



The Red Devil Digest

The 508th Airborne Chapter Newsletter Fury From The Sky

www.red-devils.org



Vol. 5 No. 3

May - June 2001

Fiftieth 508th Reunion A Success

Fort Bragg, NC

A great time was had by all of the Red Devils, spouses and guests. The attendance number varied day by day and hour by hour as some members indicated attendance and didn't show up for various reasons and others showed up without notifying the Chapter they would attend AAW. It took some juggling to arrange space and dinner reservations at the last moment but it was accomplished.

The Chapter is planning on having a pictorial spread in the next issue of The Red Devil Digest. Those of you who are sending in pictures, please try and indicate the subjects by name if at all possible. Our thanks go out to those of you who will be sending pictures.

All American Week

Another All American Week has come and gone, and as usual, it was superb. The Division rolled out the red carpet for the over 950 veteran's, family members and guests.

The Division review was outstanding and approximately 400 veterans marched in review where a considerable contingent of Red Devils made their presence known. For the first time in many years a guideon from the 508th made an appearance in the Division Review. An original guideon from Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 508th ARCT was carried by our own **Carson Johnson** (B/45). Carson was attired in his usual impeccable WWII Airborne OD uniform. (Yes, the Ike jacket still fits perfectly).

Many Red Devils who had never attended AAW before were afforded the opportunity to view

weapons and equipment they had never seen before, tour the 82d Museum and the Airborne & Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, NC. Another highlight was having breakfast and lunch with the troops. All commented "it was a far cry from our old Mess Halls."

As usual, the Fayetteville Chapter, under the leadership of Chairman Bob O'Brien, did an outstanding job in offering a picnic and a going away breakfast on Sunday morning at the Chapter's Club House. Thanks go out to Bob and his able staff for a job well done!

The picture below is from the local Fayetteville, NC newspaper. It was taken during All American Week and features two of our Chapter members. The caption reads "**Korean War-ERA VETERANS** William Fernandez, left of Orlando, FL and Alex Elliot of Manchester, CT, tour the Airborne & Special Operations Museum as Part of All American Week."



More to follow in the next issue of The Red Devil Digest.

Chairman's Message



Our reunion was a huge success. Seventy-five members, along with thirty-six guests attended. Thirteen others who had registered did not attend for various personal reasons, including a few illnesses.

There were only a couple of negative problems that could have been avoided had we known about them in time. The hotel created those and they attributed them to the fact that they recently came under new management. The dinner and breakfast were well received with high compliments. The Hospitality Suite was not large enough and we should have attempted to find a larger facility, however the two rooms we had were the largest available in the two hall complex. Refreshments, other than liquid would have been welcomed. However, the largest problem was having people available to keep it open longer than we did. There were only two of us, and there were other requirements that needed to be accomplished. In addition, the decision was made not to have the Hospitality Suite open during the time period major events were taking place. Most of our Chapter members opted to attend these major events and a very few were disappointed that the Suite was not open during these time periods.

The Chapter realized a small profit after all was said and done. **Bobbie Henson** (E/51-53) raised a considerable amount of money for the 50/50 drawing at the breakfast on Saturday morning. **Herb Cronin** (C/51-54) was the winner. He then donated his winnings to the Chapter. Thanks Herb, from all of us.

Ken Glynn (I/51-54), WHO IS THE SUPPLIER OF OUR Chapter sales items, donated a statuette of an Eagle on a stand with a plaque with 508th ARCT shoulder insignia and the dates "1951-2001" engraved on it. **Bobbie Henson** grabbed it, showing it to everyone along with a roll of raffle tickets and a great sales pitch. As a result, the eagle was raffled at the Saturday breakfast also. **Bill Mehling** (HQ2/51-52) was the lucky guy who won the eagle. Bill came forward to claim his prize, took the mike from me and announced he was "giving the eagle to our

Chairman for all he has done". To say the least, I was stunned, even my eyes got a little wet. Bill, you never know how much I appreciate that gesture. Thank you so much. (That does not mean though That I will become a Yankee fan.)

Alex Elliot (SPT/55-56) moved, "that the hat be passed for donations to help support the Chapter in continuing to recruit and grow". Four hundred and thirteen dollars was donated and given to **Rodger Jacobson** (HQ320/55-56), our Road Running Recruiter to defray expenses he incurs while rolling all over the country finding our old comrades.

There is not enough thanks, appreciation and admiration to extend to our Secretary, **Jack Damron** (B/HQ1/54-57). Without his input, effort, time and he only knows what else, we would not have been able to have such a wonderful and warm reunion. Thanks, Jack.

