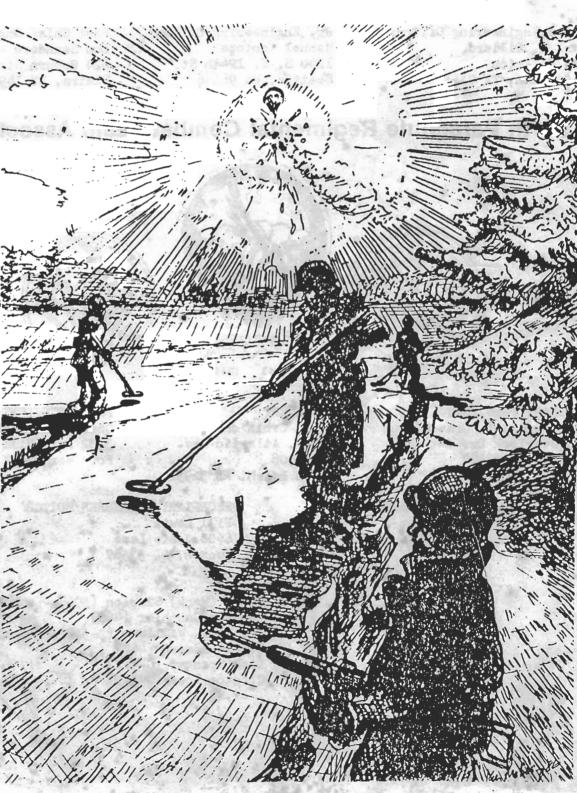


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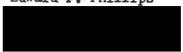
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Official Publication of the 596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company Published at least twice yearly

Editor: Edward P. Phillips



596 Parachute Combat Engineer Company

Chief Engineering Officer
Earl H. Dillard

Jr. Engineering Officer Manuel Ventoza

Past Chief Engineering Officer
Don Saunders

517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team Association







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THE EDITOR'S DROP ZONE---

Spring has sprung. Along with Spring comes my annual issue of WINGS. It was going to be a semi-annual publication but things just got in the way. Just wait till next year.

Thanks to Charley Pugh who passed along many of the pictures and some of the letters there is much news. I can say honestly that without his pushing me with many letters and phone calls the issue would be even lateror possibly handed out to those who attend the 517 RCT Reunion in June of this year.

That is number one priority this year. The reunion of the 517th Regimental Combat Team. It is being held at the TURF INN in ALBANY, N.Y. We know you have been informed of the meeting in the issue of THUNDERBIRD but this is a gentle reminder. Registration should be mailed to William Boyle, 24 Michael Drive, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. 12866. Send along a check for fifty dollars. All room reservations should be sent to the Turf Inn, Wolf Rd, Albany, N.Y.

Charley Pugh has challenged all the other companies of the 517th to an attendance contest. He said we will have the largest turnout. So, we all must be there especially the men on the East coast. -- WE WILL SEE YOU THERE.

With good news there is always bad. The bad news is that we lost two troopers this year. Ray Morgan passed away on January 28, 1987. As you know we saw him in the V.A. Hospital in La. last year and he was doing quite well. The other loss was George Sebring who we lost on January 24, 1987. He fought a tough battle against lung cancer. Our sincere condolences to the families

The cover on this issue is an enlargement of a Christmas card sent by
LAYTON and BARBARA MABREY. It shows
the 596ers in action, clearing mines,
with a 517th Infantryman in the foreground. There was some beautiful poetry in side the card with the Christmas
greeting. We thank Layton for the
beautiful print.

Those of you who remember Father Alfred Guenette will be glad to know he has recovered from his illness and is back in Chile. Below is a short excerpt from has last letter to me in March.

"Impossible for me to make that Albany Reunion in June, especially after spending eight months on a rest cure in the States. May you really enjoy yourself with the War-Buddies you will meet! Yes our number is definitely dwindling from year to year. I must state that I am now feeling much better even though I'm still on medication. At 73 I shouldn't be complaining too much. I do know that my pace from here on in must be slower than what it has been during my 32 years in Latin-America.

SPECIAL NOTE

Anyone who wishes a 596 patch three inches in diameter can order one from Charley Pugh. - Just send him a check for \$5.00.

Jim Moses has a 596 hat to give to all men who attend the Albany Reunion in June. That is worth the trip. See you there.

The following is an excerpt from one of Charley Pugh's STATIC LINE column

"Although the AIRBORNE WALK MEMORIAL at Fort Benning has been officially dedicated it is not completely finished. I'm sure it is nearing completion and I can assure everyone from first hand observation at the Dedication Ceremony, it is magnificent in concept design and execution. In the years to come you will be seeing many photos of this unusual monument to all Airborne troopers, past, present and future. A part of you is in the Airborne Walk and I hope you have cared enough to send at least \$10.00 to Don Lassen,

(After typing this I immediately sat down and wrote a check for Don and the AIRBORNE WALK. I hadn't sent any donation before -)

Take a note of the letter printed elsewhere in this issue regarding the issuance of a stamp to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Airborne forces. Please take the time and send a card or a letter asking that such a stamp be issued, Send mail to:

JOE MILLER is deeply involved in the planning of the Airborne celebration in Washington D.C. during the year of 1990. This is the Airborne's 50th Anniversary year. He has hosted a luncheon meeting with Senator Wendell Ford. Invited to the lunch meeting were Senators Terry Sanford. Mitch McConnell, Lloyd Bentsen, Representative Larry Hopkins, Postmaster General Preston Tisch. Archivist Frank Burke, Secretary of the Army John Marsh, Dr. John Zapp of the AMA, Mr. Don Lassen, Editor of the STATIC LINE and Charles Pugh, D.D.S. Quite an impressive list.

We look foward to more information of this very important event.

Joe Miller is also very busy with a group to make the archives of the government, especially those records of military history, more accessible to everyone. He has done a fantastic job on this project also. Those of us who belong to Veterans organizations should look into this cause and get our organizations behind the project.



Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee c/o Postmaster General U.S. Postal Service Washington, D.C. 20260

SEE YOU IN ALBANY IN JUNE

Here's hoping that all 596ers will make a special resolve to attend the reunion at the Turf Inn, Albany, NY, 25-27 June 1987. There are several 596ers living within a few hundred miles of Albany who have not attended many or any previous reunions, quite possibly because of the distances and expense involved. This time the north easterners will not have that reason, so we can expect to see several new faces. That makes it all the more enjoyable for all of us because we know that the first reunion one attends is the absolute best. It has an effect on the first-timer that is difficult to describe with words other than exhilarating, profound, moving and memorable.

