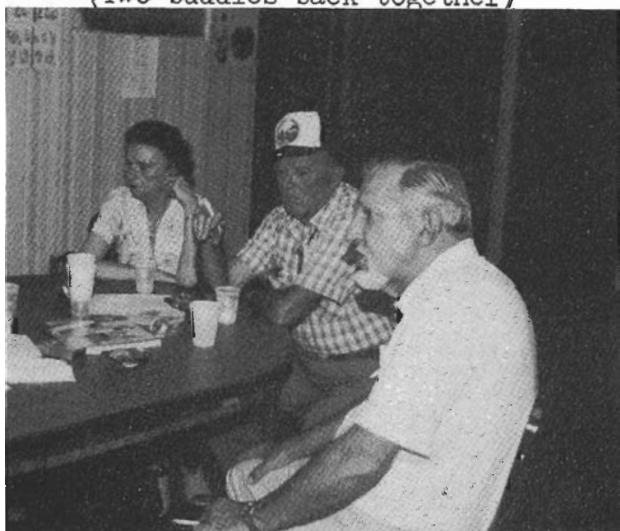
Gladys & Wes Williams



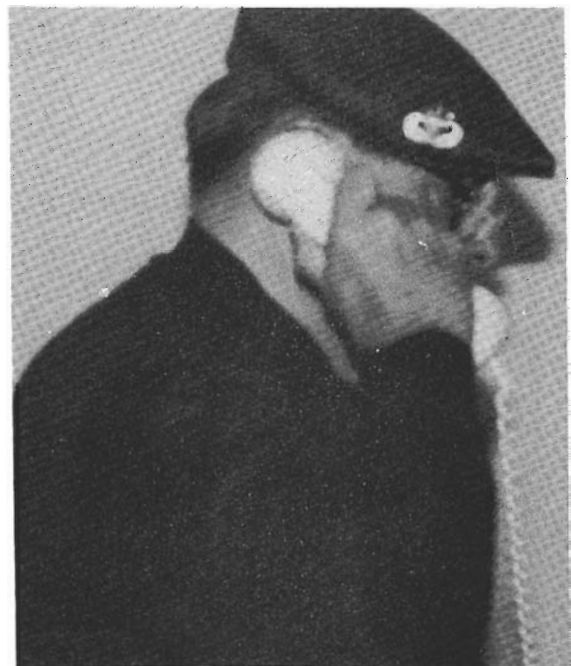
Bob Verdi & Don Saunders  
(Two buddies back together)



Jim Moses - acknowledging our  
thanks for the hats he donated



Betty & Alan Ward, Kosan



Phillips talking to Dalrymple



Melrose & Warren Sandberg



Marion Simpson



Manny Ventoza



C.Pugh-R.Hild- J.Kosan-J.Roberts-M.Hild



M.Saunders - M.Hild - C.Pugh - M.Verdi

G.Williams - E.Markle - G.Markle



MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL

July 13, 1987

Dear Ed.

A picture of me with Jim Greenwood and Pop Spencer and a deer that I killed while hunting with them last December. We were hunting in South Carolina.

I had a good time in Albany. It was as good as any convention i have attended. Maybe better. If I am not mistaken there was three there that I had not seen since the war. They were Szakacs, Sandberg and Horrigan. It is always good to see an old face that has been missing. Sorry more of them didn't make it.

My family and I are doing well.

All the way,

Mose



Spencer - Moses - Greenwood



The Simpsons in CHARLEY'S PUB  
Ft. Worth, Tx.



George Williamson - Dennis Shipley




Clark Archer - Chas. Pugh - Joe Miller  
Atlanta, Ga. - 1987

**\$18.00**

**Postage  
and  
Handling  
Included**

**★★★**

Paratroopers' Odyssey



A History of the  
517th Parachute Combat Team

MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL\*\*\*\*MAIL CALL



1944-1945

Patrick Michaels -(K.I.A. So. France)  
North Carolina - Companion unknown



Is this North Carolina ?