We hope and trust that all of you who attended realize that if our Chapter is to continue, we must have your active participation. Let us hear from you.

Chapter Boosters



320th Airborne Field Artillery Association; **James Adams** (598/54-56); **David M. Bell** (D/51-56); **Norman I. Beneke** (L/51-54); **Bill J. Bidleman** (E/51-53); **Aristeo Blanco** (C/51-54); **Bobby R. Blankenship** (B/51-53); **Joseph Ballaro** (D/51-53); **Charles Bostic** (H&H/51-54); **John F. Brown** (E/51-54); **David H. Burns** (H/51-54); **H. Ray Caldwell** (HQ3/55-56); **Anthony Cantillo, Jr.** (F/51-54); **Joseph B. Catey** (A1/66-68); **Leslie Crocker** (L/51-54); **Herbert L. Cronin** (C/51-54); **Jack K. Damron** (HQ1/54-57); **LTC (R) James K. Damron**; **Marvin Darby** ((L/51-54); **Joseph L. Davis** (B/51-56); **Willie F. Davis** (G/54-56); **Marvin Darby** (M/51-54); **Roy E. Dickison** (L/51-52); **Milton Embree** (D/51-54); **Alexander R. Elliot** (SPT/55-56); **Robert Figueredo** (D/51-53); **Don C. Fjoslein** (519/52-54); **Samuel D. Gillespie** (L/54-56);
Continued on page 3.

CSM (R) Hal S. Gladson (A1/64-66); **Richard H. Glass** (E/67-68); **Kenneth L. Glynn** (L/51-54); **Richard S. Gohl** (C/54-55); **Jerry T. Grubbs** (A/51-54); **Daniel Hogan** (598/52-53); **Armando C. Juarez** (I/51-54); **Leamon Kendrick** (HQ1/55-56); **CSM (R) Arthur Kilgore** (SVC/51-53); **James J. Lammle** (MED/55-56); **Thomas R. Lane** (A/51-52); **Lino Laruz** (C/42-44); **Terry V. Lee** (A3/65-66); **Joseph Lesniak** (C/51-52); **MG (R) Thomas P. Lynch** (H&H/51-52); **Dr. Duane Mabeus** (G/52-54); **Clarence T. McCluskey** (L/51-52); **William J. Mehling** (HQ2/51-52); **George W. McClain** (SVC/50-53); **William F. Moran** (I/45-46); **Robert T. Murray** (B/51-53); **George A. Nichols** (A/51-54); **Lawrence F. O'Connor** (A/51-52); **Bernard P. Patton** (K/51-53); **Ralph N. Pelliccio** (SPT/51-54); **Lee Perttu** (E/54-56); **Matthew A. Pisano** (C/51-53); **Peter Pisanti** (HQ1/51-52); **Carl Porter** (D/45-46); **Peter Radash** (HH1/63-64); **Armando M. Reyes** (HQ1/51-53); **Steve W. Roberts** (70-71); **Harry Roll** (H/44-46); **Theodore Schonhans** (519/51-54); **Hal L. Scott** (SVC/54-57); **Roy Shaw** (HQ2/51-53); **Frank Seif** (M/ 53-55); **Curtis R. Sherrill** (H/51-52); **Walter O. Stacey** (HQ2/51-52); **Keith R. Stevens** (B/54-55); **George I. Stoeckert** (42-46); **Tom J. Stolfi** (B3/65-66); **Robert D. Taylor** (E/51-53); **Jerry R. Umlor** (B/52-54); **Walter VanCoppennolle** (HQ1/51-53); **Alan R. Vittori** (A2/72-74); **Walter B. Welton** (H&H/51-53); **Jack F. Wheeler** (HQ2/51-55); **Robert W. Wright** (598/55-56); **Raymond Wujcik** (C320/51-52) and **Richard Yates** (HQ320/51-52).

2001 Convention

All information concerning the 82d Airborne Division Association Convention at Charleston, SC (Operation Low Country) was published in the Spring issue of the Paraglide. Hotel registrations must be in by 31 July 2001. Those received after the deadline will be subject to space availability. Convention registrations must also be in by 31 July to avoid the \$10.00 increase in registration fees. The Low Country All Airborne Chapter's members are eager to show their Southern hospitality — our next objective is to take the city of Charleston, no matter what, by 7 August and retain the terrain for the following four days.

For those new members or late renewals who did not receive a copy of the Spring 2001 Paraglide, and are interested in attending the Convention, please contact your Chapter Secretary and he will send you an Association Registration Form and hotel registration information as well as other particulars as they pertain to the Convention.

Don't hesitate, do it now! Charleston is a great town and there is plenty to see and do.

