# WARREN B. WILKINS NEEDS HELP THE DEVILS DIGEST

March 2015 www.red-devils.org Vol. 9 No. 1

### WARREN R. WILKINS NEEDS HELP By Ken Hamill

If you remember Warren R. Wilkins in the 508 ARCT please send me a notarized statement to that effect. Warren R. Wilkins served in C Company, 508 ARCT in 1951-52 at Sand Hill, Fort Benning, GA. Warren has a serious medical problem and lives in a private nursing home that is paid for by his Social Security retirement check. His address is: Berkshire Nursing Home, 10 Berkshire Road, West Babylon, NY 11704. I'm told that Warren enjoys hearing from old veterans like us. His story A good Samaritan by the name of Theresa Holt called me in 2013 needing info about Warren Wilkins. I gave her contact info for Aristeo Blanco and a few other veterans that served in C Co. 508 ARCT. Warren had worked for Mr. Holt and they became friends. When Warren became ill and needed help, Mrs. Theresa Holt tried to get him Veterans Administration (VA) care. Warren did not have a DD-214 and could not prove that he was a veteran. A situation that threatens his VA benefits such as hospital visits and burial in a VA cemetery. Warren was admitted into the Berkshire Nursing Home. Theresa submitted forms to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) based on information provided by Warren and the search for Warren's records began. The first response from NPRC indicated that Wilkins records were most likely destroyed in the fire of 12 Jul 1973. A search of alternate records sources was also started. Sometime during this process, Theresa went to a Senator and Congressman for help. Theresa was told by Warren Wilkins that he had served with the 27th Infantry Regiment in Korea and had been discharged at Camp Kilmer, NJ in February 1954. A NPRC letter states that a search of organizational records failed to locate Wilkins being discharged from Camp Kilmer in February 1954. A response provided by Representative Bishop states that the U.S...

...Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, KY could not locate a DD-214 for Warren. Another response provided by Representative Bishop states that neither the Defense Finance Accounting Service at Indianapolis, IN nor the Federal Records Center in Dayton, OH were able to locate any pay records for Wilkins during the requested period. I called Warren several months ago and a nice nurse gave him my message, but Warren did not come to the phone or return my call. All American member Al Vaitkus of Support Company, 508 ARCT 1955-56 and Mission Viejo, CA did have a conversation with Warren and made an attempt to validate his veteran status.

Aristeo Blanco of C Co. 508 ARCT and Reno, NV wrote a statement verifying Warren's veteran status and had his statement notarized by his bank at no cost. He also sent photos of Wilkins taken at Sand Hill in the 1952 time frame and photo copies of pages from the 1952 508 ARCT yearbook that list and depict Warren Wilkins. Jim Vanderhoof of C Co. 508 ARCT and Lexington, KY sent a copy of the Christmas Dinner menu from 1951 that includes a roster with Wilkins name listed. I filled out a SF 180 and 13075 Questionnaire and sent them to Theresa Holt along with my cover letter to NPRC: plus Aristeo Blanco's statement. yearbook copies and photos: plus Vanderhoof's Christmas Menu and Roster. Theresa had Warren Wilkins sign the forms and mailed the packet to NPRC on 14 Feb 2015. We want to get statements, photos and documents from all old 508 vets who served with Warren Wilkins. If you served in the 508 in 1951-52 you could have proof that Warren served. All kinds of military orders could contain your name and serial number along with Warren's personal Promotion orders and awards such as marksmanship badges could prove connection. I called several members and received very positive responses from...

#### Wilkins continued from page one:

...Aristeo Blanco, Herb Cronin, Ray Jasinski, Joe Lesniak, Patrick McCarthy, George Nichols and Jim Vanderhoof. I left a phone message at some 508 ARCT 1951-52 veteran's homes. Mrs. Jenny Branch, wife of then Lieutenant Ben Branch of C Co. 508 ARCT and Greenville, SC called to report that her husband Ben was bedridden and could not speak well or write, but remembered Warren Wilkins. They sent me a notarized statement that was marked with an X by Ben and annotated - "Because of my strokes I am partially paralyzed, but still have a good mind" and the statement was formally signed by Jenny Branch on 30 Jan 2015. Ben Branch died on 10 Feb 2015. Thank you Sir, for being loyal and generous to the end. I would like to remind our membership that we want to get statements, photos and documents from all old 508 vets who served with Warren Wilkins. The sooner, the better. We are fading fast, but must get this done for our fellow Chapter member – Warren Wilkins.

