



The Red Devil Digest

The 508th Airborne Chapter Newsletter Fury From The Sky

Official Chapter Web Site: www.red-devils.org



Volume 8 Number 2

March - April 2004

Circus - Circus, Anyone?

National Convention - Reno, NV

I thought long and hard about the headline for this edition of the Digest, and after talking to Bob Murray out in Arizona, I think this is the appropriate one. All chapter members were alerted to the fact that the Chapter was planning a Breakfast/Chapter Meeting at Circus-Circus Hotel, Reno, NV during the 58th Annual Convention of the 82d Airborne Division Association. Arrangments have been made for space to accommodate the breakfast and meeting and members were asked to notify Robert T. (Bob) Murray (Breakfast/Meeting Committee Chairman) at 520-881-8657 or email him at: tusrtm@juno.com if you were planning to attend. To date only seven(7) chapter members have bothered to contact Bob and indicate they were planning to attend the convention. WOW! Seven out of 543 members are planning on being there. Sorry, I don't believe it. It all boils down to indifference in supporting your Chapter with vital information needed to interact with Circus - Circus and Convention officials. For your information planning for this convention took place two years ago and your chapter must plan at least a year in advance if we are to have any Chapter function.

We were just notified that we would also have a Chapter Hospitality Suite made available to us. HERE'S THE DEAL: We can have the Breakfast and Meeting and an open Hospitality Suite (when it does not interfere with Association functions) but, and a big BUT, we have to know if there are enough members attending before we fork over chapter funds to support these two endeavors! We are asking that you take immediate steps to inform Bob if you are planning on attending the Convention and how many people will be with you.

If we have enough attendees to justify the Breakfast and Hospitality Suite we will do our best to come through for you. Past history has shown that despite pleas to keep your Chapter informed of your attendance at the Convention it has fallen on deaf ears. Therefore nothing has been done to support Chapter activities. Once the Convention starts we find that many people are there and we get questions as to why there are no Chapter activities. NO KIDDING - it never fails! Last, but not least, we will need 3 or 4 chapter members to volunteer to help run the Hospitality Suite. Don't expect your Chairman to sit there 7/24 because it won't happen!

OK, the ball is in your court Chapter Members. If you want Chapter activities at the Convention, contact Bob Murray ASAP with the needed information. If you don't have email or a telephone you can drop Bob a line using the United States Post Office. I'll even personally reimburse you the 37 cents cost! I'll bring stamps with me. Bob's address is: 3680 W. Mesa Ridge Trl., Tucson, AZ 85742-8841.

We must receive some positive feedback by the end of May or we will cancel both the Breakfast and Hospitality Suite and notify you of this action in a newsletter prior to the Convention.

Sick Call



Bernie Patton K/55-56) will be going in for surgery on May 3. I'm sure Bernie would welcome a word from his many friends. He can be reached at 902 Jacksonville-

Mount Holly, Bordentown, NJ 08505. Tel. # 609-267-0231.

New Chapter Members



Your Chapter is pleased to announce that two new All American Members (Life) and twenty new Annual Members have just dropped in.

All American Members (Life)

Mixon, A. Kelly(B/51-54) and **Vann, Rex** (E/55-56).

Annual Members

Brady, Robert H. (B/55-56); **Brown, Raymond C.** (H&H/51-54); **Carliall, James I.** (MED/55-56); **Ehlinger, Thomas F.** (MED/55-56); **Everett, Wilford R. (Randy)** (HHC1/72-73); **Greene, Jack L.** (MED/55-56); **Gundlach, George A.** (MED/55-56); **Hale, James H.** (SPT/53-55); **Henry, Paul D.** (C1/76-79); **Jenkins, Herman E.** (E/55-56); **Kelly, William D.** (598/52-53); **Lipscomb, Ronald C.** (MED/55-56); **Mills, Ralph D.** (519/53-56); **Marsh, Robert J.** (MED/55-56); **McGehee, L. Owen** (HQ1/51-54); **Monruzzi, Victor L.** (C/51-52); **Rice, Francis J.** (C/51-52); **Shank, Thomas W.** (598/51-53); **Soissons, Michael C.** (E/55-56) and **Youpee, Allen F.** (HQ1/63-66) (Affiliate Member - MT Chapter)..

Chairman's Message



The chapter has been quite busy for the past several months getting ready for the Corning Mini-Reunion and also trying to get chapter activities off the ground at the National Convention in August in Reno, NV. I have beat the Reno Convention to death on the front page but would like to add that we have received

word from officials hosting the Convention that rooms are going fast in Circus - Circus and they recommend immediate reservations be made if you desire to be quartered in the Convention Headquarters (Circus-Circus). They are not sure that Circus - Circus will make available to the Association additional rooms at the convention rate. You may find yourself in another hotel if you delay making reservations.

