



**96th INF. DIV.
ASSN.**



DEADEYES

ANNUAL REUNION

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. 1966



OFFICERS FOR THE PRESENT YEAR

President	Robert Huff	Box 572 Carbondale, Ill. 62902
1st Vice President	Hugh Coykendall	4247 Milan SW Wyoming, Mich. 49509
2nd Vice President	Paul Bauer	Box 23 Altamont, Ill. 62411
Treasurer	Ed Dakan	Box 725 Mason City, Iowa 50402
Recording Secretary	Robert Fitzpatrick	115 S. Hazel Pontiac, Ill. 61764
Corresponding Secretary	Richard Klassen	929 S. Myrtle Kankakee, Ill. 60910
Chaplain	Minor Butler	250 Lincoln Arcola, Ill. 61910
Historian	Col. Cyril Sterner	46 Ripley Drive Redstone Arsenal, Ala. 35809
Sergeant at arms	Henry White	Mackinaw, Ill. 61755
Indianapolis Convention Chairman	Edmund Biggs	213 Wayside Drive Plainfield, Ind. 46168
Omaha Convention Chairman	Douglas Mack	3517 S. 127th Avenue Omaha, Neb. 68144
(Co-Chairman)	Lyle Brabander	415 S. Cleburn Grand Island, Neb. 68801



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The reunion in Minneapolis last July was the 8th Annual Reunion of the 96th Infantry Division Association. Until then, Chicago had held the record as the largest, but Minneapolis now takes top honors with 330 men plus families. Twenty-Nine states were represented: 112 from Minnesota, 46 from Illinois, 27 from Iowa, and 23 from Michigan. One hundred forty nine men attended a reunion for the first time, while 10 have maintained perfect attendance and 54 have been to 5, 6, or 7 reunions.

The Company with best attendance:

I Co. - 381st	17
K Co. - 383rd	16
L Co. - 383rd	15
I Co. - 383rd	14
361st - FA	14
QM -	14

This reunion was one of the best organized affairs we have had; complaints were at a minimum and a great deal of thanks are due Alex Markus and Peter Pohl, immediate past president and reunion chairman, respectively.

One of the highlights of the reunion was the presentation of the colors at the first business meeting on Friday, July 30th. As you know, the Auxiliary had purchased a set of regulation flags, the U. S. Flag and the Division Flag, and these were presented in a short but moving ceremony. This has been a lengthy project assumed by the Auxiliary three years ago in Dallas. Many thanks to the Auxiliary.

This year, the Distinguished Deadeye and Honorary Deadeye Awards were instituted. See additional information on page 12

We are now looking forward to our 9th Annual Reunion in Indianapolis. Let's make this the biggest, just to prepare us for our milestone year, the 10th reunion in Omaha.

Robert D. Huff,
President

HIGHLIGHTS AT MINNEAPOLIS

A new post of Historian has been created and the holder of that office is Col. Cyril Sterner. If you have anything that you think might be of value to us as an association, send it or a copy, to Col. Sterner. He will attempt to have it ready for display at each succeeding reunion. His address is listed among the other officers on Page 1

The post of Sergeant at arms was also created and filled by Henry White. His responsibilities will include the care of the colors between reunions and to present them at the reunions.

A welcoming speech by Mayor Arthur Naftalin of Minneapolis was made at our first meeting on Friday, July 30th. He is a former university professor and gave an excellent welcoming address.

At our banquet on Saturday, July 31st, a detachment from the Minnesota National Guard posted the colors in true military form. Stuart Lindman, formerly with the 321st Medics, was our toastmaster. He is a news commentator for a television station in Minneapolis and has just recently been advanced to the post of National Senior Vice Commander of the Disabled American Veterans. He did a wonderful job in putting everyone at ease and filling all of us with laughter. He has tentatively promised to serve in the same capacity next year in Indianapolis. Congressman Donald Fraser was our guest speaker and brought us up to date on the Viet Nam crisis. There are ten fellows who have attended all eight reunions. They were asked to stand for recognition and their names are as follows:

Joe Fritz	Beatrice, Nebraska	381st – E Co.
Jacob Fisher	Baltimore, Maryland	381st – I Co.
Howard Carrico	Fort Worth, Texas	382nd – Cannon, G.
Harold Fluck	North Redwood, Minn.	382nd – G Co.
W.T. Pearson	Tyronza, Arkansas	383rd – Antitank
Howard Ragsdale	Lamar, Colorado	383rd – Antitank
Clarence Snyder	Shenandoah, Iowa	383rd – I Co.
Henry White	Mackinaw, Illinois	383rd – I Co.
Richard Van Etten	Toledo, Ohio	361st – FA
Hubert Hoffman	Wichita, Kansas	96th Div. Signal Co.