A look at the 596 mailing roster indicates that we should expect between 40 and 50 of our 596ers to be there. If we do have that many, it will be a record for us. Yes, this counting expects YOU to be one of those hooked-up for Albany. Let's let some of those memories we share live again-with one another.

Dear Bill,

I am hereby serving notice on "F" Company and the rest of the Combat Team that the 596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company is laying down a challenge. Our numbers will be so great at the Albany reunion that the "Largest Company Attendance Award" may be retired for lack of competition from the rest of the Combat Team.

The 596 won this award in Orlando and San Mateo but was nosed out in either a fluke or miscount in San Antonio by "F" Company. In Albany, we plan to have our own poll-watcher double check the counting ability of "F" Company.

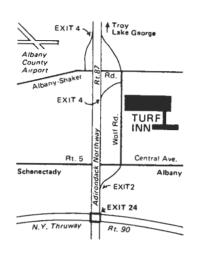
December 4, 1986

Airborne,

596 PCEC



205 Wolf Road Albany, NY Call (518) 458-7250 in Albany or TOLL FREE 800-528-1234



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The Turf's Temptations..

- * VIP Cards
- ★ Free on-site parking
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Our Charlie Pugh writes the 517th PRCT column for the STATIC LINE. It is a terrific job he does and keeps us up with the news and announcements pertaining to the 517th---- For you 596ers the STATIC LINE is a monthly newspaper with news of all the parachute outfits past and present. A very interesting publication which keeps one informed of what is going on in the world of the combat paratrooper. So, with the 517th THUNDER-BOLT, the 596 WINGS and the STATIC LINE all we veterans can keep up with the news of our comrades-inarms of the past.

Below are some excerpts from Charlie's columns of the past year.

The proposed All-Airborne 50th Anniversary meeting in Washington, D. C., July 6-9, 1990, to celebrate the birth of Airborne Troopers in July, 1940 comes in an off-year between regular 517 PRCT reunions. Our Combat Team is on record as supporting this proposed 1990 meeting and a meeting hotel and rooms have been reserved by Bill Lewis in anticipation of the participation of a large number of our members. More detailed information will be forthcoming provided there is the expected enthusiasm for this idea in the airborne community. In order to help the organizers know how much interest there is in this once-in-a-lifetime All-Airborne reunion and marching parade, please drop a note or card to Don Lassen expressing your Interest.

This event will receive wide media coverage and will probably be the "last hurrah" of this magnitude for the WW II and Korean War Airborne troopers. Those who have served since those years are still young enough to look forward to similar celebrations on

future significant anniversaries.

It's a thrill for me to just think about seeing and being a part of an All-Airborne parade marching down Pennsylvania Avenue and singing "Blood Upon the Risers." These exemplars of military esprit, even in their 60's and 70's, will cause a swell of pride in the hearts of all American patriots.

Bill Lewis informs me that our Association is now incorporated in the state of Florida and that we have been approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a not-for-profit organization. This means that those of you who itemize deductions on your income tax form can legitimately deduct charitable contributions to the 517 PRCT Assn. Inc. Since we charge no annual dues, any money sent in is a tax-free deduction. Now Uncle Sam will be paying a percentage of your periodic gifts to our Association. In gratitude, we will henceforth consider Uncle Sam an Honorary Member. So when the spirit moves you, send a few bucks to Bill Lewis.

After the Christmas bills arrived, I learned that my wife, Ann, has been inducted into the MasterCard Hall of Fame. A friend of mine has nicknamed his wife "Congress" because she introduces

so many bills.
CHARLES E. PUGH 632 So. Henderson Ft. Worth, TEXAS 76104



517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

Except for the two banquets, the annual Static Line Awards Festival in Atlanta is not a dressy affair. The dress is casual and comfortable. Last year a fairly large contingent of WW Il vintage Canadian paratroopers attended in order to par-ticipate in the dedicatin of the Airborne Walk. They were all dressed alike . . . maroon beret, maroon jacket with a chest full of medals, shirt, tle, and matching slacks. They were the only members of a unit that were identifiable at a glance. They looked marvelous!

The 50th Anniversary Celebratory All-Airborne Convocation in Washington, DC is scheduled for 5-8 July 1990. A parade is planned in which those in attendance will march as units. I hope the members of the 517th PRCT will decide on a uniform dress code for those who plan to be a part of this momentous event. There will be national and even international television and press coverage and I would like to see all units in the parade looking good but

my special interest is the 517th PRCT.

I think it is far more important that as many of us as possible try to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime historic event than that we be dressed uniformly. However, I would like to see as many of us as possible "dressing" for the parade. This is something that I hope we will discuss and agree upon at the Albany reunion business meeting in June. The uniformity of dress that I envision could be a blue blazer or suit coat with a 517 breast patch, white shirt, perhaps a specially designed and made netcktie, and gray or beige slacks. I hope we will agree to wear either a beret or a cap with the 517 crest. I suggest this particular outfit because most of us probably already have the major elements of it in our wardrobe and thus the cost would be minimal.

I can still recall those occasions in combat areas during WW Il when my unit was slogging sloppily along the road; dragging our equipment and our asses; and not caring at all how we looked. Suddenly the word would come passing down the ranks that we were about to pass through some other unit or even another element of our own Combat Team that was taking a break along

The route-step cadence would pick up without any command; uniforms would be straightened up; weapons were carried with seeming effortlessness; and we would move through the other unit with an air of insouciance, elan, panache, brio, pride, and spirited self-assurance. WE WERE LOOKING AIR-**BORNE GOOD!**

Let's do it again in Washington in July, 1990.

The rattle drawing for which about 300 of our members bought tickets was held by Bill Lewis in June. There were several other Combat Team members present to keep Bill from drawing his own

name. Here are the winners and their prizes:
Alrborne Commemorative Knife (Serial No. 517) to Robert Brooten of Deep River Falls, MN. The American Airline round trip ticket for one person to anyplace in the continental U. S. was won by Eldon W. Bolin of Blairsden, CA. The third prize was a 517 logo wristwatch won by Ben "Sweetpea" Renton of Hartsdale, NY. Necklaces with 517 parachute wings attached were won by Paul Desso and William H. Gibson, Sr. A 517 logo notepad was won by John J. Brunner. Thank all of you who bought a raffle ticket. Even if you didn't win a prize you can feel good about helping to keep our Association in a healthy financial condition.