German tank in Belgium  
Jim MacFadden on right



Mountain road  
Southern France



Marshall Turner  
George Ayling



Looks like Nice, France



Sospel road crater - 1944  
Gibbons - Bulino - Meares

Pictures from Jim MacFadden

## REUNION ALBANY, NEW YORK 1987

The reunion held in Albany, N.Y. this past June was a wonderful affair. Thirty one troopers of the 596 were there, most with their wives. They all enjoyed themselves greeting old friends, swapping stories, looking at new and old pictures and winning the war again and again. There also was a lot of eating, drinking and merriment.

The hotel was an excellent place for a reunion. The total turnout for the Combat Team was too large for the hotel so quite a few were in nearby establishments.

There were trips to the Military Academy at West Point, boat ride down the Hudson River and a trip to New York City for the day.

The banquet was very nice, good food, good speeches, interesting program and music of the Forties for dancing and listening. Col. Boyle did a fine job organizing the Reunion.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bob & Garnet Dalrymple had planned to be at the reunion. As a matter of fact they had a wonderful trip planned to tour a great part of the U.S. on their way to the reunion. However, Bob's brother became ill and Bob and Garnet spent most of their time in Alexandria, Va. helping Bob's brother John. They did call us at the hotel and many of us were able to visit with them. I'm sure they will be in Nashville.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hal & Polly Eddy had reservations to attend. Illness in their family forced them to change their plans. They were missed but again there is no doubt they will be in NASHVILLE in 1989

### Members of the 596 Parachute Engineer Company attending Reunion - Albany - 1

Manuel & LaVerne Ventoza  
Allan & Betty Ward  
Arthur & Jeanette Stark  
Al & Alice Goodman  
Gene & Elaine Markle  
George & Winston Shull  
Dave & Olga Pierce  
Ed Phillips  
Hamk & Marion Simpson  
Wes & Gladys Williams  
Bob & Marie Verdi  
Dick 'Doc' Bramley  
Don & Marian Saunders  
Charles & Ann Pugh  
Ed & Mary Horrigan  
James Botts  
Peter & Rose Zubricky  
Joseph Senter  
George Mitchell  
Ned Hosterman  
Joe D. Miller  
Vince & Joan Podrasky  
Ernie & Judy Kosan  
Warren & Melrose Sandberg  
Mike & Catherine Bulino  
Jim Moses  
Elmer & Virginia Szakacs  
Ray & Mary Hild  
Hal & Jeanne Roberts  
Herb & Marie Reichwald



The 596 committee was a bit disappointed with the attendance of our Engineer Company. They thought that we would have a larger turnout because the reunion was in the East. Our hopes now are looking toward Nashville in 1989.