The Chapter is in good health both financially and membership wise. We are fortunate to have a membership who supports the Chapter financially with contributions above and beyond their dues. Despite the loss of 47 chapter members at the start of this year, we have managed to get a few late renewals and many more new members. To date we have 255 Life Members and 234 Annual Members for a total of 489 members. That's 22 more members than we had at the cut-off date for the start of a new year established by National July 31, 2003. Thus we need 18 more new members by July 31 to once again qualify for the Associations prestigious Membership Excellence Award. Maybe we'll make it, maybe we won't.

A reminder that a mini-reunion is being held in Corning, NY May 11 - 14, 2004. Time is growing short for registration as firm figures must be submitted to the hotel soon. If you intend to go, you are urged to submit your Registration Form ASAP! If you have lost it, please contact Rodger Jacobson, Vice Chairman, for a replacement Registration Form. Rodger's contact information is furnished in the Chapter Officers column else where in the newsletter.

Chapter Boosters



James J. Baker (598/51-54); **David M. Bell** (D/SPT/51-56); **Bobby R. Blankenship** (B/51-53); **CSM, Ret. Ronald R. Boring** (HQ3/55-556); **Robert R. Bradley** (D/55-56); **Arnold R. Bratvold** (H/44-46); **John R. Brown** (E/51-54); **David H. Burns** (H/51-54); **Joseph B. Catey** A1/66-68); **LTC, Ret. Robert E. Chisolm**; (I/43-46); **SGT Samuel A. Colon** (B1/79-82); **Leland H. Damon, Jr.** (Hq1/54-56); **Jack K. Damron** (HQ1/54-57); **LTC (R) James K. Damron**; **Marvin Darby** ((L/51-54); **Joseph L. Davis** (B/51-56); **John T. Diffin** (B/51-53); **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); **Jack Harkins** (MED/55-56); **Bobbie R. Henson**, (E/51-53); **Daniel E. Hogan** (598/52-53); **SFC (R) Harold (Ben) T. Herr** (SVC/51-56);

Continued on page 3.

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); **Lewis J. Leonard** (SVC/45-46); **Joseph R. Leger** (H&H/51-54); **MG (R) Thomas P. Lynch** (H&H/51-52); **Sabas Martinez** (SVC/519/51-53); **Charles R. McGurk** (MED/55-56); **William J. Mehling** (HQ2/51-52); **Clyde (Pat) E. Miller** (E/52); **Paul D. Ott** (C320/54-55); **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); **Armando M. Reyes** (HQ1/51-53); **MSG (R) Raul M. Ramos** (C/51-53); **Luis R. Reza** (C/54-56); **Kenneth Rilea** (G/51-54); **Harry A. Roll** (H/44-46); **Elwood W. Selover** (HQ2/53-55); **Roy Shaw** (HQ2/51-53); **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); **Gerald J. Wich** (C/51-52); and **Richard Yates** (HQ320/51-52).

On behalf of the chapter I wish to thank all of the above members for their most generous donations. Jack

Red Devils Found



The following Red Devils have been found since the publication of the last newsletter; **Adelman, Jack B.** (I/51-52); **Barnhurst, Austin** (E/53-54); **Finniss, Donald R.** (L/51-52); **Godfrey,**

Clarence (E/55-56); **Hall, Christopher J.** (HHC2/86); **Jenkins, Herman** (E/55-56); **Jones, Jerry** (E/55-56); **Martinez, Steve J.** (B1/83-86); **May, Larry SFC, Ret.** (1-508/77-78); **Mednis, John** (B/HHC-1/72-75); **Mills, Preston** (E/55-56); **Parker, Joseph W.** (1-508) and **Slaughter, James A** (E/55-56).

If you want to contact any of the above, contact your chapter chairman and he will be glad to furnish you with address, telephone number etc.

News From National



Veterans Officer Reports: The VA has announced the discovery of 10 million hospital records that will partially fill the gap created in the 1973 fire which

destroyed or damaged millions of files at the Records Center in St. Louis.

The duplicate records may assist Veterans who were denied treatment or claims in the past for the lack of evidence of service connected problems. Check with your local VA Rep. or a DAV representative.

New Division and Assistant Division Commander Announced:

William B. Caldwell IV was selected by the Chief of Staff of the Army to take the reigns of the Division on a date yet to be determined. **BG James A. Cerrone** has been selected to become the ADC-S of the Division at a date yet to be determined. Both General Officers are not new to the Division and have served previously with the Division.