Al Vaitkus of Support Company, 508 ARCT 1955-56 and Mission Viejo, CA sent some very nice Christmas gifts to Warren Wilkins who resides at Berkshire Nursing Home in New York. See photo below. Thank you Al Vaitkus for your time, effort and personal expense in giving to a fellow veteran who needs help and encouragement.



Support Company 508 ARCT Hat, Shirt, Challenge Coin and 82<sup>nd</sup> Coffee Cup sent to Warren Wilkins by our compassionate member Al Vaitkus.

LTC Dewey Yopp (Ret USA) called me one Sunday morning to say that he was called by a fellow trooper named Riley from Buffalo, NY that was called Fat Sam. Dewey Yopp had been in Charlie Company, 508 ARCT in 1951-52. He was a squad leader in 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon and later became Platoon Sergeant. He served with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn Division and Special Forces. attended OCS and was commissioned in 1955. He went to flight school and became an aviation pilot instructor of the L-19 at Fort Rucker, AL. He retired from the Army in 1971 and lives in Old Town, Florida. I asked if he remembered Warren Wilkins and he said the name sounded familiar.

Allan G. Wood of G Co, 508 P.I.R. 1942-46 lives in Spokane, Washington & is our Chapter's oldest member (94). His wife Flo gave the following update: Allan's condition is stable. He suffers from CHF, is legally blind and can no longer walk and is in a wheelchair. Despite all the negatives, he tries to stay independent, can be stubborn and most of all, is a real charmer to It has taken time, but he is the nurses. adjusting. I am with him most days, and volunteer at the veteran's home along with the Red Cross. You can reach him by phone at 7pm. Pacific time zone 509-838-7498. Airborne regards from Allan. Cordially, Flo

#### PARAGLIDE SUBSCRIPTION

A reminder that we, the members of the 82nd Airborne Division Association receive the free Paraglide Magazine on line. Although many of our membership would prefer a hard bound copy of the Paraglide, we do not have the resources to print and send each member a hard copy as we once did. Board member, Justin Holmes, has found a publisher and put together a program that allows members to subscribe to the Paraglide. There are a few details to know. To start publishing the PARAGLIDE, we need 1,500 subscriptions at \$30. The publisher wants the subscriber to use a credit card on Pay Pal. To buy a Paraglide subscription browse www.82ndairborneassociation.org, that is the association website, then click on the Paraglide Magazine link, and then read, print and fill out the Paraglide Subscription Request. Hooaah!!!!

## HILTON HEAD WEEKEND REUNION By Ken Hamill

We arrived at the Hilton Head Marriott Resort about 3:00 PM on Thursday. Our very nice room with a spectacular view of the Atlantic Ocean, beautiful beach and the hotel pool and outdoor bar cost the same as last year \$94 plus tax. We had paid \$82 each for registration fees that paid for food and drinks. We took full advantage of the hospitality room. We had coffee and pastry every morning. We ate sandwiches with salads for supper on Thursday and enjoyed a variety of pizza on Friday. Cold beer, wine, mixed drinks, soft drinks, snacks and hot dogs were available when the hospitality room was open. A few beer drinkers would stay until the bar keep, Ron Mitrook, gave last call prior to midnight. This small group would take a dozen or so cold ones with them and move to someone's room to continue their talk session. On Saturday the weather was extremely cold & most women went shopping in POV's. Several of us rode in Doug Andrews 25 seat bus that day. We were cold in the drafty bus, but our discomfort did not dampen our spirits. We went first to Beaufort SC VA Cemetery where Remembrance Services for fallen paratroopers were conducted. Andrews welcomed us. A wreath was laid by Bill Eberle and Past Presidents: Bugler Fedashyn played Taps; Reminiscence Reuben Tucker of the 504 and Ben Vandervoort of the 505 were presented very well. We then drove to Parris Island for lunch and to visit their museum. The buffet lunch at the Traditions Club on P.I. was well worth the \$9 and we all thanked Jim Skinner for picking up the tab. The P.I. Museum is very interesting. I always enjoy seeing the WWI Marine manikin wearing the Second Infantry Division patch on his helmet and The 2<sup>nd</sup> I.D. at the time was left shoulder. composed of Soldiers and Marines. The CG requested designs for a Division patch. Marine cook, I believe it was, submitted the Indian Head patch that is still in use to this day by the Army Second Infantry Division. Saturday was a little warmer. We rode with Doug Andrews in his POV to Savannah. We took a commercial bus tour of Savannah. The driver / tour guide explained every historic site...