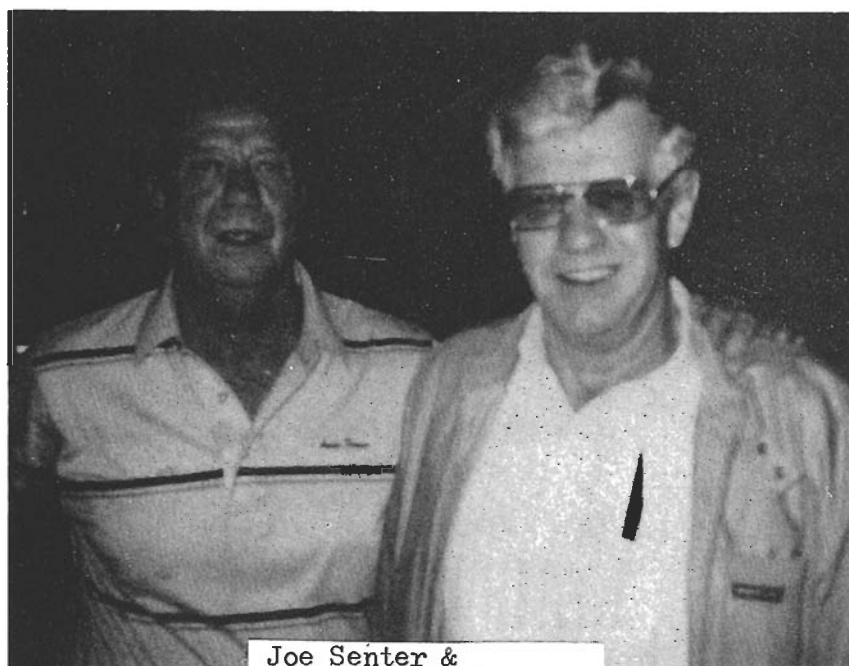
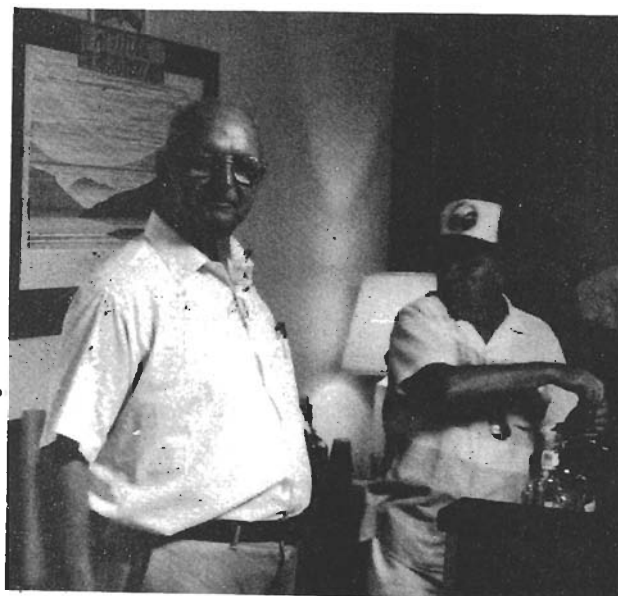


One of the groups who  
visited with Bernie Barnes

#### Trivia unearthed by Clark Archer

597 Parachute Engineer Company was constituted 22 July 1943 and activated 1 Aug. 1943. They were trained by the Airborne Command and became C Company 139th Abn. Engr. Bn. of 17th Abn. Div. on 10 March 1944 as we were pulled out and designated the 596 Parachute Engr. Co.

Moses & Zubricky



Joe Senter &  
Ned Hosterman

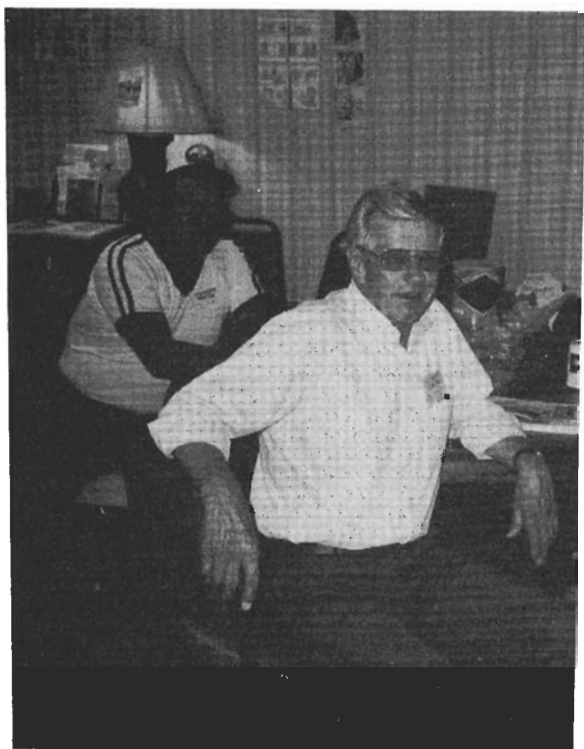
## **Kennelly receives state award**

Jim Kennelly of Burien was selected as the 1986 Outstanding Veteran for Volunteer/Personal Involvement by the Washington state Department of Veterans Affairs.