Operation Reno-Tahoe 2004: Circus-Circus is a first class hotel, with 1,592 rooms available in two towers. The difference in distance from/to the North Tower (Hospitality Suite/Meetings/Dinners) and the Sky Tower is 5 minutes walking or nine minutes via tram. There is no swimming pool but there is an exercise room in the Sky Tower. Cocktail lounges can be found all over the place and there are 24 restaurants inside the hotel within minutes from each other. The hotel is connected to two others (Silver Palace and El Dorado) and members can visit them without having to go outside. The rooms are equipped with hair dryers, iron and ironing boards, and some have a steam bath in the bathroom. This is the place to be in the 3rd week of August. I encourage you to come and partake in the best airborne comradery around with our new combat veterans.

National Airborne Day (16 August): The effort continues and we need the assistance of all members to make this well deserved resolution a reality. We did it in 1999 to 2002 and we must do it again this year. Your chapter has a copy of a proposed letter that our members can utilize to write their Senators asking them to sponsor Senate Resolution (SR 322) as introduced on 24 March by Senator Chuck Hagel (R). We really have our work cut out for us due to the lateness of its introduction.

Let's make it happen!

All American Membership (AAM) (LIFE): This is the way to go and you have the membership until death. For those that expressed their opinion that our AAM dues are too high, compare the dues from another sister organization:

a. \$25.00 for one year versus ours at \$12.50.

B. All American Members (Paid for Life). Ours is \$150 for those 47 years or younger, \$100 for those 50 years or older and \$82 for active duty members currently assigned to the Division. The other organizations dues for a paid for life member are:

18 - 40 years—\$400	41 - 50 years—\$350
51 - 60 years—\$300	61 - 70 years—\$250
71 - 80 years—\$200	Over 80 years - \$101

Is ours a bargain or not?

Membership Letters



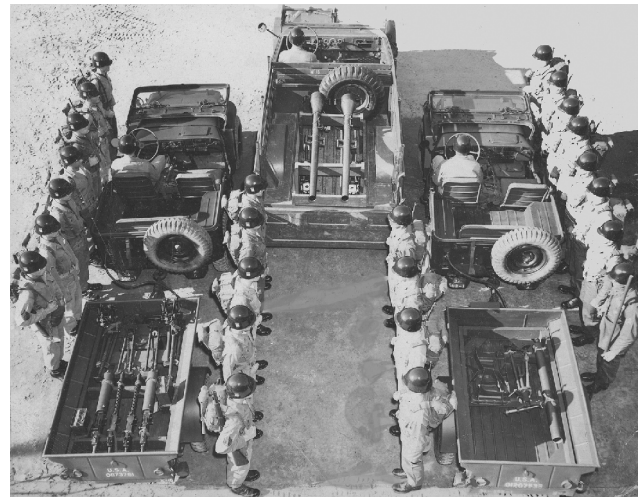
COL, Ret. Bob Campbell (HQ3-M/51-54) writes: Jack, You may be able to use these two pictures in the Red Devil digest. You had a later picture of the 3rd Battalion Flag. This picture was the first ever taken of it.. The Battalion Commander, LTC Krebs had it made.

(L to R) CPT Joe Fant, Unknown, LTC Charles Krebs (Bn



CO), MAJ Kenneth Keenan (Bn), 1LT Robert Campbell (Bn S-3) and 1LT Fredrick T. Abt (Bn S-1).

Ed's Note: This picture brings back old memories. LT Abt was my OCS Company Commander in Harmony Church in 1952. I again saw him at the Pentagon in 1966.



Company M, 508th ARCT - 1953 81mm Mortars, Machine Guns and 75mm Recoilless Rifles.

Jack Greene (MED/55-56); writes: I was at the 508th Reunion at Clarksville in 1999. I got to see many of my old Buddies.

I was an ambulance driver in the Medics at Camp Wood from July 55 to July 56. Captain Rawitch was the Doc at the Dispensary and I was in the 47 aircraft on a jump when Doc Rawitch was filming the jump.

I talked to James J. Lammle of Medical Company several weeks ago and he wanted me to join the 508th Airborne Chapter, so here I am. I do have a copy of my Jump School diploma and also have my jump log with 28 jumps recorded.

I live in central New York, a two hour drive from Corning, NY. I hope to see everyone at the reunion in May.

God Bless, Jack Greene

COL Ret. William D. Kelly (598/52/53) writes: Dear Jack, This is an appropriate day for an Irishman to join such a distinguished organization.

Unfortunately, after many moves while on active duty and also many moves (post retirement) connected with my architecture business, many of my vital military records including orders, etc. have been lost due to moving van companies, fires, mildew and God only knows what.