...during the 90 minute tour. We then visited the World War II Memorial that is located downtown on a grassy strip dividing a road from the river. The huge globe is split in two forming a hall that displays the names of the local veterans of all military branches who made the ultimate sacrifice. One side of the globes exterior shows all of the major campaigns that took place on the Atlantic side of the world. The Pacific side of the world campaigns are shown on the other side of the globe. The landscaping, donor bricks and benches surrounding the memorial make the entire area very attractive. Our Doug Andrews, a Savannah attorney, played a major role in the development of the WWII Memorial. Saturday night banquet was preceded by happy hour in the hospitality room. The men wore suit and tie while the ladies wore cocktail dresses. It was a good meal and a fun night. There was a swearing in ceremony of Vandervoort officers; a silent and live auction that took 30 minutes or so, with very nice prizes and items to purchase. Group photos were taken following the banquet and several people went to the hospitality room to say good bye.



82 Assn Executive Director Bill & Laura Bauer



82 Shirt Winner and Bill Eberle

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Jim Andrews speaking at Beaufort National Cemetery, South Carolina



The Sebring's at Traditions Club, Parris Island, SC



Allen Schoppe, Marty Bier & Rich Becker at the Traditions Club, Parris Island, SC



Charlie & Nancy Richman at the Traditions Club, Parris Island, SC



Ron Andrews at the Traditions Club, Parris Island, SC



Vicki & Allen Schoppe, 82 Abn Div Assn President at the Traditions Club, Parris Island, SC

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Marty Bier & Ron Andrews in front of Ron's 25 Passenger Bus



Museum, USMC Base, Parris Island, SC



Willie & Joe Steen at Pizza Night in the Hospitality Room.



Ron & Tina Rath at Pizza Night



Pizza Night with visitors



Pizza Night at the bar

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Vandervoort Chapter advertisements hanging in hotel lobby



World War II Memorial, Savannah, GA



World War II Memorial, Savannah, GA



World War II Memorial, Savannah, GA

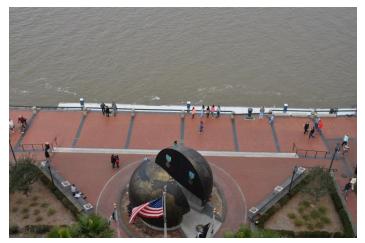


View from World War II Memorial, Savannah, GA



World War II Memorial, Savannah, GA

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World War II Memorial, Savannah, GA



Pearl & Tom Ingram



Marine Gunny & Warrior SSG Jolley



Association President Allen Schoppe, Ron Andrews & Bill Eberle



Joe & Willie Steen



Jersey Joe & Jill Scherer

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82 Abn Div Assn Executive Director Bill Bauer and his wife Laura



Ashlynn & SPC Jeff Johnson a Wounded Warrior



Ken Hamill & Almeda Medlin



**Thomas & Mamie Smith** 



Vicki & Allen Schoppe – 82 Abn Div Association President



Tina & Ron Rath - Past President

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Bill & Barbara Eberle



Honors at Saturday night banquet



Joe Scherer speaks at Saturday night banquet



Mike Williams honors Association President and Executive Director and their wives at the Saturday night banquet