NOTE: Chapter members who plan on attending the Convention are asked to contact our Chairman Bob Murray, and let him know you will be there. Bob's email, postal address and telephone number are found on page 6.

TAPS



Pisano, Matthew A. (C/51-53), Hurley, NY, died 30 November 2000. He is survived by his wife, Mary and four children.

Smith, Millard K. (H&H/51-53), Zachary, LA, died 22 May 2001. He was a veteran of the Korean Conflict. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Connie Sempere, one son, three daughters, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Red Devils Found



We started this column in the last newsletter and have been surprised at the response of Chapter members who have contacted us inquiring of the whereabouts of some of the newly found Red Devils. As previously stated, each newly found Red devil receives a complimentary copy of The Red Devil Digest along with a letter informing them more in depth information about the Chapter. If you know any of the troopers listed below and want to contact them, notify the Chapter secretary and he will send you the particulars. Go out and recruit him - we need your help!

Bacon, Otto (51-53); **Baranski, John J.** (H&H/51-53); **Bruffett, Bearl H.** (F/51-53); **Cafferello, George M.** (E/51-53); **Cordaro, Joseph D.** (D/51-53); **Fazio, Thomas** (F/51-53); **Guttery, John D.** (E/51-54); **Hampton, Kater E.** (F/51-54); **Hartenstine, Earnest E.** (F/51-53); **Jones, Cornelius C.** (MED/52-54); **Kojac, Michael** (F/51-53); **Lindcamp, Kenneth J.** (F/51-53); **List, Omer K.** (M/51-52); **Mano, Charles D.** (F/51-54); **Neppl, Ronald J.** (E/51-54);
Continued on page 4.

Neves, Eugene W. (G/51-54); **Ott, Elwood K.** (F/51-53); **Parsley, Brice W.** (G/51-54); **Penkoff, Kenneth P.** (G/51-54); **Powell, Willis L.** (F/51-53); **Schofield, Francis** (G/51-54); **Smoot, Fred L.** (F/51-53); **Stilley, Phillip Cl.** (F/51-53); **Stinchcomb, James D.** (G/51-52); **Surrett, Charles D.** (SPT/51-53); **Titus, Lindberg S.** (SVC?51-53); **Tweed, Richard R.** (H/51-53); **Villard, Merton R.** (A/51-53); **Vittetoe, James W.** (H&H/51-53); **Wasahut, Richard G.** (F/51-54) and **Wolfgang, Arnold W.** (F/51-53).

Quartermaster Items

Bob Murray has sold out of most items listed for sale during All American Week. The demand for items was overwhelming. He has placed orders to restock all items and has asked that those of you who have placed orders to be patient. As items become available they will be shipped ASAP.

New Chapter Members



A big welcome to our newest Chapter members who just dropped in or changed their status to All American Member (Life). The are: **Conoway, Dale E.**, Elizabeth, WV (A/51-53); **Domjan, R. William**, Greenlawn, NY (A/51-54); **Frizzard, G. Nelson**, Phoenix, AZ (A/51-54); **CSM (R) Gladson, Hal S.**, Southgate, KY (A1/64-66); **Harvel, Charles W.**, Tamms, IL (F/51-54); **Grauel, Millard L.**, West Chester, PA (I/51-54); **Prestigiacomo, Joseph T.**, Louisville, KY (HQ2/43-45); **Scott, Joseph W.**, Randolph, VT (E/51-54); **Spigelmike, Charles S.**, Moncks Corner, SC (H&H/54-55) and **Witherington, John**, Linden, TX (K/54-56).

New All American Members (Life)

Ballaro, Joseph, Shelton, CT (D/51-53)
Casteel, Clarence J., Bowie, MD (519/51-54)
Slocum, Edward A., Sumter, SC (HQ3/55-56)
Turrisi, James F., Orlando, FL (SVC/51-54)
Yelverton, Jack E., Baton Rouge, LA (HQ2/52-55)

Email Address Change

Chairman Bob Murray advises he has changed his email address effective 1 July to the following address: arct508@juno.com

News From National

Top Five Chapters (As of June 4, 2001)

Fayetteville, NC	947
508 th Airborne Chapter	359
LTG James M. Gavin - New England	337
North Jersey - New Jersey	334
Walter E. Hughes - Port Jervis, NY	331

National Airborne Day

We made it! The Association has secured the necessary Senate co-sponsors to pass the Senate Resolution designating August 16 as National Airborne Day.