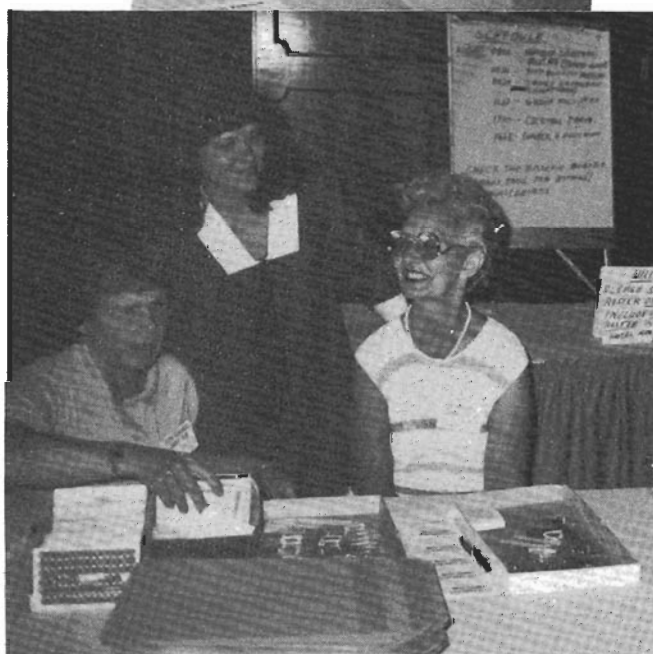
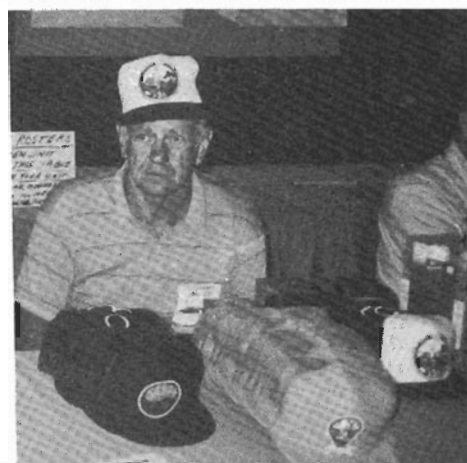
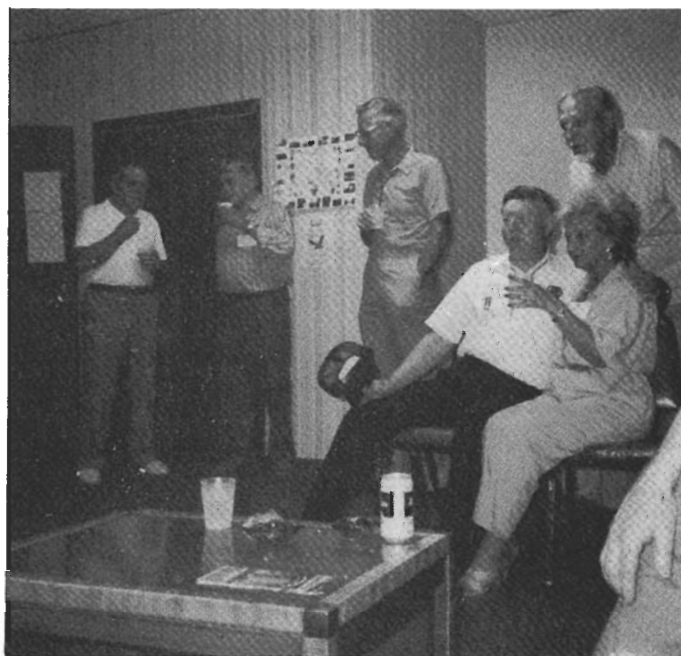
Kennelly was presented an award by Gov. Booth Gardner on Nov. 7 in the governor's office and was honored at a luncheon following the presentation.