We are sorry to say that this is the first reunion that Dean Davis and Bernie Scanlon have missed. We missed you, boys. Speaking of missing, the most often asked question was "Has Hoss Mitchell checked in yet?" What happened, Hoss, we were all looking for you.

Susan, the lovely daughter of Byron and Gladys Boals of Seward, Nebraska, led us in singing during the presentation of the colors on Friday morning.



NINETY SIXTH INF. DIV.-WWII CAMPAIGNS-LEYTE-OKINAWA

WHEN AN AMPHIBIOUS DIVISION MAKES A LANDING SIX THOUSAND MILES FROM THE UNITED STATES, IT MUST BE A SELF-SUFFICIENT UNIT, WITH NOT ONLY MEN AND GUNS, BUT ALSO AMMUNITION, FOOD, WATER, MEDICAL SERVICES, REPAIR SHOPS, COMMUNICATIONS AND ALL THE OTHER SERVICES NECESSARY TO KEEP FIFTEEN THOUSAND MEN FIGHTING. SO THE 96TH WENT TO WAR IN THE SUMMER OF 1944.

OLD ROSTERS

Edmund Biggs, 213 Wayside Drive, Plainfield, Indiana is looking for rosters with addresses, old or new. If you have any, send it, or a copy, to him for processing. The following units have been worked already:

381st-Antitank, 381st-Hq. & Hq. Co., 381st-Service Co.,
381st-E Co., 381st-I Co., 382nd E Co., 382nd-Hq. & Hq. Co.,
382nd-Antitank, 383rd-D Co., 383rd-K Co., 383rd-L Co., 96th QM,
96th Recon, 728th AMPH TRAC, 796th Ordnance Co., 96th Div. Hq.&Hq.Co.

Rosters from any other company will be welcome. Ed has worked like a beaver for the past couple of years, and has added at least 700 names to our files. Our files are now at the 4500 level and we anticipate a list of 6,000 by next summer. At least 25 men were in Minneapolis directly due to Ed's efforts

Ed is also our reunion chairman for next year at the Claypool Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana on July 28, 29, 30, 1966. He has promised us the sky; let's call his bluff by being there.

SOMETHING NEW: On the next four pages are the names of those who were at the Minneapolis reunion listed according to Company served with. While most companies had fairly good representation, there are some that had either none or just one or two present. These reunions are planned for YOU, for ME and EVERYONE else who will take the time out to be there. Everyone who attends has a wonderful time and many have been coming back year after year looking for more of their old buddies. This situation could be helped in one sure way: you have got to sit down and write some letters. If you plan on being in Indianapolis, let all your buddies know about it. I realize that a lot of letters are written and phone calls are placed, but more are needed. Those companies with good attendance didn't just happen; someone has gone to a lot of time and effort to get the guys together again. For your assistance, company rosters are free for the asking from Richard Klassen, Corresponding Secretary.

DUES: Dues are \$3.00 per year and are used to offset expenses incurred during the year, such as this newsletter, postage, printing and other related expenses. Our treasurer is Ed Dakan whose address is listed in the directory of officers. These dues are not to be used to finance any part of any reunion. Those who have paid dues in the past few months have received our new and attractive membership card, designed and printed by our treasurer, Ed Dakan. Make check or money order payable to 96th Division Association and mail the check to any officer, who will forward to the treasurer.

ROSTER OF THOSE PRESENT AT MINNEAPOLIS

381st REGIMENT

HQ & HQ CO.

Aaron Polak
Edward Grebik
Adrian Pasternik
M.H. Alderson

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

Marvin Anderson
Richard Anderson

ANTITANK

Bob Schmidt

CANNON CO.

Arnold Anderson
Jack Bredfeldt
Cloyce Rucker

SERVICE CO.

Fred Schnirring
John Rader

382nd REGIMENT

1st BN. HQ. CO.

Michael Cwian

A COMPANY

Marvin Anderson
Lawrence Hohensee
Harry Jensen
Robert Kenney
Max McIntosh
Wm. D. Meyer

B COMPANY

Ed Dakan
Herman Kurowski
Minor Butler
Donald Bolyard

C COMPANY

Wallace Christman
Harold Hafsaht
Frank Jones
Alex Kurak
Edmund Massey
Richard Wahlstrom

D COMPANY

Harold Davidson
Edgar E. Jeswein
Peter Januscheitis
Chester Rud

2nd BN. HQ. CO.

