



The Red Devil Digest

The 508th Airborne Chapter Newsletter Fury From The Sky

Official Web Site: www.red-devils.org



Vol. 7 No. 1

January - February 2003

508th Chapter Reunion

Chairman's Message



As the headline above indicates I am still planning on a Chapter Reunion at the 82d Abn Div Assn Convention in Charleston, WV in August. The purpose of this reunion is to bring together as many Red Devils as possible to vote on chapter officials for the years 2004/05. This is important if we are to continue being a top notch chapter!

I received a message from Don Jennings, Chair of the WV Chapter, asking me for a headcount of attendees so he can make arrangements for the dinner we are planning to have on Thursday evening, August 14. I had not realized the deadlines for reserving space for this event, so all can blame me for the short fuse of this request. Below is a short form indicating your interest in attending the Associations Annual Convention and your interest in the Chapter's planned dinner. This information is for planning purposes only and definitive information concerning menu, method of payment and a cutoff date for attendance will be published in the next newsletter. Again my apologies for the short notice but I am told space is already at a premium at the hotel.

Tentative Reservations for Chapter Dinner 82d Abn Div Assn Conference August 14, 2003

Name _____

Total number of persons attending _____

Please cut out the form and send to me at the address indicated elsewhere in this publication. Those of you

who are on the Internet can email me with your information. Let's get together and make this a great reunion and get some chapter work done.

On another note I have to say that the renewal status for the Chapter for this year has been very disappointing. To date we stand at a total of 412 paid members (225 AAM (Life) and 187 Annual Members). At the conclusion of the 2002 reporting period we had a total of 423 paid up members (220 AAM and 203 Annual Members). We have gained a few new members to make up for some of the backsliding of our annual members so far this year. . On December 31, 2002 your chairman sent a personal reminder in writing to 75 Annual Members for 2002 to those Red Devils who had not renewed their membership for 2003. Forty have yet to respond and have been placed in an inactive status in the chapter data base. We are asking our members to take a personal interest in assisting us to get these Red Devils back into the Chapter. If you know any of these Red Devils listed in a subsequent column entitled "Former Red Devils", please contact them and urge them to "get on the bandwagon." Peers can do a better job than I apparently can.

New Chapter Members



Your Chapter is pleased to announce the addition of five new All American Members (Life), two new Annual Members and one Affiliate Member.

All American Members (LIFE)

Robert S. Abenmoha (E/51-52);

Continued on page 2

Charles J. Fortuna (A/51-54); **Joseph E. Kilcoin** (SPT/54-55); **Arthur E. Oidrid** (F/55-56) and **Jack Trezise** (M/51-54).

Annual Members For 2003

Harry E. Collins (SVC/55-56) and **Jerome E. (Jerry) Marchlewicz B.** (HQ2/54-55).

Affiliate Members for 2003

Lee H. Damon, Jr. (HQ1/54-56).

Ed's Notes: Correction on unit of **Kenneth E. Spann** listed in the Nov. - Dec. newsletter. Should have read Company C.

Chapter Boosters - 2003



This is the start of the Booster Column for the year 2003. It is a compilation of all current members who have donated funds above their annual dues or who are Life Members. The compilation begins as of August 1, 2002, the start of National's new count of membership for 2003 to present. It is difficult to keep these records so if I have not listed someone, please contact me and I will make the necessary correction in the next issue of The Red Devil Digest.