He also was a special guest of the Regional Veterans Day Parade in Auburn on Saturday

Congratulations Jim



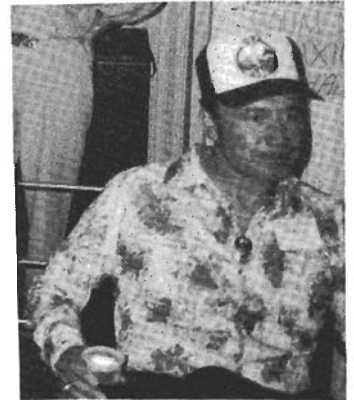
Jim Botts - Ned Hosterman



Don & Marian Saunders with Mrs. Boyle at registration desk



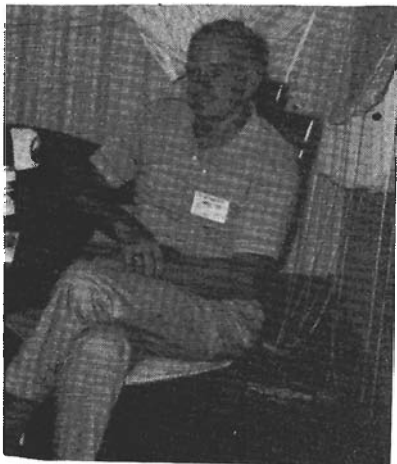
Command Post - 596 Parachute Engineers



C.E.O. VENTOZA



Luncheon for the wives





Gladys & Wes Williams      Hank Simpson  
Mary Hild - Chas. Pugh



Ed & Mary Horrigan



Art & Jean Stark - Don Saunders



Hal Roberts - Alice & Al Goodman



Marian Saunders    Betty Ward  
Rose Zubricky

REUNION ALBANY, NEW YORK 1987



Reichwald - Phillips - Al & Alice Goodman

Dave Pierce - Mike & Catherine Bulino



Phillips - Pugh - Hild - Moses

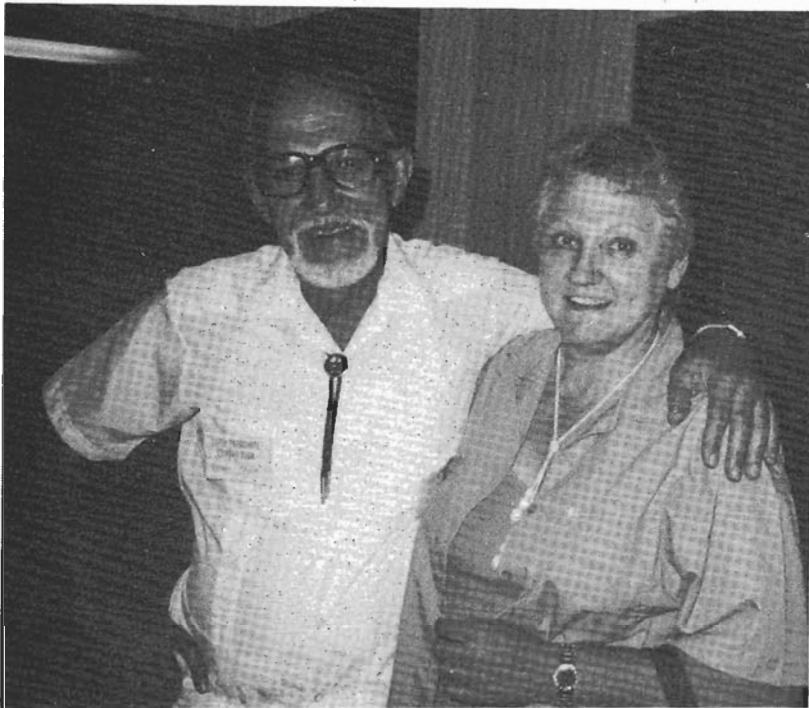


Ann Pugh  
Alice Goodman Mary Hild



Hospitality Suite

REUNION ALBANY, NEW YORK 1987



Ernie & Judy Kosan



Dick Bramley



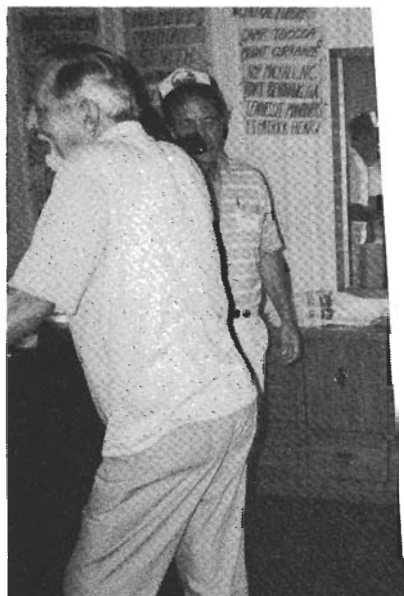
Jim Moses



Mary Horrigan - Don Saunders  
Ed Horrigan



Vince & Joan Podrasky



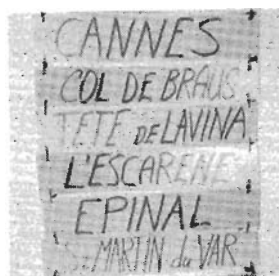
Ernie Kosan & Bob Verdi



Pete & Rose Zubricky



George Shull & Jim Botts



Herb Reichwald



Ed Horrigan & Ray Hild



## LEST WE FORGET

Let us honor  
with our prayers  
those who have given  
their lives for  
our country.



BY MEETING GREAT CHALLENGES, THEY ROSE TO GREATNESS  
AND ACHIEVED LASTING HONOR. THEY GAVE THE LAST FULL  
MEASURE FOR US AND THEIR COUNTRY.

1st Lt. George E. Flannery.....Italy  
PFC Francis T. Topyak.....Italy  
Pvt. Harry L. Springer.....Italy  