Edward Dunning
Michael Kern
Robert Kline

E COMPANY

Joe Fritz
Wallace Archer
Harold Vostad
Milford Birkmann
James Henly
A. LeRoy Larson

William Uhrich
Arthur McGhee
Gerald Jacobson
Duane Edmunds
Robert Siefert

F COMPANY

Melvin Viette
Ralph Parsley

G COMPANY

Leo Hiltunen
Donald Reinke
Max Wender

H COMPANY

Norris Stokke
Carl Hage

3rd BN. HQ. CO.

Marshall Pratt
Victor Gilbertson
Joe Lindsey
Elmer Rautenkranz
Art Koch

I COMPANY

Paul C. Foster
Wilmer Gehrls
Milton Winter
Robert Nelson
Ray Radzivila
Marvin Anderson

Walter Boden
Edgar Huseby
Sidney Steiner
David Bean
Robert Moore
Lloyd Wanbaugh

Jacob Fisher
Calvin Stevens
Arthur Ziomek
James Anderson
Harry Kline

MINNEAPOLIS ROSTER (continued) **382nd REGIMENT**

K COMPANY

Vernon Johnson
Steve Allen

L COMPANY

Armond LaRow
Richard Anderson

M COMPANY

Harold Strand
A.K. Rosterman
Joe Kaminski
Horace Floyd
George Mooney

HQ. & HQ. CO.

George Banning
LeRoy Bookman
Max Duxbury
Morris Moseng

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

Donald Bloom

ANTITANK CO.

Lawrence Hartman
Percy Jones

SERVICE CO.

Elmer Anding
Earl Angerbauer
Paul Bauer
John Swanson

1st BN. HQ. CO.

Charles Thoren

A COMPANY

James Goettling
James Vermillion

B COMPANY

Alex Markus

C COMPANY

Alva Amelung
Paul Brown
Frank Gibson
John Harkins
Ralph Heise
Phil Hyster
Robert Lech
Thomas Roby
Clarence Rogner
Delmer Schriever
John Ulman

D COMPANY

Elmer Purdy
Arnold Sauber
James Spalding

2nd BN. HQ. CO.

Robert Fitzpatrick
William Garrett
Charles Haake
Joseph Martell
Cyril Sterner, Col.
Don Wessel

E COMPANY

George Chamberlain
Kenneth Fuller
Earl Mannel
Tyson Shelton
William Weidler
LeRoy Wright

F COMPANY

Harold Connelly
Floyd Sellers

H COMPANY

George Zeeff

G COMPANY

Howard Carrico
Harold Fluck
Clyde Fore
Roland McClurg
Bernard Zaban

I COMPANY

Alton Berger
Aloysius Buchheit
Douglas Mack

K COMPANY

Wills Horverseid
Andrew Jacobson
Earl Nye

L COMPANY

John Rasmussen
Charles Astle
Earl Sonnenberg



NINETY SIXTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION • WORLD WAR II



ON A SUNDAY MORNING IN JUNE 1945, IN THE RUBBLE OF THE VILLAGE OF MEPEERA, OKINAWA, A REGIMENT OF THE 96 TH INFANTRY DIVISION RANG DOWN THE CURTAIN ON THE LAST GREAT LAND BATTLE OF WORLD WAR II. THE NINETY-SIXTH HAD KEPT THE FAITH WITH ITS OWN WHO WOULD BIVOAC WITH IT NO MORE.

MINNEAPOLIS ROSTER (continued)

383rd REGIMENT

<u>HQ. & HQ. CO.</u>	<u>MEDICAL DETACHMENT</u>	<u>ANTITANK CO.</u>	<u>CANNON CO.</u>	<u>SERVICE CO.</u>
Therkel Jorgensen W.H. Blaylock Earl King	Clayton Foss Howard Frykman Lee Wright	Milton Colliflower Joseph Martin W. T. Pearson Howard Ragsdale Bob Wilson	Hugh Ledure Ralph Nabb Everette Shawgo	Richard Hall
<u>1st BN. HQ. Co.</u>	<u>A COMPANY</u>		<u>B COMPANY</u>	
Francis Hess Iden Johnson O. Layne Peterson Nelson Verrett	Dennis Bank Robert Huff David LaVine Patrick McDermott	Harry Novak Lenhart Thompson Fred Warner	Elroy Arcand Walter Phillips Elmer Sweeter Raymond Wander	
	<u>C COMPANY</u>	<u>D COMPANY</u>		
	Walter Egeland Harold Fosness Paul Mart	James Camburn Edward Rosinger Earl Hilby Donald Shearer Walfrid Makinen Harry Trotter		
<u>2nd BN. HQ. Co.</u>	<u>E COMPANY</u>	<u>F COMPANY</u>	<u>G COMPANY</u>	
Howard Kunz	Melvin Honnette Mathias Theobald	Robert Smith Elmer Madsen	Carl Bond John Esslinger, Jr.	