HERE'S WISHING EVERY AIRBORNE FAMILY A HAPPY AND LOVING CHRISTMAS SEASON AND A HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

This December-January period never fails to evoke vivid memorles of the pain and suffering experienced by so many of us during the "Battle of the Bulge" in 1944-45. Much like General George Washington's troops at Valley Forge, we Airborne soldiers were inadequately clad and shod, outgunned, ill-fed, out-numbered, sometimes surrounded by enemy, short of ammunition, fearful, without transport, and literally freezing. The degree of our suffering can best be gauged by the fact that most of us were hoping to receive a non-lethal, noncrippling wound that would get us to the WARMTH of a hospital. This was one of the few or perhaps the only time in our part of the war that fear was almost blotted out of mind by the unbearable cold and Ice and snow, in spite of these trying circumstances and some ebbing of spirits, the fortitude and determination of our men to see it through never flagged. The central unifying and bonding theme of our Combat Team troopers was always, "I'll get hurt with you; I'll be there for you when needed; You can depend on me even to the point of death."

This was one of the most decisive battles of WW II and certainly involved more troops than any other in the history of warfare. The loss of life and limb on both sides was staggering. Let us survivors not fail to thank our Lord for the additional years of life with famlly and loved ones that were granted to us. Years that were denled so many of our comrades. At some time during these days let us all remember to raise a toasting glass in tribute and to honor the memory of those gallant, valorous, and so very young men who were resolutely courageous in the face of death. May the memory of their sacrifice live forever in the hearts and minds of all who cherish freedom from oppression. AIRBORNE!

In April, Joe D. Miller (596/517) received the coveted Static Line Award as the 517 PRCT Man of the Year for 1985. Joe, it is a richly deserved honor and we congratulate you and thank you for the selfless service to our Combat Team that earned it.

HERE'S WISHING YOU A HAPPY AIRBORNE NEW YEAR! There are three ages in life: Youth, middle age, and "You haven't changed." at the next reunion, listen to us greet one another and you'll see where we are in that spectrum. With that somewhat less than exhilarating thought in mind, let me urge you to make your plans, arrangements, and reservations now for our reunion in Albany, N. Y., Turf Inn, 25-27 June, 1987. How about making it a New Year's Resolution . . . one that you will keep? Bill Boyle is the Jumpmaster and he is being able assisted by Cameron Gauthier and Nolan Powell. This is our first reunion in the northeastern part of the country and should bring some new old-friends to this gathering of the clan.

Remember, too, that our 1989 reunion is a planned event that is looking for a place and date to happen. If you would like for us to gather in your town or area sometime during the summer of 1989, please come to Albany with a presentation for our members to consider. Contact Secretary Bill Lewis for information about what advance preprations are necessary and what information you need to bring before our group.

I have been impressed by the large number of names of our Combat Team troopers I have been seeing in the monthly listing of contributors to the completion of the Airborne Walk Memorial at Ft. Benning. There remains an unmet need for additional funds to pay for its completion so I urge you to send at least \$10 for the Airborne Walk to Don Lassen.

Don-

Dues enclosed; sorry to be late. BETTY & I had a great time in San Antonio. Hope to see all in 1987 reunion.

ALLAN M. WARD (596 Eng — 517) SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

On 19 November, I talked with prolific military author Bill Breuer and he told me that Stein and that Publishing Co., who were supposed to have published Bill's book, OPERATION DRAGOON, several months ago, have had some internal business problems. As a result, they have repeatedly postponed the publication of 17 scheduled books, including OPERATION DRAGOON. This unfortunate long delay violated Bill's contract so he has taken back his manuscript and is now looking for a different publisher. Those of you who have ordered the book or were planning to do so must bone patient awhite longer. New developments on this book will be reported in this column.

Congratulations to our very own Terry Sanford upon his election to the United States Senate from North Carolina! We wish Terry and Margaret Rose a happy and productive six years of national public service in our nation's capitol. Senator Sanford will serve the people of North Carolina capably, honorably, and diligently, just as he did when he was their Governor. He will serve our nation with the same courage, integrity and leadership that he exhibited as a paratrooper during WW II. Only now, with more years of leadership experience, his abilities are even greater. He is an avowed, unrepentant, and unreconstructed Airborne trooper All the Way and will always champion causes that are important to the Airborne world.

Here is Carl Kiefer's report of his summer visit to Belgium along with wife Agnes and daughter Barbara:

"If you have ever wondered if anyone still appreciates America's WW II efforts, revisit Belgium. We were visiting with Belgian friends we had never met before. These super people, in particular Leo Carlier, Serge Fontaine, Edgard Denis, George Gaspar, Fernand Albert, Irma and Arnold Targnion-Remacle and many others, hosted, guided, and befriended us every moment of our five day stay.

"They are tamiliar in great detail with every combat action in Belgium of our Combat Team. Several of them served in the Belgian underground resistance. As they toured me around to the various sites and towns, I was amazed by the complete accuracy of their memory: company by company they recreated battle strategy and names like Graves, Boyle, Cato, Fraser, Seitz, et al, are easily in their conversation. I was given several booklets written in French that chronicle the activities of the 517 PRCT.

"We visited Soy, Hotten, Trois Ponts, Bergeval, Malmedy, Stavelot, Logbierme, et al, and even eastward into Germany where "A" Company and many others suffered great numbers of casualties in and around Bergstein; Zerkall and Schmidt. I can still recall "Chopper" Kienlan and I with "A" Company trying to take Zerkall via Hill No. 400. Just slightly down the hill we got caught in a minefield and attracted heavy machine-gun fire for hours. I recall 6 or 8 of us came out on our own and until now I've wondered why we took such a beating. With the help of my Belgian friends, I found a large pill-box with excellent lines of fire still sitting near the bottom of Hill 400 and there is no longer any question in my mind as to why we suffered so many casualties.

"We visited all the Airbome Memorial Steles. The simple five-cross memorial to the 517th at Logbierme is kept so neat and beautiful by the local villagers. In St. Jacques we visited Father Hardy who periodically places flowers at our memorials, thanks to the generosity of Charley Keen.

"I hosted a small dinner party for about 20 of our Belgian friends. Lots of stories, toasts, laughter and sentiment. They are simply fine people and never have I known people who are so grateful for so long. They made this visit an experience I will always remember and chensh."