Pvt. Henry Wilkins...Jump area So. France  
Sgt. Howard D. Jaynes, Jr....Var Valley - So. France  
PFC Ernest R. Coffelt.....Var Valley - So. France  
Pvt. Leonard Mathis.....Var Valley - So. France  
Pvt. Patrick L. Michaels.....Mountain above Nice  
PFC William F. Boggan.....Nice, France Airport  
Sgt. Wallace P. Englert.....Nice, France Airport  
Pvt. Vestal A. Lucas.....Nice, France Airport  
PFC Herbert B. McLamb.....Nice, France Airport  
Pvt. Harold H. Miller.....Nice, France Airport  
PFC Alois J. Siewierski.....Nice, France Airport  
Pvt. George (Pappy) Jones....Belgium  
John Whalen.....Korea  
William Wickersham.....Korea  
Louis Barbera.....So. France with 517 F

### 596 PARACHUTE COMBAT ENGINEER COMPANY

#### IN MEMORIAM

John R. Berryhill  
Robert S. Bogan  
Jack W. Boyer  
Cyrus H. Buckner  
John Celecz  
Walter K. Charlton  
Adolph A. Correa  
Joe Diaz  
Earl Dillard  
Milton O. Dorman  
Carroll W. Dorothy  
Frank R. Ennis  
Bill Fisher  
Jesse Floyd  
Al Foley  
Max W. Grona  
Francis J. Hale

Alton Wayne Harrell  
Kenneth E. Harris  
Clyde V. Hoffman  
Dr. John T. Holbrook  
Gorda L. (Tommy) Landrum  
Francis M. Lester  
Peter Liberatore  
Ralph Longstreth  
Durland (Bucky) McCauley  
Ray W. McMullen  
William J. Metzger  
Wilburn T. Montgomery  
John F. Nelson  
Oliver J. Nelson  
James H. Nolan  
Elias Nolan  
Robert E. Powers

Charles Ryznic  
Don Sherman  
Clarence D. Smith  
Glenn C. Spangler  
Bruce Stroud  
Earl B. Thomas  
Ira Van Dyke, Jr.  
Walter Wasiurka  
Thomas J. Young  
Fred H. Zavattero  
Ray Morgan  
M. B. (Monk) Johnson