James J. Baker (598/51-54); **Ray Barbosa** (SPT/51-53); **David M. Bell** (D/SPT/51-56); **Bobby R. Blankenship** (B/51-53); **Jack Bock** (HQ320/55-56); **John F. Brown** (E/51-54); **COL (R) Robert M. Campbell** (M/51-54); **Joseph B. Catey** (A1/66-68); **Anthony Cantillo Jr.** (F/51-54); **Roy H. Clarke** (B/51-53); **Jerry R. Curren** (M/51); **Jack K. Damron** (HQ1/54-57); **LTC (R) James K. Damron**; **Marvin Darby** ((L/51-54); **Joseph L. Davis** (B/51-56); **Roy E. Dickison**; (I/51-52); **Ronald A. Faulkner** (B3/62-65); **Augustine E. Fernandes** (L/51-54); **Thomas E. Francis** (SPT/55-56); **Richard H. Glass** (E/67/68); **Milan Glumac** (E/55-56); **Kenneth L. Glynn** (L/51-54); **Richard S. Gohl** (C/54-55); **Jerry T. Grubbs** (A/51-54); **Frank Haddy** (D/43-46); **Bobbie R. Henson**, (E/51-53); **Daniel E. Hogan** (598/52-53); **SFC (R) Harold (Ben) T. Herr** (SVC/51-56); **Armando Z. Juarez** (I/51-54); **Leamon Kendrick** (H&H/55-56); **CSM (R) Arthur Kilgore** (SVC/51-53); **CSM, Ret. Thomas R. Lane** (A/51-52); **Billy D. Kitchen**

(M/51-53); **James J. Lammle** (MED/55-56); **Joseph R. Leger** (H&H/51-54); **Lewis J. Leonard** (SVC/45-46); **Stephen C. Leonard** (C2/64-67); **Joseph Lesniak** (C/51-52); **Scott A. Long** (CSC2/81-85); **Russell J. Lux** (B/MP/55-56); **MG (R) Thomas P. Lynch** (H&H/51-52); **Sabas Martinez** (SVC/51-53); **William J. Mehling** (HQ2/51-52); **Clyde (Pat) E. Miller** (E/52); **Lawrence F. O'Connor** (A/598/51-56); **Ben T. Parrish** (A/MP/55-56); **Ralph Pelliccio** (SPT/51-53); **Henry Perkins** (I/54-56); **Leonard L. Perttu** (E/54-56); **Leo R. Quinn** (L/51-54); **Larry L. Rafferty** (H/SVC/54-56); **A. B. (Bill) Raiford** (G/45-56); **MSG (R) Raul M. Ramos** (C/51-53); **Luis R. Reza** (C/54-56); **Harry A. Roll** (H/44-46); **Elwood W. Selover** (HQ2/53-55); **Roy Shaw** (HQ2/51-53); **Frank P. Sicari** (H&H/55-56); **Charles S. Spigelmire** (H&H/54-55); **Dale Stang** (L51/53); **George I. Stoeckert** (42-46); **Bruce M. Tyler** (A320/55-56); **Robert G. Thompson** (HQ3/46); **Jerry R. Umlor** (B/52-54); **Francisco Vega** (I/51-53); **Charles J. Viviano** (K/51-52); **Jack F. Wheeler** (HQ2/51-55); **Gerald J. Wich** (C/51-52) and **Richard Yates** (HQ320/51-52).

Down Memory Lane

508th PIR - January - February 1944

0400 hours 29 January 44 found the 508th PIR pass through the 504th PIR with the 1st Battalion to take Holzeim and the 2nd Battalion Medendorf, Germany. In the early morning of 31 January the Regiment broke into the famous Siegfried Line where it assumed a defensive position.

On 7 February, the Regiment was shifted to Hahn, then moved forward to the Roer River in the vicinity of Bergstein, relieving the 517th PIR. On 10 February, the 1st Battalion attached Hill 400, overlooking the river, and there the Regiment held until 18 February.

Shortly thereafter, the Regiment moved to Camp Sissonne, France where it became part of SHAEF Reserve. There the Regiment began a training cycle, rested and refitted.

508th ARCT - February

15 February 1954 saw the ARCT depart Fort Benning, GA for Fort Campbell, KY under the eyes of MG Guy S. Meloy, Commander of Fort Benning.

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At Fort Campbell, the 508th was designated a General Reserve Unit in CONUS and was attached to the 11th Airborne Division.