President Frank Grbinich has recently appointed an ad hoc committee chaired by Bruce Chestnut to look into the possibility for us to erect several bronze markers in towns in Belgium and France that express our gratitude for the assistance given us by the civilian population and by the local resistance groups. It has been suggested that we place a marker at Camp Toccoa, GA. The local Toccoa Historical Society has reserved a place for such airborne markers and are soliciting them. These markers will not be unduly expensive and many of our members believe it to be a most appropriate project for us. I suggest you write to President Grbinich or to me with your thoughts and ideas about whether we should or should not place these markers and if so, where would you suggest.

The communication media liked the story of the origin and purported use by paratroopers of the shout "GERONIMO" when jumping from the plane. Publicity based on that probably did more to bring paratroopers to the public consciousness than any other single thing. In truth, very few troopers ever shouted "Geronimo." Most of the troopers I knew counted, 'one thousand, two thousand, three thousand,' and then either 'Thank God!' or 'Oh my God!'

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: Arthur Godfrey said, "I'm proud to be paying taxes in the USA. The only thing is — I could be just as proud for half the money!"

THE STATIC LINE, February, 1987.

For the past several months, the redoubtable Clark Archer has been engaged in archival research, voluminous correspondence. and personal contacts in an effort to document and nail down the Unit Decorations awarded elements of our Combat Team by France and Belgium. His efforts have been quite successful and following is a summary of his findings. You may wish to place this column in your personal copy of PARATROOPERS ODYSSEY. Because these foreign decorations were awarded after the war was ended, many of you are no doubt unaware of them until now. BELGIAN CROIX DE GUERRES were awarded under the

following Decrees by Charles, Prince of Belgium Regent of the

(1) DECREE NO. 6185, 4 June 1949, to: 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment 460th Parachute Fleld Artillery Battalion 596 Parachute Engineer Company

"During the crucial period of the general offensive of the Ardennes, in 1944, the 7th Armored Division and the units attached to it were attacked by enemy forces estimated at eight divisions, five of them armored. They held the important junction of St. Vith and prevented the German advance and exploitation of this axis. In this manner, it doomed the German offensive by checkmating it and permitting, through its sacrifice, the allied forces to undertake a general counteroffensive. In assuming the attack on 20 January 1945, these units took an active part In the counteroffensive by driving the enemy out of their positions and away from our boundaries. They inflicted severe losses upon them and, more particulary, they captured more than one thousand prisoners."

(2) DECREE NO. 1329, 7 November 1945 to:

First Battalion 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment "Operating under the orders of the XVIII U.S. Airborne Corps, it resisted the enemy break-through in the south of Spa, at the same time preventing an advance toward the north. From 20 to 25 December 1944, the Division and the attached units effectively resisted the enemy in the course of the first phase of the Ardennes offensive. From 26 December 1944, and during all the month of January 1945, these units were broken up into task forces and attached to the infantry divisions. They fought obstinately, cleared roads, obstructed others, and succeeded also in preventing new penetration by the enemy.

3) DECREE NO. 7253, 13 July 1950, to:

Second Battalion 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment. "Passing over to the attack on 20 January in the Saint-Vith sector where it had fought previously, the 7th Armored Division pushed the enemy out of the position that it had been organizing for two weeks and pushed it without respite seven kilometers beyond the Belgian frontier, Inflicting heavy losses on this enemy. During these nine days it captured more than one thousand prisoners." Awarded under French Decision Number 247, 15 July 1946, by the President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic.

(4) FRENCH CROIX DE GUERRE with Silver-Gilt Star to: 517th PRCT Streamer embroidered DRAGUIGNAN. "This crack organization distinguished itself by its bravery and endurance during the campaign in the south of France. Parachuting on the morning of 15 August 1944, into Provence, in the vicinity of Draguignan, with the mission of protecting the right flank of the landing forces, it vigorously conducted the combat for 94 days in succession. They pushed back the opposing forces to the Italian frontier, in spite of heavy losses and a lively enemy reaction. This greatly contributed

to the success of the landing in Provence."
(5) Executive Order 9396 and Department of Army General Orders Number 10, 30 January 1949, awarded PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION — Streamer embroidered SOY-HOTTON to:

The First Battalion, 517 PIR.

Since the 40th Anniversary visit of Combat Team members to southern France in 1984, I have been a volunteer recruiter of our members to join French Riviera Post No. 5 of the American Legion. Twenty or more of us belong to it. I have just received word from Commander Joe Tucci that in October the Post named me as Honorary Vice-Commander of Post No. 5. I am indeed honored by this appointment and will henceforth consider myself the 'Official' American recruiter for Post No. 5.

One hundred of our troopers belong to 17th Abn. Div. Assn. If you would like to become a member send your name, address, unit affiliation, and \$8.00 annual dues to Ed Siergiej, 62 Forty Acre Mtn. Rd., Danbury, CT 06811.

Ed and Joe Quade have worked long, hard and very successfully to locate members of the 17th Abn. Division. In the process they have located quite a few of our 517 PRCT troopers for us.

They put out an excellent publication, THUNDER FROM HEAVEN. In the October issue, I read the text of the most excellent talk made at their last reunion banquet by William Mitchell. In it are some surprising revelations and statistics, at least to me. For example, dld you know that the WW II average overall division casualty rate for non-Airborne infantry in Europe was rarely more than 10 percent and in the Pacific considerably less? Armored divisions averaged about 5 percent casualties. Casualty rates for the 82nd, 101st, and 17th Airborne divisions averaged about 32 percent. Did you know that during the Battle of the Bulge, the 17th Abn. Div. had twice as many men KIA as did the 101st and almost twice as many as the 82nd. The non-fatal casualties in this battle were about the same for each of these three divisions. I cite these statistics because I don't think the large numbers of casualtles experienced by the 17th Abn. in Belgium and in the Wesel drop are as well and widely known as they deserve to be.



Present in Atlanta for the Airborne Awards Festival last April were, L-R: Helen & Houston Robertson, Gen. Dick Seitz and Joe Miller. (Photo by Pugh).

Don-

Hope this finds you well. Looking forward to the 517th Reunion in Albany, NY in '87. Hope to see all the regulars and newcomers. We have many of our old "Trooper" friends living in the Northeast who have not yet attended a reunion. We all know that once they do attend they don't usually miss any more of them.

Enclosed is my dues plus

have one on me. **DON SAUNDERS** (596 Engrs — 517)

Southern France Airborne Memorial



Memorial to Parachutists at Mitan, near LaMotte, France. French Paratroopers at annual wreath laying ceremony on 14 August 1985.