Static Line Awards

For those of you who do not subscribe to the Static Line, it gives me great pleasure to announce that our own **Joseph L. Montoya** (HQ320/55-56) was honored as the 320th Airborne Association Man of the Year at the 24th Annual Airborne Awards Banquet held in Atlanta, GA this past May.

Congratulations Joe, you deserve it!

320th AFA Assn. Reunion

We did a fairly big spread in the last newsletter announcing the 320th reunion to be held in Clarksville, TN on September 27 - 26, 2001. This is a great reunion and Joe Montoya does a super job in putting it all together by his lonesome. The name tags Joe had for the 1999 reunion were about the best I have seen at any reunion. In my last conversation with Joe he said "I don't know what I am going to come up with this year but it will out do '99. Seeing is believe Joe. I'm going to bring my '99 name tag just in case.

Continued on page 5.

Listen up Troops. This reunion says 320th, but any and all members of the ARCT are invited. If my memory serves me right, there was a large contingent representing the Infantry, Medics, Riggers and Engineers in 1999. Just because you're not a Cannon Cocker doesn't mean you're not welcome. Drop in, you'll be surprised at the great group of troopers who usually show up for this outing.

If you need a Registration Form and facts on this reunion, contact your Chapter Secretary.

Membership Letters

Bill Moran (I/45-46) writes: Bob, I received The Red Devil Digest for Nov - Dec 2000. It appears that I am paid thru 2001. Is this correct? If not, please inform me.

I see on page 3 (bottom) and page 4 (top) the note of the 508th PIR coming home on the New Bourne Victory ship in Nov. '46. I was on that ship and have pictures of it docked in New York.

Actually there is quite a story about that event starting in Germany and ending at Camp Kilmer when we were finally told the Regiment was to be deactivated. They lied to us in Germany and said we were to join the 82nd at Bragg as a regiment. Instead, they deactivated us and sent the Airborne to fill the ranks of the other regiments at Bragg. We were a small detachment, most of the ship carried straight legs. The rest of the Regiment came home later.

I was shipped to California for discharge. Too bad for me because my sweetheart lived in Rockingham, NC and we were to be married. I never returned to NC, I finished high school and college, two marriages later I'm single (but happy with three grown children). But my memory of my first sweetheart is still fresh in my mind as is my memory of the lie to us in Germany that is not very pleasant to recall. Many of the 508th troopers stationed in Germany had a golden opportunity to stay (with a promotion) in Germany with the Constabulary, a new outfit which needed men badly. But most of us remained loyal to the Regiment and Division. I may decide to tape a story about the Regiment and the event if you think it is worth while.

I don't see much of the 508th European (Ike's) Honor Guard in "Memory Lane." I suppose most of us are dead! I never expected to live past 20 years of age.

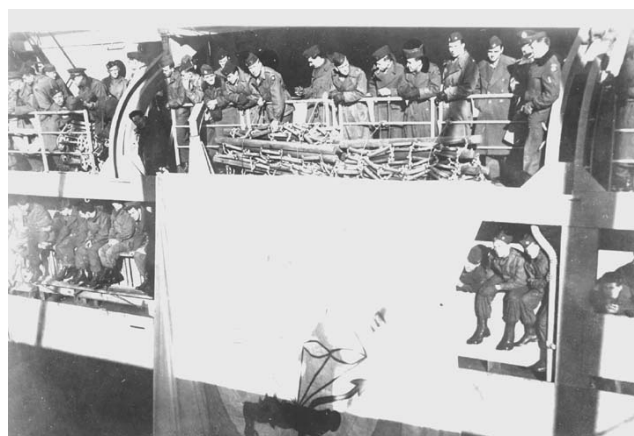
Best Regards, Bill

P.S. I don't see anything about the 13th either - the lucky 13th, we were all set to jump into Japan.

Ed's Notes: Bill, we have had several letters published along with pictures concerning the PIR in late 1945-46. To take you back in time, below are two pictures that should be meaningful to all you older 508th Troopers.



508th PIR Mess Hall - Germany, 1946



508th PIR Troopers in NY Harbor - Nov. 1946

Dave Gillespie (L/55-56) writes: Dear Jack, I wrote to Bob Murray about our L Company, 508th ARCT reunion in Paducah, KY. I don't have Bob's new address as yet.

Jim Carbonel (L/55-56) wrote you and sent you pictures of our get together. We all thank you for the article and pictures you put in the newsletter. We all enjoyed reading it. I'm sure some of the other guys in L Company will see it and hopefully get in touch with us.

Continued on page 6.