Mike Williams at Saturday night banquet



Vandervoort Chapter new officers taking oath at Saturday night banquet

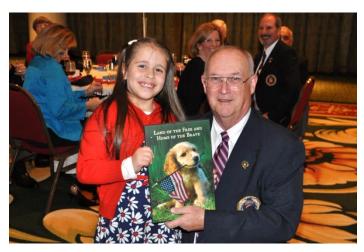
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Marty Bier won at banquet



Pearl Ingram won at banquet



Relative of Don Turner won at banquet



Schoppe's, Eberle's, Roth's & Rich Becker Pose at banquet

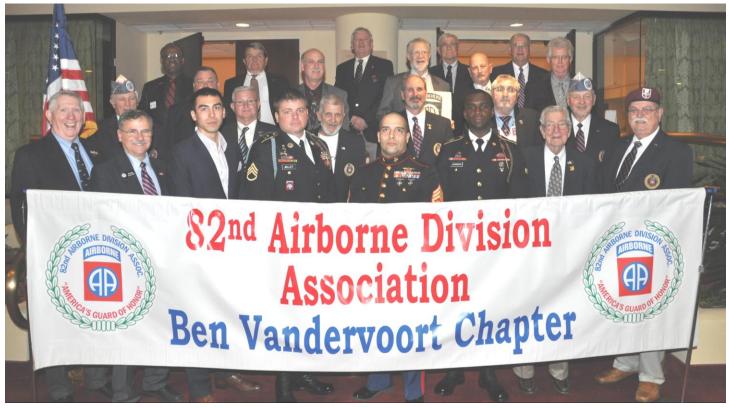


Willie Steen won at banquet



Warriors & Gunny pose with Allen Schoppe at banquet

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Airborne qualified paratroopers attending the Ben Vandervoort Savannah / Hilton Head Island Chapter Winter Weekend Banquet were invited to pose in this photo



L-R: Staff Sergeant Kyle Jolley – wounded warrior, Jim Skinner – generous pilot and Specialist Jeff Johnson – wounded warrior.

## FINAL PREPARATIONS By Mark Eckenrode

Just before the 82<sup>nd</sup> was to move to the departing airfields for marshalling and awaiting the word to go, the Germans moved the 91st Luftlande (Air Landing) Division to the Cotentin Peninsula. This Division was expressly formed and trained for combating airborne troops. A battalion of this unit had moved directly to the 508<sup>th</sup>'s objective just days before the airborne The 508<sup>th</sup>, with the attached B Company, 307 Airborne Engineer Battalion, was assigned a sector at a critical crossing at the Douve River at Beuzeville-la-Bastille Etienville area west of Ste Mere Englise. Additionally, the 319<sup>th</sup> Glider Field Artillery Battalion, also attached to the 508th, would air land on the evening of June 6<sup>th</sup>. Regimental orders were broken down into specific orders for each of the individual battalions. The general overall mission of all airborne forces was to prevent the Germans from reinforcing their coastal units. The DZ's for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne were approximately eight to ten miles inland from the coast where the 4th Infantry Division was slated to land on Utah Beach.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions departed for Folkingham airfield and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, along with Headquarters and Service Companies for the Saltby airfield. At their respective airfields the men were billeted in hangers. Truckloads of ammo, rations, and other mission specific equipment were issued to the men. included escape kits containing a compass, silk evasion maps to be sewn into the seams of their uniforms, and a small, thin but very strong files which were taped to either their thighs or inner upper arm. Furthermore, so much PX rations, such as candy and snacks, were disbursed that the men felt as though they were lambs being readied for the slaughter. Movies were shown at night and the Regimental band frequently Also at their respective airheads, a played. Nissen hut, approximately 20 feet by 40 feet, contained a sand table of their area of operation (AO) in exact detail down to roads, homes, trees, elevation contours of the area, etc. Aerial maps were also mounted on the walls. All...

...Regimental officers, and NCOs' down to corporals were allowed to view and study the detailed sand table and maps. The enlisted ranks did not know their destination and ultimate objective until just prior to the jump.