Each year on 14 August, the French people of the area conduct a wreath laying ceremony at the Monument to Parachutists in Mitan. La Motte. The ceremony is to honor all the Airborne troops who participated in the Southern France invasion in August. 1944. The photographs show the Memorial Stele and the ceremony of 14 August 1985.

A contingent of French paratroopers participated and a wreath honoring the 517th P.R.C.T. was placed by three men who are Honorary Members of our Combat Team. They are L to R: Col. Rene Boffy, who jumped with us in 1944 from the plane with Gen. Robt. Frederick, Aime was a Leocard. who resistance fighter in southern France and later the Founder and President of Souvenir Franco-American, and Jacques Laubie, who also participated in the invasion as a French paratrooper.

Col. Boffy sent these photos along with his wish that our members have a good year in 1986 and that he may soon again welcome some of us who may be visiting in the area where we jumped together with him in 1944.

WARREN SANDBERG (596)...You can see by the sationary what I have been up to.

I retired this year at age 62. I had a stroke in 1983 and came out pretty good.

Then a heart attack in 1985, and again I came out smelling like a rose. So I called it quits.

My wife, who works at this hospital, (North Memorial Medical Center) retired in We plan to attend the reunion in May. Albany.

Charlie and Ann Pugh received these notes on their Christmas cards and are passing the news on to us all. From Alice and Al Goodman

Wer'e looking foward to June too We will be leaving California in April and making a four month trip of it.

From Lyle and Mary Ann Madison

Arrived in our home in Moreno Valley (near Riverside, Ca.)

From Dave and Olga Pierce

Good to hear from you. Read your column every month in the STATIC LINE ---- Still driving the school bus, 5 days a week and Olga is working three days. That is retirement.

Plan to see you in Albany in June We plan to drive there.

From Thelma and Bernie Barnes

Bernie is still holding his own. He will be home for Christmas. He loved your Christmas card.

Don-

The 517th PRCT members salute and thank the men serving on the Airborne Walk Committee for their splendid work on this most important

project.

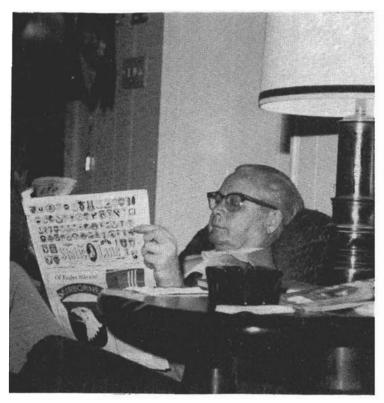
I noted the names of several 517ers on the list of contributors to the construction deficit. I urge all our members to send a few bucks to this long overdue monument and memorial to all Abn units and the men who have served in them.

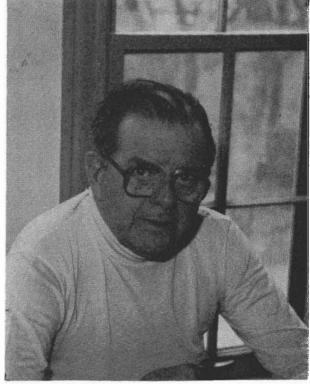
Thank you for devoting the pages of the STATIC LINE to this most worthy cause.

DR. CHARLES E. PUGH (517)623 So. Henderson Fort Worth, TX 76104



ED PHILLIPS in CHARLIF PUGH'S PUB - 1986 (Triple-double martinis are dangerous)





HANK SIMPSON in PUGH'S PUB
(a private club in Fort Worth, Tx.)

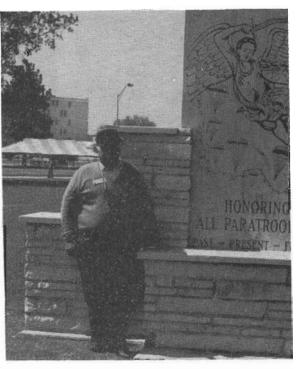
PHILLIPS the morning after



Don Lassen, editor of the STATIC LINE, presenting the Airborne Man of the Year to Joe Miller.



Monument honoring all paratroopers. This is part of the AIRBORNE WALK at Ft. Benning



JOE MILLER

2-21-87

Dear Ed,

Your Christmas <u>Wings</u> was most appreciated. You stated how rushed you were but the effort belied it. I hope this reaches you before next deadline (Ed's note: the way I move you never can be late, Bob)

Pics enclosed are from visits by those noted on the pictures. I'm always tickled pink when I can renew comradship with our special guys and gals. And these were visits appreciated especially.

We had a fine day and a halftwo night visit with the Goodmans. They drove us all over the Bakerfield area, which is quite spread out. We did a lot of gabbing and ended up with a fine Basque dinner. Al and alice are just fine and plan to be in Albany, as we do.

The recent STATIC LINE announces that Charley Pugh and Joe D. Miller will head the Airborne drive for issuance of a commerative stamp on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Airborne in 1990. We will all have to get behind them and support their efforts.

Hope all is well with you and looking foward to seeing you in June.

Warm Regards Bob



Mary Miller, Bob & Garnet Dalrymple Marge & Bill Conger Green Valley, Az. - Dec-1986



Joe & Mary Miller (Dec. '86)



Marge & Bill Conger



Bob Dalrymple & Hal Bean (Ennis, Mt. - Aug. '86)



Alice & Al Goodman (Bakersfield - Jan. °87)



Bill Conger, Bob Dalrymple Joe Miller -- Dec. '86

Dec. 6, 1986

Hi Charley and Mrs,

I don't seem to write very often We are both fine except for my eyesight. I haven't been able to drive a car for six or eight years but we live in this li tle town and it is about a half mile to the post office and uptown. The walking is good exercise.

We have had a pretty good fall with a little snow and been quite cold, but so far, better than last year. We are sending a picture of me and wife Hazel. We have no children. Well I'll try to write more next time. In this little town they call me Sweede.