February 1956 saw the 2nd Battalion, 508th Infantry and Battery B, 320th Abn FA Battalion form an Airborne Battalion Combat Team representing US Forces in Operation Firm Link. This operation took the ABCT to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippine Islands and Bangkok, Thailand. The ABCT participated in Firm Link in Thailand with six members of the South East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) and was the hit of the operation when they performed a parachute drop in the vicinity of Don Maung Air Field in Bangkok, Thailand.



2nd ABCT, 508th ARCT jump at Don Maung Air Field, Bangkok, Thailand. Note Trooper coming in on reserve chute in lower right corner of picture.

We continue to get inquiries concerning the issue of "Did the 508th ARCT ever have a Regimental Band?" Proof positive, see below.



508th Band practice before parade in Bangkok.

1-508th Fort Bragg, NC and South Vietnam

The 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry, as part of the 3d Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division (The Golden Brigade) was officially alerted for deployment to the republic of South Vietnam on 12 February 1968. The Battalion arrived at the Chu Lai, Air Base, Tam Ky Province, Republic of South Vietnam at 0145 hours, 21 February 1968.

The Southern Arizona All Airborne Chapter Conference

Your Chapter just received the following note from Bob Murray, "Founding Father" and past Chairman of the 508th Airborne Chapter!

You've heard it before and read about it in the current Paraglide. Each year a half dozen or more Red Devil Chapter members arrive in Tucson to attend the SAZ Chapter event, Jump Into Spring.

This year we would like to see more, enough so that our Chapter could meet during the Conference. If you cannot attend the full conference activities as listed on page 55 of the Fall 2002 issue of the Paraglide, consider the following: Arrive on Friday or Saturday and attend the Banquet Saturday evening. The host Chapter will set aside tables for our Chapter attendees to be together. Hotel accommodations will be at the rate for the Conference. If you do attend you may want to participate in the Conference's Hospitality Suite. The cost for the Banquet and Hospitality Suite must be paid to the SAZ Chapter.

Contact Bob Murray (520) 881-8657 or email Bob at robertmurray@juno.com Let him know when you can attend. He will let you know what the cost of the Banquet and Hospitality Suite will be. **You must make your own hotel arrangements for this event.** Please contact him ASAP! He has to know!

Our Vice Chairman, will be attending a Reunion Planning Conference the week before the SAZ function and plans on attending as well.

Continued on page 4.

Unfortunately, your chairman cannot attend this great event as I am committed to speak at a seminar in Dubuque, Iowa concerning the dispatch of 101st Airborne Troops to Little Rock, AR in the Fall of 1957.

Membership Letters



Dale Simpkins (SVC/51-54) writes:
The day the planes struck the twin towers my wife and I were standing on the hill overlooking Omaha Beach in

France where our troops landed in the Second World War. We were there to visit my Brother's grave. He was in the invasion on D-Day. I was thinking about the brave men who died there to protect our country from an evil empire. When at that very moment a lady in our tour received a cell-phone call from her daughter that the twin towers had been hit. I thought, do we have to do this all over again against another evil empire? We were all stunned at the announcement, as you were back home.

We were stranded there with no flights leaving for home or anywhere. The airports in Paris were all closed as they were in the US. We felt alone except for the other Americans in our tour. We banded together, because we felt not everyone there was sympathetic. We even named our little group "The Alliance." We e-mail each other often. Our group stretches from Texas to New Jersey to Chicago, Pennsylvania, Maine and Ohio. We all made it back home but with many difficulties. Our group are better Americans today as we back our country's leaders on the evil ones who are trying to destroy us.

Dale Simpkins

Harry Roll (H/44-46) writes: Dear Jack, Thanks so much for the Newsletter. We (wife included) read it from cover to cover.

We intended to come to Peoria but last minute problems occurred. Hope for the next mini reunion close by.

Jack, did anyone report the death of O. B> Hill? I think he died on June 10th, 2002. A memorial was held at the 508th PIR Reunion in Laughlin, NV in August. It was very impressive. O. B. was the

original founder of the 508th PIR Association in 1975.