The men busied themselves with cleaning weapons, distributing and packing their gear, and packing para-bundles. Para-bundles were the precursor to the A-7A cargo slings and A-21 cargo bags. The heavy equipment, to include machine guns, mortars, extra ammo, mines, commo gear, etc were packed into the parabundles that mounted onto para-racks slung externally under the bellies of the C-47's. These were to be released by the jumpmasters when the jump light turned green, but before the first man went out the door enabling the men to land on or near their heavy equipment. Each C-47 Skytrain aircraft could carry about paratroopers.

Originally the jump was scheduled for the night of June 4th with the beach landings to occur on June 5<sup>th</sup>, but due to poor weather conditions and rough seas it was cancelled and rescheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup>. On the evening of June 5<sup>th</sup> the men had a final meal fit for a king. Following the meal the men blackened their faces and began to Para-bundles were loaded onto the gear-up. para-racks of each aircraft. Jumpmasters and aircrews coordinated over final details. Putting on their individual equipment was no small task. The troops wore specially made uniforms with unusually large pockets stuffed with K rations consisting of three meals, several D ration chocolate bars and extra clothing such as socks. The uniforms were chemically impregnated to Extra ammo for their resist a gas attack. individual weapons were the order of the day in smoke addition to one grenade. fragmentation grenades, a Gammon grenade and items of personal discretion. The Gammon grenade was a British invention that could be used as an anti-personal or an anti-vehicle weapon. It contains an explosive charge, and a contact fuse, which detonated, of course, upon contact. It weighed approximately two pounds with a charge that could be varied depending upon its intended target...

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...Over their uniforms was their load bearing equipment that supported an entrenching tool, canteens. bayonet, compass, and first-aid packet. An M-3 trench knife was strapped to one boot and a gas mask on the left thigh along with another first-aid kit. Their boots were also protected to resist a chemical attack. Bandoliers of ammo were slung over their shoulders and some men carried binoculars and a map case. A musette bag containing a ten-pound anti-tank mine and more ammo was worn under their parachute harness. They also wore their steel helmet, and a Mae West life preserver was worn over the parachute harness since part of the flight would be over water. Additionally, a small mechanical noise clicker called a "cricket" was also carried to challenge someone in the Several snaps of the cricket were darkness. given to an approaching person and if no cricket response was given that person was to be avoided if at all possible. Last but not least was their individual weapon. If this load wasn't enough, one commo man with Col Lindquist's stick carried a brace of passenger pigeons which had been flown over to the invasion area and released a number of times to ensure they know the flight route back to England if need be. Everyone was now loaded and ready for bear. This heavy burden was to cost paratroopers their lives as some landed in flooded areas and were unable to jettison their equipment. As the men were chuting-up Red Cross girls passed amongst the troops giving out coffee and donuts. It is estimated that the troopers doubled their weight with equipment and on a rough average weighed about 300 pounds including their body weight. The easiest part was over. Now they had to waddle out to their aircraft and climb up the ladder to board their "war chariots."

A Lt. Col. From the Eight Air Force witnessed the paratrooper's chuting-up at Folkingham airfield and met a paratrooper from his home state of Louisiana, a PFC Thomas A. Horne and wished him good luck. PFC Horne replied, "Some of us won't come back Colonel, but we're going to win! They can't stop us!<sup>1</sup> Next: The Flight and Lt. Robert M. Mathias

1 Wesly T. Leeper, written account, Eisenhower Ctr.

Mrs. Joan Brown sent the following photos of her husband **John Brown** of E Co. 508 ARCT 1951-54 and Hackettstown, NJ. John made a tandem skydive at Sussex Count airport on his 85th birthday and began training for solitary free fall jumping.



John Brown prior to the Tandem Jump



John Brown gets equipment check. Note his 508 wings background, pocket & shoulder patches



John Brown smiles during his Tandem Jump

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# 508 AIRBORNE CHAPTER CHAIRMAN Ken Hamill 2207 Coventry Drive Columbus, GA 31904-5034 Telephone: 706.327.3207 E: khamill@knology.net



CHAPTER HISTORIAN Mark Eckenrode 721 Nevada Ave Trinidad, CO 81082-2426 Telephone: 719.846.4713 E: haamchang@gmail.com