Continued on page 5.

The only evidence I have to prove I was with the 598th Airborne Engineer Company is the enclosed picture which John E. Munnelly, my company commander, recently sent me.

If this is not sufficient evidence, please consider my \$12.50 check a donation to the 508th Airborne Chapter.

Hope to hear from you soon. Bill Kelly.

Ed's note: Obviously Bill is a true Red Devil and Irishman as he wrote this letter on March 17 in green ink!

A shortened version of the letter written by **Jim Jackson** (B/55-56).

Dear Jack,

Thank you and Rodger for doing an outstanding job for the 508th. I have enclosed several pictures of a license plate I had made for the front of my car. In Kansas, we only have to have a rear tag, not the front and back, like some states.

One picture is the plate alone, Another is in front of the Company B members Xerox that Rodger sent me. The third one is the tag in front of part of my gun collection. I have two M1's, three carbines, three Japanese rifles (Two Type 99, and a type 38 carbine) a German Mauser, Two British Enfields, and many more. I have about thirty rifles from various armies. I have bayonets for all.

I also have each pistol used by the Japanese in WWII(Three types 94, 36 and type 14). I have three .45 pistols, a Luger, a Webley, a .38 combat, and a Russian pistol. I collect a lot of military things. I have uniforms, etc. I am now collecting Japanese WWII Saki cups!

Sincerely yours, Jim

Ed's note: Jim, it sounds like you're ready for WW III. Sorry I could only print one picture due to space constraints.

Don't forget Circus-Circus in August. It should be a great Conference! Take a trip to Lake Tahoe as well.



Part of Jim's Weapons Collection

Active Duty Changes

Some of these changes will also affect those members who are retired from the service.

Shades of Green: More military members and their families can exclaim "I'm going to Disney World," thanks to the recent expansion of Shades of Green Armed Forces Recreation Center on Walt Disney World Resort. Shades of Green makes the Central Florida vacation experience affordable for those who have stayed there. Affordability, a term often lost on visitors to Disney World, is the main attraction of Shades of Green. Room rates are based on rank and range from \$70 to \$225 per night for a standard room and \$82 to \$119 for a pool side room. With the opening, it has more than doubled in size with the addition of 299 rooms to the previous 279, plus a 500-seat ballroom, two new restaurants, and a second heated pool. The upgraded complex also better accommodates buses that shuttle guests around Disney's property, separate from the flow of traffic near the hotel's check-in area. For more information you can Reach Shades of Green on the Internet at shadesofgreen.org

Warrant Officers Insignia: As of July 9 all warrant officers will replace the "Eagle Rising" insignia on their left collar with their appropriate branch insignia. The insignia will have to be purchased. It will not be issued. Regular commissioned officers have always worn their branch insignia on their left collar, and this uniform change is a step toward the full integration into the branch-base systems of the larger officer corps.

Space Available Travel: The one-year test to expand space-available travel privileges to family members of active-duty and retired service members traveling within the continental United States was extended until further notice, according to Air Mobility Commands's air transportation division officials. The extension will allow the test to continue while office of the secretary of defense officials complete their evaluation of the test. Under the Space-A test phase, the family members of active duty and retired service members are able to travel Space-A aboard military flights when accompanied by their sponsors. This test does not apply to "gray-area retirees" – Guard and Reserve personnel who are retired but are not yet eligible for retired pay.

Taps



Rittenour, James E. a Chapter All American Member passed away on November 30, 2003. Jim was a proud member of the 519th Airborne Quartermaster Company, 508th Airborne Regimental Combat Team from 1951 to 1954. He is survived by three children.

For years we have only published the names of those deceased who were Chapter Members. We changed that policy late last fall. Listed below are former Red Devils who were not Chapter Members which your Chapter recently became aware of.

They are: **Asbell, Carlos** (HQ3/55-56); **Atkins, Virgil R.** (52-53); **Bailey, John** (HQ3/51-53); **Bishop, Leonard** (E/51-53); **Calogredis, Angel O.** (HQ3/51-53); **Cannon, A. B.** (E/55-56); **Colaluca, Richard A.** (L/51-52); **Cordova, Mickey** (SVC/53-54); **Crimmell, William** (B/51-54); **Currie, Caair** (L/51-53); **Daum, Noel** (51-53); **Demmy, Russell M.** (E); **Dilauro, Lauro** (SPT/51-53); **Dotson, Darnell D.** (B/51-54); **Evans, Phillip** (L/51-53); **Fasulo, George B.** (UNK); **Frauton, Paul** (A/51-53); **Gibson, Edward H. Jr.** (E/51-54); **Gould, Robert E.** (K/51-54); **Greenwood, Daniel** (E/51-54); **Griffin, Otho W.** (SPT/51-53); **Gugliemello, Aniello** (F/51-54); **Gunther, Theodore J. Jr.** (SPT/51-53); **Hager, Clyde** (E/51-54); **Hannaford, Andrew H.** (D/51-54); **Hanson, Linwood** (HQ2/51-54); **Harding, William C.** (A/51-54); **Harned, Dale** (B/51-54); **Herring, Robert L.** (H&H/51-54);