Your old buddy,

Harold



Harold and Hazel Johnson



Leo and Vi Wrobleski
Chuck Walter

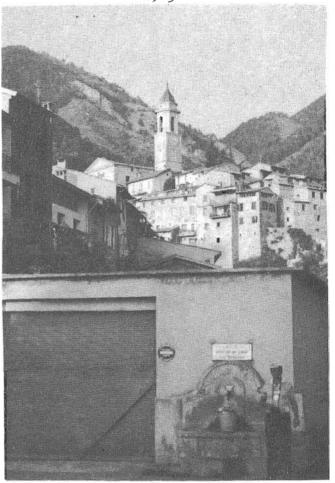


Virginia & Elmer Szakacs
Valerie & Ted Heyden
Ted's Parents
(Valerie's wedding day)

A now friendly German bunker near Sospel

LUCERAM

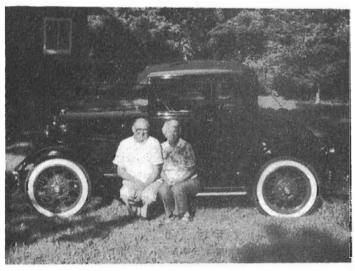
Water fountain 2nd Platoon used during stay in barn across the road. Bill Conger standing in front 1985







Dalrymple Family Bob, Mary, Garnet, Jean, George (Green valley, Az. - 1986)



Herb & Marie Reichwald with '28 Model "A" Herb restored



Gene Markley, Joe Senter and Ed Phillips



Winston and George Shull



Charles and Ann Pugh

-San Mateo, CA-Aug. 11-13

December 4, 1986

Dear Ed,

Dennis Shipley dropped by my office today to drop off a bottle of Christmas cheer for me. While here we called Sgt. Ray Morgan in Louisiana. He had a stroke a few months back and is now confined to a wheelchair. He was in good spirits and said our call made his day.

Shipley asked me to send you the enclosed \$30.00. \$20.00 is from him and \$10.00 is from George Williamson. Please make a note of it in the next issue of "Wings" so they will know the money reached its intended destination.

I must close in haste but with an expression of appreciation and gratitude for your fine work for the 596th.

Warmest regards, Charley

December 9, 1986

Dear Ed & Kaye;

Just a note to wish you a nice Christmas and that Kaye is better and can be home.

We had a lonesome Thanksgiving but hope to spend Christmas week with Nancy in Chicago, if weather permits.

We're both O.K. here and if I feel as good next year do want to make it to Albany.

Ed, I really enjoyed the last newsletter and you did a superb job on it.

Our thoughts will be with you and we both send all our love.

Sincerely, Ray November 3, 1986

Dear Ed.

I don't know what's wrong with me but ever since I retired three years ago I keep putting off doing any thing till the next day and then the next. My wife says that I have not done any of the things that I said I would when I retired. There is an off track betting parlor near where I live and I spend some time there, my wife has suggested several times that if I moved my bed there I could save some time.

Charlie Pugh called me a while back. I think he was giving me hell for not writing.

On November 23rd I have to go in the hospital, they are going to try and open the artery on the right side of my neck, the left side is hopeless.

I am sending a picture of us taken last June at my daughter's wedding.

I have a lot of good memories of the 596th and of course there are sad ones too.

I hope this letter find everyone in good health.

I remain with care, Elmer Szakacs



(Note from Editor): Elmer reports operation a success - he is fine.

REUNION 1987 REUNION
TURF INN

ALBANY, N.Y.

JUNE 25 - 26 - 27

Make your reservation now

Route 4, Box 370 Markesan, WI 53946 November 18, 1986

Dear Ed:

Here is a short report on the Mini-Reunion held October 3-5, 1986 at the Dells of Wisconsin:

The reunion turned out to be a super success far in excess of what we thought could happen. We had 73 troopers, wives and friends in attendance and of that there were 4 troopers and wives from the 596th, Warren Sandburg, Leo Wrobleski, Art Von and of course, me. And what was the most exciting part of that was that for Warren, Leo and Art, it was their first reunion.

The hospitality room was a big hit and even opened early to accommodate the five or six couples who registered at the Inn of the Dells on Thursday evening, October 2. On Saturday morning, 39 hearty souls braved the rainy weather and took a ride on the Upper Dells of the Wisconsin River. Saturday evening we had a very nice banquet put on by the motel staff.

All in all, we thought everyone had a great time and showed it by voting to meet again in 1988 at the same location.

Herb Reichwald

Enclosed are a few pictures taken in the hospitality room of Leo and Vi Wrobleski talking with Chuck Walter (Co. E) and Warren Sandberg and I. Unfortunately, we did not get a shot of Art Von.

Both Marie and I were deeply saddened to hear of the loss of Earl Dillard. We certainly had enjoyed getting together with he and Edith at the reunions in California and in France. I also remembered him from the war years with much respect and admiration.

We are attaching a small check to help out on mailing expenses and would like to congratulate you on your "Wings" publication, it is most appreciated.

Since we already have our room reservations at the "Turf" in Albany, we look forward to seeing all of our friends from the 596th in June.

Sincerely, Herb Reichwald

P.S. I called Charles Courchaine of the 596th who lives in Wisconsin Dells. However, he could not get over to the Reunion as his wife was critically ill.



Herb Reichwald & Warren Sandberg

December 3, 1986

Dear Ed,

Sorry to hear about Kay and you can rest assured she shall be in our thoughts and prayers.

Have a picture for you enclosed. I cut out a portion of a picture taken at our son's wedding and hope it will be of some use.

Ann continues to have her day by problems of peripheral neuropathy which is constant "tingling" of the feet. This has going on since April following immediately after a cystoscope which was necessitated a long period of bladder infection. It becomes almost unbearable at times and it is like hitting your crazy bone and it never going away. With that it is necessary for me to spend much of my time indoors and help with the household chores but I am thankful I am able to do it and have her with me.

With best regards and give our love to Kay,

Herb



Herb & Ann Larson



November 16, 1986

Dear Ed,

I feel that I owe the 596th a letter after so many years an for reasons completely beyond our control we have been unable to attend the various reunions. Most assuredly we had plans but they were never to materialize.

Never to leave my memory is the day I was transferred from the 596th to the 887th Aviation Engineer Company (Glider) but it led to horizons I would never have dreamed of in the years to follow. A military career was the farthest thought from me but in spite of the many challenges the military proved my good fortune and there has never been a day of regret since.

The 887th Engineers seemed to have been forgotten in Southern France and acting as the Executive Officer for the company I soon got in touch with the Engineer Headquarters in Italy. We were soon removed from the "holding action" we were playing in south France and were sent to Laon to be attached to the 82nd Airborne It was not too long Division. the Bulge we were following shipped back to the United States and to Geiger Field in Washington where most of the Aviation Engineer units were activated. First thoughts were that we were to be re-activated and sent to the Pacific but most of the 887th has already served about 3 years in Sicily, and Italy. Africa, Instead, the unit was disbanded and all of the personnel except me were released from the service following the end of the war in Europe.