## TAPS - 508th PARATROOPERS RECENTLY DECEASED

Ben A. Branch	Greenville, SC
C Co. 508 ARCT 1952-53	10 Feb 2015
Donald H. Luck	Midland, TX
Svc Co, 508 ARCT 1951-52	7 Nov 2014
Harry M. Meyer Sr.	Vine Grove, KY
Easy Co, 508 ARCT 1955-56	14 Aug 2014
SPC Joseph W. Riley	14 Aug 2014 1-508





Annual Members ...22 Affiliate Members....14 All Americans......299 Total Members.....335

#### **March 2015 Treasurers Report**

Printing expense Dec 2014: \$143.01 Newsletter Envelopes Mar 2015: \$30.87 Chapter Account 28 Feb 2015: \$1474.55











Mark Eckenrode of HHC 1-508, 82nd Abn Div 1970-72 and Trinidad, Colorado informed me to save the cost of sending him our newsletter by USPS. He will read our Devils Digest on our website www.red-devils.org Thank you Mark.

Robert J. Marsh of Med Co. 508 ARCT 1954-56 and La Palma, CA elected to read our Devils Digest on line www.red-devils.org thereby saving Chapter funds of \$40.00 over the next twenty years. Thank you Bob, I love your kind gesture and wonderful optimism.

#### All American Week 17 – 22 May 2015 Fayetteville & Fort Bragg, NC

A flyer and information can be found on our website – www.red-devils.org

#### Possible Accommodations

Holiday Inn Express 910.867.6777 Embassy Suites 910.826.3600 Residence Inn 910.868.9005 Smith Lake for RV's 910.396.5979

## Panama 1989 Operation Just Cause Reunion 17-18 April 2015 Fayetteville & Fort Bragg, NC During All American Week

A flyer and information can be found on our website – www.red-devils.org or CSM Ron Rath (Ret) 919.803.4554

rrath@nc.rr.com

LTG Jack P. Nix 404.502.7256

jackpnix@gmail.com

## Dominican Republic 1965 Operation Power Pack Reunion 18 – 22 May 2015 Fayetteville & Fort Bragg, NC During All American Week

A flyer and information can be found on our website – www.red-devils.org or

John Urbach: (410) 282-0844

baltoscouter@comast.net

Jim Drainer: (904)940-9150

James32092@yahoo.com

## **82 Airborne Division Association Convention 12-15 Aug 2015 Orlando**

A flyer and information can be found on our website – www.red-devils.org

Thank you **Patrick J. McCarthy** of C Co., 508 ARCT 1951-52 and Quincy, MA for your generous donation to our Chapter Treasury.

Thank you to the following members for their generous donation to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association Wounded Warrior Fund:

**George E. Davidson**,M Co. 54-57, Eddyville, KY **Albert E. LaBelle**, E Co. 52-55, Weymouth, MA

### A PARATROOPERS MEMORIES #7 By Ed Slocum of HQ3-508 ARCT 1955-56

All American member Edward A. Slocum of Headquarters Company, 3-508 ARCT 1955-56 and Sumter, SC has written his life story. The book is titled - Searching for the Yellow Brook Road. Ed would like feedback from us. If you spot an error, pass it on back, so Ed can fix it. Article #7 starts Jump Week & Graduation. Jump week consisted of more orientation, review of safety procedures and introduction to the finer points of a US Air Force C119 aircraft. This aircraft is a twin engine, double boom designed to haul cargo and paratroopers. The body was the same capacity of a railroad boxcar. There-fore its nickname was "the Flying Boxcar." As I remember, it could handle about 60 jumpers. Thirty jumpers were seated in canvas seats, located along the two sides of the aircraft fuselage. Another 30 troopers could use two center rows of seats if needed. After proper orientation, we were taken to the parachute packing shed and issued two parachutes. The two parachutes were T-7A main parachute and a smaller reserve parachute. The T-7A main parachute was being phased out of the Army airborne equipment. The parachute operated by a static line that when the jumper left the aircraft, the parachute was pulled out of the pack while the jumper was still in the prop blast of the aircraft. That meant that the parachute opened with a tremendous whack and I can vouch for the fact that I have seen stars when it opened. There was concern about the jumper safety because the parachute had a history of malfunctioning. Because of the speed with which it opened within the 120 mph prop blast, the nylon was sometimes torn by the wind. The reserve chute which was attached to the front of your jump harness was smaller and was to be used in an emergency. That emergency could occur if the main parachute did not open or malfunctioned. We then donned our parachutes and were checked by a parachute rigger for safety and given an okay to jump. We then walked out of the pack sheds, on to the waiting C 119 aircraft. The load of "want to be paratroopers" were seated, seatbelts fastened, checked, and judged okay to make the parachute jump. I still remember it was a little scary when the aircraft left the ground and I looked out through the open doors...