Soft landings friend, Harry Roll

1SG, Ret. Harry E. Collins writes: I read through the complimentary copy of the Chapter Newsletter and also received an email from Rodger Jacobson. I found the newsletter to be interesting reading and have decided to join the Chapter.

Enclosed you will find my check for annual dues. It's been many years since serving with Service Company, 508th ARCT (1955-56) but I have been in email contact with an old friend from that era, Hoover C. King. I believe he is a Life Member of your Chapter and with luck I may make contact with other troopers from that time.

Ed's Note: Harry, by the time you get this newsletter you will have received your copy of the Service Company Roster and will have been able to contact other old friends.

Lee Damon (HQ1/54-56) writes: Dear Jack, I apologize for not responding before now. Time flies, especially during retirement. We've become very busy with many of the things we couldn't do before.

Thank you for sending the info and newsletter. I was surprised to learn that you lived so close to us in Florida. We've owned property near Ocala since 1985 and moved down just two years ago when my wife retired.

I remember you most as my Company commander at Camp Wood, near Kumamoto City, Japan. I believe you were a 1st Lt then. I am looking forward to renewing our acquaintance sometime this year.

Sincerely, Lee Damon

Christmas Cards

Jack Damron (HQ1/B/54-57) writes: Thanks to all for the many Christmas cards Ruth and I received over the holidays. Needless to say, it is impossible to reply to all. Below are a few of the home made cards with 508th emphasis:

Continued on page 5.

Bernie Patton (K/51-53) sent the following:



Dave Burns (H/51-53) sent the following:
D

*Across The Miles
from
Crooked Lake
in Michigan*



At Christmas

ave pictured on the inside.

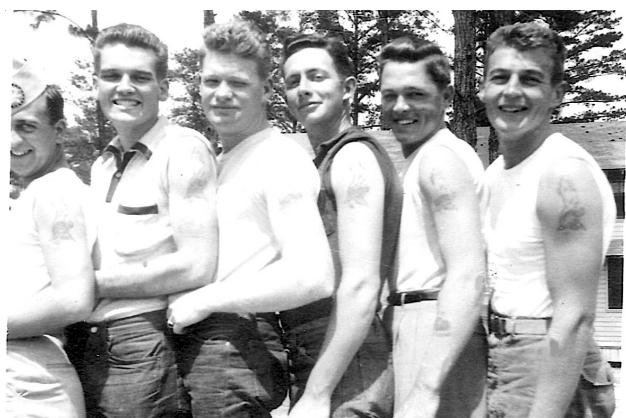


A
young trooper fresh
from jump school
assigned to "H" Co.
2nd, BN. 508 ARCT
August 1951

SSG Carl Medeiros (A1/90-91) writes. I'm getting tired of hearing the same ol' guest speakers at the airborne graduations, most of whom are still on active duty and sometimes it is the company commander of the graduating class. I'd like to put a call out for former troopers who would like to speak at an airborne graduation, or even a Jumpmaster or Pathfinder graduation. I could provide more info for those interested. Bear in mind there would be no financial support, however I can help coordinate for hotels, etc. I will also ensure that a great time is had (tour the current school, updates on current equipment, rigging, and anything else the guest would like). If anyone is interested, please email me at fveoh4@aol.com. Thanks much!!!!

Eds note: Carl is currently assigned to the Airborne School at Fort Benning, GA and recently was selected to be a Master Trainer for the ground week of training. He has also applied for Officer Candidate School and will appear before the board in March. **How about helping out one of our outstanding active duty Red Devils!!!**

CW4, Ret. Tom Measles (598/51-56) writes: The first picture is a 1952 copy and the second picture was taken at the Peoria Reunion last October. Robert Babcock is deceased and Leon Dean could not be found. A little back ground on the pictures. As you can see the 1952 pictures has six of us on it. The six of us got the tattoo in 1952 which was designed by Leon Dean



(L-R) Leon D. Dean, Jack Monestier, Ray Crum, Gene Dauphin, Tom Measles and Robert Babcock



See if you can match the picture of the 4 above, taken in 2002, to the six depicted in the picture taken in 1952.