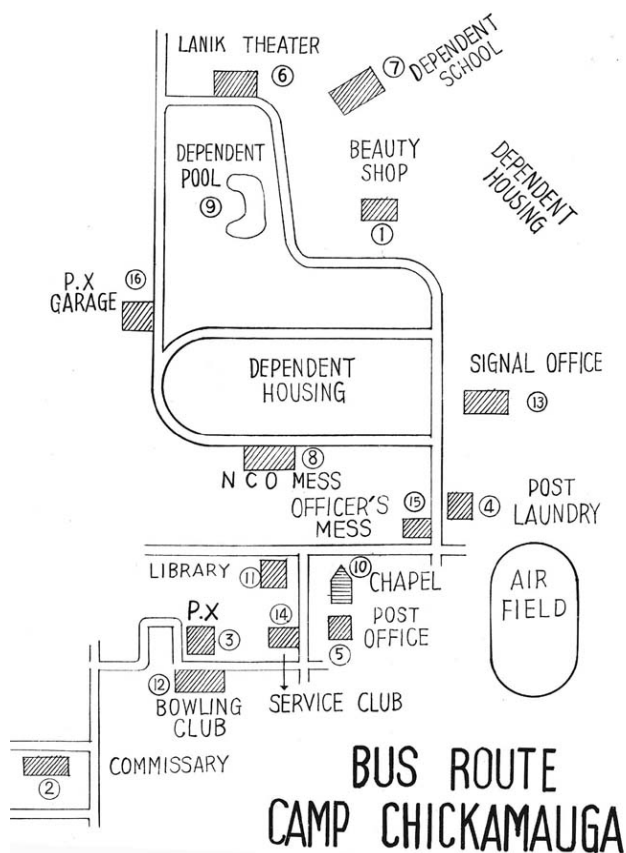
We talked a lot about Captain Sidney at the reunion when he was the CO of Co. L in Beppu, Japan. We had a party in 1955 in downtown Beppu that I will remember for the rest of my life. CPT Sidney OK'd it, helped support it, and attended it. We had a blast! He was one hell of a company commander and was well liked by all of L Company.

Thank you for checking on his last known address. Wolfram von Maszewski found the enclosed obituary in the archives and Bill Tabb wrote to his daughter in Orlando, FL. CPT Sidney certainly had an outstanding military career. As sad as it is to hear of his passing, it is good that we now know and maybe others will see his obit in the Chapter newsletter.

I don't know if I am too late for the 508th AIR reunion I am going to try and make it. I have waited due to my wife's illness.

Thanks so much for all you, Frank, Bob and Rodger are doing for the 508th Airborne in remembering old times and Red Devils. Sincerely, Dave

Ed's note: Dave a little reminder of Camp Chick



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Moving? Let Us Know!

Name _____
New Address _____
City, State, Zip+4 _____
New Tel. # _____
Perm. _____ Temp. _____ Dates _____
New E-mail address _____



In order to save space on the Chapter Web Site we opted to discontinue displaying the front and back page of the newsletter. The front page is used for mailing purposes, however it does contain pictures from time to time so we display these pictures as the last page of the web site newsletter. The back page contains Chapter items for sale, application for membership information and an application form. The application form and sales items information and ordering form can be found on the front page of the web site. These forms can be downloaded by the viewer.



The Paratroopers PRAYER

Our almighty father who dwelleth in Washington, immersed in Service Records, Requisitions, TS Slips, Red Tape & other impedimenta which surroundeth the Army both in time of Peace & in times of War. Hallowed be thy name..... Give us this day our partial pay, & forgive us of our Company Bills. Guide us on the Path of Righteousness by the All-knowing Articles of War, & Rules & Regulations. Approve our Passes & Furloughs, for Thou knowest ours is not an easy lot to bear without leisure time..... Deliver us from the hands of Non-jumping Military Police, for thou knowest our burdens are manifold. Yea, even though by Diverse devices art these yellow-livered Sons of Satans Concubines, these Gutless Washouts from thy Parachute School, after having been thrice beaten about the head with a shot-bag, allowed to don the hated White Cap & belt of the Ersatz Gestapo they falsely cry that they are thy Chosen Children. We cannot contain ourselves in their presence & Assault & Mayhem shall abound..... Guide our pleasure-bent footsteps from the lower regions of Sin & Iniquity known locally as Phoenix City lest we should go astray & contract certain social uncleanness which thou so forcefully describeth in thy Sex Hygiene Training Film..... Unhook not our static lines, nor yet blow panels in our canopies..... Cut not our Break cords, & drift us clear of cactus hill. Strike with relentlessly swift & horrible death the Company Clerk who Redlineth our payroll, & the Mess Sergeant who robbeth our empty bellies. By the ghosts preceded us to the frying Alabama Area.

We pray thee.
Amen