...I knew that in a matter of minutes I would be exiting this aircraft. We made a long circular flight and came back to the drop zone on Fort Benning, Georgia. Minutes out from the drop zone the jump master stood up and hooked up to the static line cable running the length of the aircraft. He ran us through the five pre-jump checks. We checked our equipment to make sure that our static line was firmly attached to the cable with the safety pin in. We then waited for the jump command. aircraft is very noisy and all of us were also noisy because we were trying to cover up our fear of what was about to happen. I watched the red light over the door change from red to yellow and knew that when it changed to green I was going to find out for sure if I had what it takes to become a United States Army paratrooper. The light turned green, the jump master said "GO", and I exited the aircraft. I counted off 3 seconds, "one thousand, two thousand, three thousand" and about this time I was jerked violently by the T7 parachute opening. Seconds later I was aware that I was floating in the air, it was peaceful and very quiet after the noisy aircraft. My initial reaction was this is wonderful. Why was I ever fearful? Within a minute I was approaching the ground and I prepared for landing. The drop zone was a plowed field to make it softer for novice paratroopers like us. I landed without incident and could not wait to go back up and complete another parachute jump. Our class made our five qualifying parachute jumps and Saturday morning we proudly stood in formation on Lawson Field where we were congratulated on completing the course. But, more importantly, the airborne cadre attached silver paratrooper wings on my lke-Jacket. I was no longer a leg. I became a paratrooper. It was a proud day in my life. I was patiently waiting for the commander to dismiss our airborne company, so that we could go to town and celebrate. The Platoon Leader was the same Second Lieutenant that had berated me when I reported into the airborne school. He picked up the microphone and said, do not make plans for this afternoon. Instead I think you should spend the afternoon double timing around Lawson Field. As my heart sank, the lieutenant said, I was just kidding. Congratulations. You are dismissed. The following week, we received new orders and I

The following week, we received new orders and I was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg North Carolina.

#### TO BE CONTINUED

#### Page 8, Devils Digest, March 2015 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 508 CHAPTER, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

FORMAL NAME (No Nicknames)		DATE OF BIRTI	DATE OF BIRTH	
STREET	CITY		STATE	
9-DIGIT Zip	ASN	(or) SSAN (Last 4)		
MARITAL STATUS	SPOUSE'S NAME	NUMBER C	F CHILDREN	
OCCUPATION	HOME #: ()	CELL #: (	)	
EMAIL	SIGNATURE		DATE	
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR	YEAR 2015 \$25.00 + Wounded	l warrior Ed Fund	Total Sent	
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP (\$25	0.00 FOR 49 YEARS AND UNDER	OR \$175.00 FOR 50 YEARS +	) \$	
ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY, RI	ESERVE, NAT. GD – Current Rank a	and Date of Rank:		
RETIRED MILITARY – Retired	Rank and Date Departed Active Mili	itary Service		
MILITARY VETERAN – Rank and Date Departed Military Service				
508 UNIT: Co: Bn: Locati	on FRO	OM MO/YRTO	MO/YR	
Combat Tour Location:	FRO			

#### MAIL TO: KEN HAMILL; 2207 Coventry Drive; Columbus, GA 31904-5034



Members of Easy Company, Airborne School Class 44, Fort Benning, Georgia graduated 1 June 1951. Joe Lesniak of Charlie Company, 508 ARCT 1951-52 and Coventry, Rhode Island sent the photo. Warren Wilkins is depicted five rows down from the top and five in from the right, a bold horizontal mark on his chest identifies him.