Aren't reunions great!

Continued on page 6.

Correction to Peoria Reunion Picture on the address page of the Nov. - Dec. 2002 issue. Row 3 , fourth from left should read **Berney Jetton**.

Answer to names of 598th Troopers picture in picture at the bottom of page 5: (L-R) Jack Monestier, Tom Measles, Ray Crum and Gene Dauphin.

Taps



Raines, Harold (508/51-53), a recent Life Member of the Chapter passed away on 14 November, 2002. He is predeceased by his wife who passed away on Memorial Day, 2002. There were no children.

Harold attended the Peoria Mini-reunion in October and this is the first time in 50 years he saw many of his old comrades from the 598th Airborne Engineer Company, 508th ARCT.

Below is a picture taken of Harold at the Peoria Reunion in October 2002.



Missing Red Devils

The following Red Devils failed to hook up for the year 2003. If you know any of them, help out your Chapter and get them to re-up ASAP. They have already lost one issue of the newsletter and Paraglide.

Adams, Mack J. (B/54-56); **Bratvold, Arnold** (H/44-46); **Baxley, Marcus L** (A320/51-52); **Beattie, Regis T.** (H54-56); **Brown, Eugene L.** (H&H/51-53); **Brown, Kermit** (1/508/97-01); **Bryan, Hedrick C.** (SVC/51-53); **Conaway, Dale D.** (A/51-53); **Cordaro, Joseph D.** (D/51-52); **Creadon, John F.** (H&H/ 53-55); **Doughty, William R.**

(HQ1/46); **Elmore, Louis N.** (H/54-56); **Frizzard, G. Nelson** (A/51-54); **Garry, Ronald P.** (K/55-56); **Giles, Robert N.** (B/51-52); **Gonia, Robert E** (B/52-53); **Hixon, Cyril D.** (46); **Johnson, Roger E.** (SVC/54-56); **Lawrence, William L.** (A/55-56); **McCabe, John F.** (G/51-52); **Miller, Robert E.** (D/53-56); **Mont-Eton, Mark** (C2/76-97); **Ortado, John** (B/51-53); **Pavlus, Michael N.** (HHC/72-73); **Peterson, Robert L.** (SVC/51-53); **Radford, Dennis C.** (B/51-52); **Radigan, Charles** (E/51-52); **Richter, Curtis** (B1/81-84); **Sadilek, Ken** (B/46); **Sauborn, Francis P** (L/55-56); **Schleining, Gerald L.** (H&H/55-56); **Smith, Ralph** (L/51-53); **Speyerer, Edwind M.** (F/51-52); **Staehlin, Carl** (A/51-54); **Stone, Ralph E.** (b320/55-56); **Streitman, William A.** (H/55-56); **Thifault, Gerald** (G/55-56); **Trado, James T.** (SPT/51-52); **Von-Maszewski, Wolfram M.** (L/55-56); **Voss, William F.** (B/54-55) and **Winzinger, Henry D.** (K/54-56).

Chapter Officials

Chairman

Secretary /Treasurer

Jack K. Damron
26164 Waterfowl Lane
Punta Gorda, FL 33983
Tel. (941) 629-7653
E-mail:
jdarnon@red-devils.org

Vice Chairman

Rodger G. Jacobson
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Quartermaster

Kenneth L. Glynn, Jr.
836 Glendale St.
Lakeland, FL 33803-4122
Tel. (863) 682-3382

Moving? Let Us Know!

Name_____

New Address_____

City, State, Zip +4_____

New Tel. #_____

Perm____Temp____Dates_____

New E-mail Address_____

The picture below appeared at the bottom of the address cover in the January - February issue of The Red Devil Newsletter.