Joost, Horst COL, Ret. (H&H/51-53); **Julian, Raymond E.** (51-54); **Laver, Vern J.** (C/54-56); **Lescarbeau, Lawrence** (C/51-54); **Malone, James H.** (51-54); **McCray, Stacey D.** (51-52); **McDonald, Daniel A.** (C/51-54); **McIntosh, John E.** (H/51-53); **McLaughlin, Thomas** (K/51-53); **McKnighlt, Wilmer** (G/51-53); **Moakley, John** (C/51-54); **Mosher, Ralph E.** (51-53); **Nadin, Carl** (51-53); **Napolitano, Arthur** (HQ1/51-54); **Nark, Robert L.** (519/51-53); **Nava, Fidel** (B/51-54); **Nestico, Vincent** (HQ3/51-54); **Orbik, Stanley** (H); **Patanjo, Anthony J.** (SVC/51-53); **Payne, Terry LTC, Ret.** (B1/83-85); **Pender, Peter R.** (SVC); **Phillips, Bramwell G.** (SGM-508th ARCT) (H&H/53-56); **Rackley, Gerald** (G/51-53); **Reynolds, Eugene H.** (M/51-54); **Richmond, Fredrick** (C/51-54); **Scull, Earl W.** (H/51-53); **Signorelli, Charles J.** (C/51-54); **Simalchick, Robert** (SVC/51-54); **Szipila, Stanley** (E/51-53); **Wedel, Fred D.** (I/51-52); **Wescott, Robert G.** (H&H/51-54); **Weyland, Karl J.** (B/51-54); **Whitney, Wilford L.** (HQ1/42-46); **Wilkinson, Garfield L.** (H/45); **Wilsey, Paul R.** (L/51-54); **Yevincy, Edward G.** (SPT/55-56).

Most of the names listed in the "Taps" column are verified by another member or relative. Some names printed were obtained by accessing the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). Due to the fact that some names are duplicates in the SSDI, there is no guarantee that all reported are authentic. We do the best we can under the circumstances.

Chapter Officers

Chairman

Jack K. Damron
26164 Waterfowl Lane
Punta Gorda, FL 33983
Tel. (941) 629-0594
E-mail:
jdarnon@red-devils.org

Secretary/Treasurer

James T. Lutes
307 Rio Pinar Dr.
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
Tel. (386) 673-7445
Email:
jlutes1935@aol.com

Vice Chairman

Rodger G. Jacobson
Box 14
Hazel Green, WI 53881
Tel. (608) 854-2317
E-mail:
reddevil508@hotmail.com

Quartermaster

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

The box and picture below was displayed on the address page of the newsletter.

Moving? Let Us Know!

Name _____

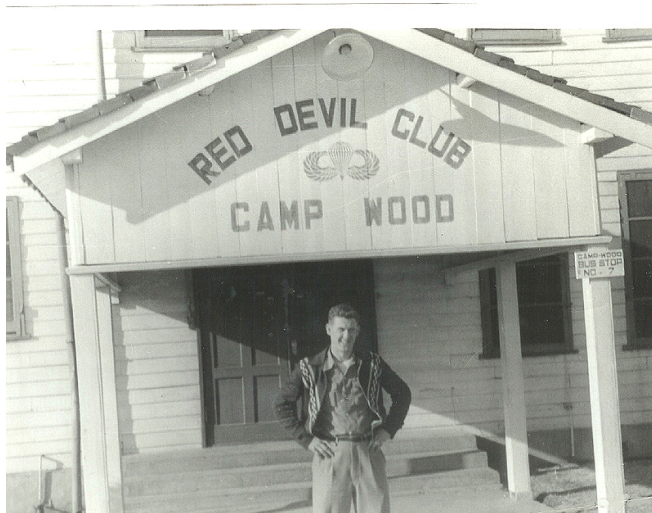
New Address _____

City, State, Zip +4 _____

New Tel. # _____

Perm _____ Temp _____ Dates _____

New E-mail Address _____



Ron Brady (B/55-56) at his favorite watering hole!