My first assignment at Geiger

Field was Tactical Officer for one of the replacement companies. Due the heavy shipments of personnel to the Pacific the company varied in from 100 to 1500. strength proved Calisthenics my strong and I can still recall point having 66 First Sergeants one particular morning.

Following the cessation of in Asia the REPO hostilities company was disbanded and I became Commander of the Officers Squadron with no First Sergeant and not even a company clerk. I was the Orderly Room. I soon found this to be boring and volunteered to be the Police and Prison Officer. Dealing with the deserters and 4Fers proved to be memorable but yet quite interesting in the study of people.

In 1946 our daughter Vicki came into the world. She is now a nurse in Kansas City and is the mother of two fine boys. Our son, Herbert Jr. is a lawyer in New Orleans and he came along in 1952 while we were stationed in Tennessee.

With reductions in the service from time to time and I being in the Reserve the future of the service became quite questionable and I began to acquire rental property in nearby Spokane. I left the service in 1946 concentrating my time on apartment houses and also going to work with a local contractor constructing a railroad test facility. I saw a long slow climb to the top and inquired about the highest possible rank I could obtain by reentering the service. In 120 days I was back in the service and stationed at what was then called Spokane Air Force Base. I was assigned to the Provost Marshal and a field with which I had become quite familiar.

I learned in 1947 when the Air Force became a separate entity there was a shortage of Engineers so I applied for my commission and lo and behold here came orders for assignment to Okinawa where I went in early 1948 and was assigned to

what was then the Air Installation Officer orbetter known as the Post Engineer in the Army. I was assigned as Maintenance Shop Officer with approximately 100 civilians, 150 GI's, and a mixture of 100 or more Okinawans and Filipinos. Although we had 9 during our two years typhoons there, we like Okinawa very much. Ann was able to join me after 8 months but just before she came I lost my father and a brother-in -law with both passing away within a 24 hour period. Ann was at the port with Vicki at the time and since I was unable to get home I told her to come on and that was when she had her first experience with a typhoon as the ship came through one on the way over.

We left Okinawa in late 1950 spending Christmas on the boat but the best Christmas present awaited me at the Pentagon in the form of a promotion where we had gone to see my first boss in Okinawa.

Our assignment was Sewart AFB near Nashville. While on Okinawa there was an avalanche of officers of the Corps \mathbf{of} Engineers transferring to the Air Force and my boss led off with many of us following. This later proved to be a wise move and led to other good things. My commander at Sewart AFB and I were promoted again and with my having the greater longevity I was to command the Squadron while he remained as Air Installation Officer but now called the Base Civil Engineer.

I then applied for a position as Advisor to one of the European country Air Forces and assigned to the Turkish Air Force being stationed at Izmir, Turkey. We arrived in Turkey just before Christmas and if there was a low point of my military career, this was it. Spending Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in a Turkish hotel with no gifts, no tree, nothing but the smell of mutton grease and open sewers but we had each other and still much to be thankful for.

We found a very nice new apartment on the third floor on a new apartment

house. The nightmare of Christmas was not to end shortly after the first of the year the earthquakes began and quite severe at first. The trembles came at all sorts of unexpected hours and they did not seem to lessen with intensity. Our son was then less than one year old and as is natural Ann had a genuine fear for the children. We (four of us) began to sleep in the were sometimes accommodated by the few Turks we knew. It reached a state wherein I found it necessary to visit the Commanding General and ask that my family be returned to the States. I accompanied them and we were assigned to Tucson AFB but when we arrived there I found my job as Base Civil Engineer was filled. I was then asked if I would go to Forbes AFB in Topeka, Kansas to which I consented. This was in the year 1953.

In the year 1953 the Air Force was re-building and Forbes AFB had just reopened. Two wings of RB 47's were assigned to the base with other complimentary aircraft. It was in need of one more runway, a dozen hangers to modify and others to be built plus renovation of all buildings and roads. We spent money like crazy but I had a good Engineering staff, good officers and a work force of 500 civilians and airmen.

My assignment to Forbes was 3 years and from there I went to the University of Pittsburgh to take their Advanced Management course to last one year. From there I was assigned to Eielson AFB as Base Civil Engineer and we spent 3 wonderful years there.

My last assignment was to the Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton, Ohio. After 4 years as one of the Department Heads I decided to retire, having learned my next assignment was back to SAC for closing one of the SAC bases in New England. A highlight of my

last assignment was to serve as technical advisor on an Air Force movie we made for the Institute.

Since 1964 when I retired from the service we have purchased and sold two businesses but still keep my finger in a few pieces of rental property. The pace of life has really slackened but we have also had our share of physical problems, particularly Ann. Considering what I have put my family through since our marriage in 1943 I feel fortunate to have them all. In the final analysis that's what counts.

We built a new home here in Poplar Bluff just ten years ago and they have been 10 happy and peaceful years.

I appreciate all of the news letters, bulletins, and the like I have received and I so much regret the loss of so many fine men in the 596th, the latest of them Earl Dillard. We had been in touch with the Dillards through Christmas cards and had hoped to see them at the last reunion

Well, Ed, in just over 45 minutes I have briefly covered just about 45 years of my life. Somehow I made it a small package when literally it would take volumes. My landing in a tree and sitting just as comfortable as I am now tops my stories and entitled "My First Trip to France". The service was good to me and I gave it my best. I own much to the 596th and the memory of the Unit will be the last to go away. I treasure that issue of the STARS and STRIPES as concerning Invasion of Southern France. That was my last jump with the 596th.

Give our regards to Kay.

Sincerely, Herb Larson



November 4, 1986

Hi Ed:

Received the copy of "Wings" today and it was really good to sit down and read it right away before I did anything else.

We left home on Saturday the 25th and arrived in Va. Beach that evening with Airstream in tow. We also stopped to visit for an hour with our son Mike and his family in Rockville, Md. on the way to Va. We stayed at our daughter Eileen's and family and also with our youngest daughter (a twin to Mark) who moved to Va. Beach and just bought her home in August. They are only 5 minutes apart so it was nice to see them.

We left Va. Beach on Wednesday morning and drove to the Fla. Welcome Station on Rt. 95 and spent the night. Thursday AM we hit the road and arrived here at the park 12:30 in the afternoon. Boy was it hot. It only took me long enough to open the trailer and change into my shorts and I was ready to start unhooking and unloading.