Quartermaster Sales Form ----- (Members Only)

Complete this form and mail your check payable to Kenneth Glynn along with your name and address to: **Ken Glynn 836 Glendale St., Lakeland, FL 33803-4122.** #Please include shipping and handling charges in the amount column to the right of each item ordered.

ITEM/DESCRIPTION	QTY	SIZE (Circle)	COST	#SHIPPING/HANDLING	#AMOUNT
Hat, White, Maroon Bill, Chap Logo Embroidered		One Size Fits All	\$14.50	\$1.50 Each	
Hat, White, Maroon Bill, Chap Logo Screened		One Size Fits All	\$12.00	\$1.50 Each	
Sweatshirt, Grey, Chapter Logo Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$22.00	\$3.50 + \$2 Each Additional	
Shirt, T, White, Chapter Logo Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$12.00	\$2.00 Each	
Shirt, T, White, Web Site Logo Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$12.00	\$2.00 Each	
Shirt, Polo, Abn Maroon, Chap Logo Embroidered		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$22.00	\$3.50 + \$1 Each Additional	
Pad, Mouse, Chapter Logo Screened			\$7.50	\$2.00 Each	
Pad, Mouse, Regimental Logo Screened			\$7.50	\$2.00 Each	
Patch, 508 th Abn Chapter (See 1, Below)			\$5.50	\$1.00 (3/\$1.50)	
Patch 508 th ARCT (See 1, Below)			\$5.50	\$1.00 (3/\$1.50)	
Patch, Para Red Devil (See 1, Below)			\$5.50	\$1.00 (3/\$1.50)	
Patch, 320 th Abn FA Bn			\$5.50	\$1.00 (3/\$1.50)	
Pin, 508 th ARCT			\$3.00	No Charge	
Pin, Para Red Devil			\$3.00	No Charge	
Wrap, Can Cooler w/Chapter Logo Screened			\$3.00	\$1.00 Each	
Wrap, Can Cooler w/Regimental. Logo Screened			\$3.00	\$1.00 Each	

TOTAL \$ _____

*** Add an additional \$2 for each X above XL (XXXL size is special order) 1. All patches can be purchased for 3 for \$15.00 - S&H is \$1.50.**

PLEASE ALLOW 2 - 4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (PLEASE PRINT)

508th Abn Chapter, 82nd Abn Div. Assn., Inc.

☐ All American (Life)
 ☐ Renewal
 ☐ New Member
 ☐ Reinstatement

Enclosed is \$12.50 for my annual membership dues for the year _____ to include a subscription to the PARAGLIDE.

Name _____ Street or R.F.D. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ -- _____ Tel. # _____

Rank (Active) _____ ASN _____ or SSN _____

E-mail address _____

508th Unit (Circle one) Co. ____ Bn. ____ 508th; Btry. ____ 320th AFA; 427th; 519th QM Co.; 598th Engr. Co.

Date of 508th service: From Mo. _____ Year _____ to Mo. _____ Year _____

Present Occupation _____ Single _____ Married _____ Spouses's Name _____ # of Children _____

(PLEASE FILL IN APPLICATION COMPLETELY)

I presently am a member of the _____ Chapter, 82nd Abn Assn. Enclosed are my reduced dues of \$ _____

(\$6 min.) I do __ do not __ wish to transfer my membership from the _____ Chapter to the 508th Airborne Chapter.

Signature _____

If this is your initial application for membership, please attach proof of airborne/508th status, i.e., DD214, orders, etc.

MAIL TO: Chairman, 508th Airborne Chapter, 26164 Waterfowl Ln., Punta Gorda, FL 33983-6231

LIFE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION. You can become and All American Member (Life) if you meeting one of the following criteria: 1) 25* years continuous Association membership - \$60; 2) On active duty with the 82d Abn Div - \$82; 3) *20 years continuous Association membership - \$90; 4) 50 years of age or older - \$100; 5) 49 years of age or younger - \$150.

* Must be verified by the Executive Director, 82d Airborne Division Association.

As an AAM you will receive a permanent plastic membership card and a certificate suitable for framing.