596 Parachute Combat Engineer Company



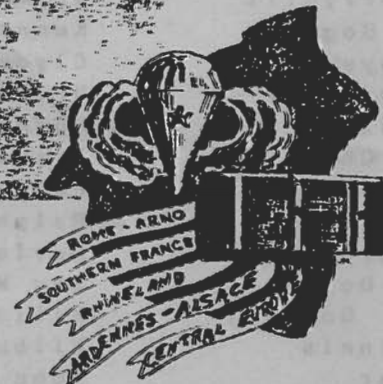
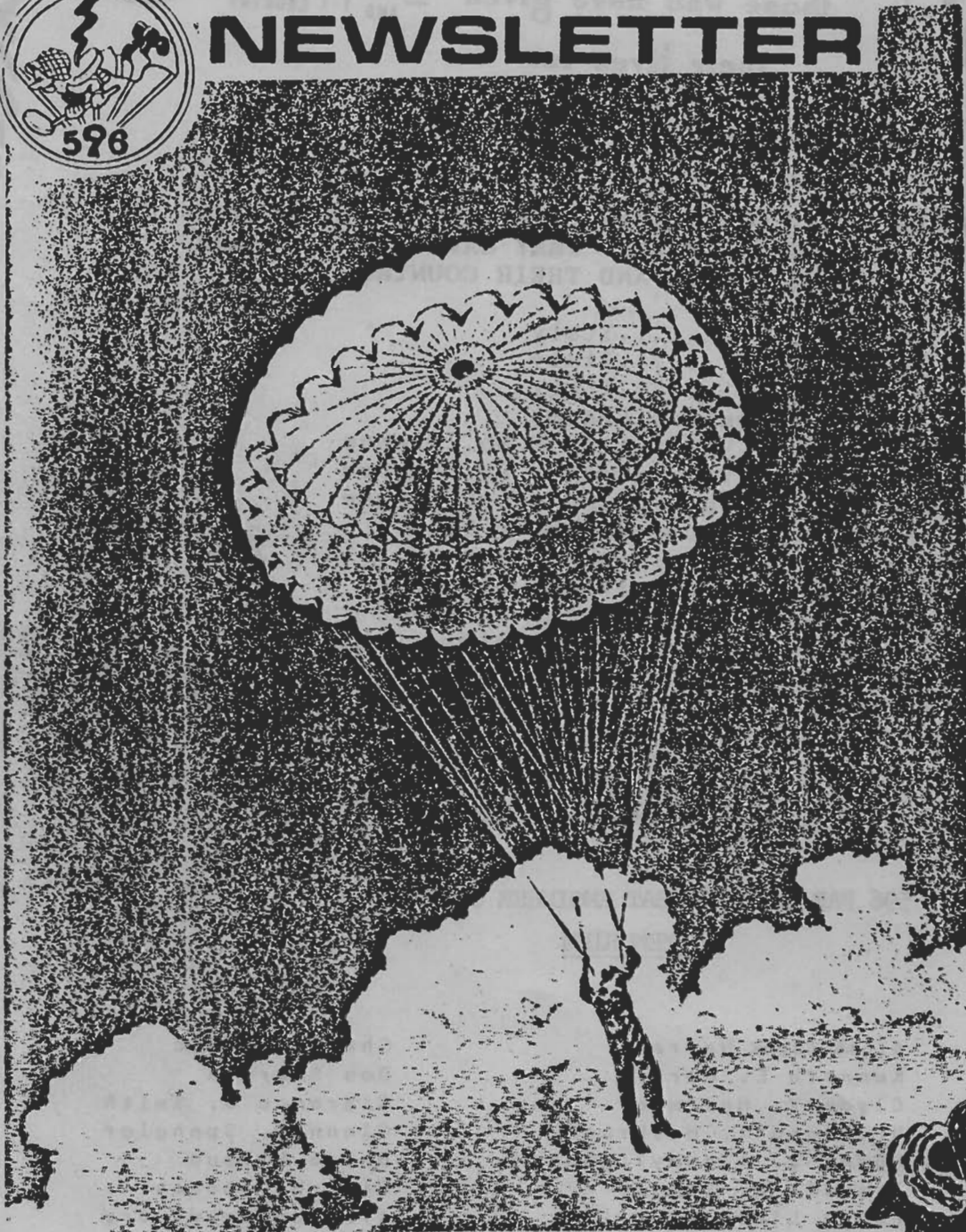
# NEWSLETTER



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January 1988