Saturday PM Don and Kathy Smith came into the park for the winter also. I brought my photo albums from 43-45 and the reunions for him to look at. Looks like they will be in Albany in "87". He didn't get his copy of "Wings" today so he will probably want to see mine if his doesn't come tommorrow.

I think we are leaving here about December 14th for home and will return sometime around January 1st. I'm not sure if it will be before or after New Year's. Our friends from home own the lot next to us and they are going to ride up and back with us. It is only a one overnight stop trip so we don't mind the trip too much.

I thought I might have seen Al and Alice Goodman when they were in Gaithersburg visiting their daughter

but they left a day or so befoe I visited Mike at Rockville in August. Talked to Lyle Madison and he told me they were there but we just couldn't leave at that time due to an Airstream Rally at Liberty State Park across from Manhattan and next to Ellis Island. We had 320 trailers at that rally and a real nice time was had by all.

Do you know when you will be in this area? Where are you going from here? We are sorry you couldn't make it to Elonira this past fall. We are looking forward to your visit. We plan on going to the Varsity (Operation) Dinner this year here in Fla. We went to the one in Syracuse a few times. Smitty is also going I believe. I heard it may be held in Ft. Myers this year. I am going to write to Bill Lewis to see if he has the info. It is always held in March.

Well, time to sign off - Keep me posted - Regards to Kay

> Regards, Don & Marion Saunders

Ed:

Since October I've been on a partial retirement, working half time. It's a program my employer, the State of California, has for those over 62. I'll continue this for a few years until I fully retire.

We'll go to Santa Cruz, in northern California for Christmas with the grandchildren. My mother-in-law, 97, who lives with us will fly up with our daughter, while Gloria and I will with our 14 year old dog.

We plan to go to the Albany Reunion should our household responsibilities permit. Honorary President Col. Rupert D. Graves(Ret)

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1987 Reunion Chm. William J. Boyle

27 February 1987

Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee % Stamp Development Branch U.S. Postal Service Headquarters Washington, D.C. 20260-6352

Attention: Mr. Belmont Faries, Chairman of the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee of the U.S. Postal Service

Subject: 1940-1990 American Airborne Commemorative Stamp

Mr. Faries:

U.S. Army Airborne forces were organized on 25 June 1940 with 50 volunteers. Presently, there are about 750,000 active and ex-Airborne troopers. For the past 47 years, Airborne troops have been used consistently in the most hazardous combat situations in Europe, Philippines, Korea, Viet Nam and Grenada. They have a hard earned reputation as our elite combat soldiers and have been our only Ready Alert forces for many years. They can be deployed ready for combat anywhere in the world within eighteen hours. Their record both in combat and peace-keeping duties has been outstanding and deserving of some special recognition. I would like to request your consideration for the 1990 issuance of a 50th anniversary Airborne commemorative postage stamp. I submit that it would be appropriate and richly deserved.

U.S. Airborne forces have been recognized and honored on the postage stamps of Belgium, France, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. At least twenty other countries have issued postage stamps to recognize their own Airborne troops.

Our country has issued postage stamps to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans. Stamps have also been issued to recognize and honor the Coast Guard, the Merchant Marine, the Marines, the Women's Military Services, Naval Aviation, Iwo Jima, Corregidor, and several other deserving military actions, individuals, and organizations.

Active and ex-Airborne soldiers, their wives, children, grandchildren, etc. represent an interested constituency of at least four million persons. On their behalf, I petition you to please give this request a favorable response.

Sincere thanks,

Dr. Charles E. Pugh

Dr. Charles E. Rugh

Box 80482 Kabwe, Zambia November, 1986

Dear Friends,

"But life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus -- the work of telling others the Good News about God's mighty kindness and love." (Acts 20:24, The Living Bible.)

We greet you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Thank you for the opportunity to be your representatives and Christ's ambassadors here in Zambia. As we approach the time for giving our Lottie Moon Christmas offering we hope you will be more aware than ever before of the importance of the task God has given all of us -- the task of sharing the Good News of His Son, Jesus, with the whole world.

Tom is the nation-wide director of the Theological Education by Extension (TEE) program. This is a program of study designed to meet the needs of our local pastors and church leaders - people who will likely never attend the resident program of study at our Seminary. At present there are 104 persons actively enrolled in various TEE centers throughout Zambia. During the past year 153 certificates have been awarded for courses completed. Tom and I both are involved in leading TEE study groups here in Kabwe. He meets Sunday afternoons with a group of the men. I meet on Tuesday afternoons with a group of the ladies. What a joy to see their spiritual growth through these studies.

Another area of the work for which we give thanks to God is the Bible Way Correspondence School. It began just over twenty-two years ago here in Zambia. It has spread to many parts of Africa and the world. Never in our biggest dreams did we envision such a wide-spread ministry!

It is a joy to meet people who tell us what the first course (Who Is Jesus), offered free, has meant to them. Not long ago I was at the post office. A young man came up to me and said, "Mrs. Small?" I answered, "Yes." He hurried to say, "You don't know me but I am so-and-so. I have recently moved to Kabwe as pastor of the Evangelical Church. I have heard of Mr. Tom Small for a long time." Then he went on to explain that in 1972 he had taken a correspondence course from Lusaka, entitled Who Is Jesus, written by Tom Small. As a result of that study he became a Christian.

As time passed he felt God's call to be a preacher. Now after study and preparation, he has been assigned to his first pastorate. How we praise God for the many many lives that have been touched through this ministry.

Now a few words about out family. Esther still lives in Richmond, Virginia. She is working in the pain control unit of Richmond Medical Center. Tom, Jr. and his family also live in Richmond. He is technology director, corporate quality assurance at Reynolds Metals Company. He and Pat have two sons - Tom III and David. Roy and his family are still in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He and Cheri have a daughter, Kara Lynn.

Tom and I were able to make a personal trip to the States in September. Our main purpose was to spend time with my parents. Daddy is 88 and mother will be 83 in December. We just praise God that both are doing well. We did have some time with our children, grandchildren and other family members, as well. We agreed it was time well-spent and could not have been better!

In August, 1985, Tom had a viral infection of the twelfth cranial nerve which has left

the right side of his tongue soft. It affected his speech for awhile. However, he has learned to talk around it now. Most people assure us they cannot tell any difference in his speech. For this we are grateful because much of the work he does involves speaking.

May God's richest blessings be yours as you celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



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 William Wickersham.........Korea

596 PARACHUTE COMBAT ENGINEER COMPANY IN MEMORIUM

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SPRING 1987