383rd REGIMENT

<u>3rd BN. HQ. CO.</u>	<u>I COMPANY</u>	<u>K COMPANY</u>	<u>L COMPANY</u>	<u>M COMPANY</u>
F. H. Heine James Weiss (WWI)---	W.H. Blaylock Geo. Christensen Mel Coobs Ray Dickinson Orvil Gilleshammer Arnold Kuester John McMullen S. T. Morris E. G. Prust C.L. Snyder Oscar Swanson Henry White Ray Wohlhuter	Larry Blanchette Byron Boals Nordahl Buros Hugh Coykendall Adrian Eral Harold Ewert Robert Flanagan Eldon Gossman Anthony Guetter Clair Kai Richard Klassen Arnold Kuester Charles Rhodes William Sanders Estil Schild Claude Sinnen	James Boyce Paul Eastin Harold Edwards Arnold Kuester Vernon Larson Ruben Leal Milton Rezac John Schnitz Ivan Schulze Milton Shepsky Edward Smith A.C. Talbod Edwin Ugelstad James Warren Kenneth Wicklund	Edward Funk Ernest Ottjes Clarence Wicklund

SPECIAL TROOPS

96th DIV. ARTILLERY

Roy Grubb
John McCallum

921st FIELD ARTILLERY

Andrew Hosnedl
Charles Komarek
Vern Maas
Hans VanWaart

361st FIELD ARTILLERY

Gordon Bye
Kenneth Camp
Eugene Gray
Val Heinrich
Karel Knutson
Ed Krise
Leslie Lusk
Stanley Morrical
Robert Peterson
Samuel Scheiner
E.C. Stuckmeyer
Richard VanEtten
Anthony Wanschura
Lloyd Zenk

362nd FIELD ARTILLERY

Paul Burkhardt
Leslie Calhoun
Charles Kunkle
Chester Livgard

Herbert Thorson
John Wilcyk
Lawrence Wilson

363rd FIELD ARTILLERY

Ray Atkinson
Elden Wilker

321st MEDICAL BN.

Stuart Lindman
B.W. Kimbrell

321st ENGINEERS

William Butscher
Don Ekelund
Isaac Godfrey
Wallace Hamre
Stephen Hirt
James Liston
Reuben Miller
Gerald Peterson

DIVISION HEADQUARTERS

George Bock
Lyle Brabander
Paul Breen
W.B. Edminston
Jos. Hannasch
Dr. John Heck
Mrs. Inez Easley
Lee Johnson
Warren Mitchell
Anthony Postl
Lawrence Slight
Leo Spitzer
Irvin Tieskotter



NINETY SIXTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION-DEADEYES

JUNE 26, 1945, GENERAL HODGE WROTE GENERAL BRADLEY: * THOSE IN POSITIONS TO MAKE COMPARISONS CONSIDER THIS (OKINAWA) TO BE BY FAR THE BITTEREST BATTLE OF THE PACIFIC TO DATE, AS WELL AS HAVING HIGHEST STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE. THE 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION, A HIGHLY INTEGRATED BATTLE TEAM, PERFORMED ITS FULL SHARE IN WINNING THIS BATTLE IN A MANNER THAT LEAVES NOTHING TO BE DESIRED.

96th RECON

Clarence Foy
Claude Johnston

796th ORDNANCE

Stanley Asmussen
Jewell Brooks
Donald Dobson
Don Doerr
Paul Horstmeyer

96th SIGNAL COMPANY

Harold Christiansen
Hubert Hoffman
Gerald Murrell
Marvin Nelson
Peter Pohl
Joe Pyle
Don Vranek

96th QUARTERMASTER

Stanley Biddis
Edmund Biggs
Cornelius Bostater
Wendell Carland
Cecil Chapen
George Freeman
Charles Freiberg

Jack Gregory
Charles Hice
Shirley Levy
Eugene Mitchell
Ray Schultz
James Stanek
William Sticha

96th MILITARY POLICE

Melvin Barton
Kenneth Simonson
Milo Thompson

96th DIV. BAND

Ralph Drollinger

763rd TANK BN.

Willis Weber

728th AMPH. TRAC

Harold McCoy



NINETY SIXTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION-WWII



THE BIG FIELD HOWITZERS OF THE 96TH DIVISION ARTLLERY PUMPED OUT 302,852 MURDEROUS ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION IN A ROARING CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA—AN OPERATION WHICH PRODUCED THE GREAT-EST ARTILLERY DUELS IN THE WAR AGAINST THE JAPANESE.

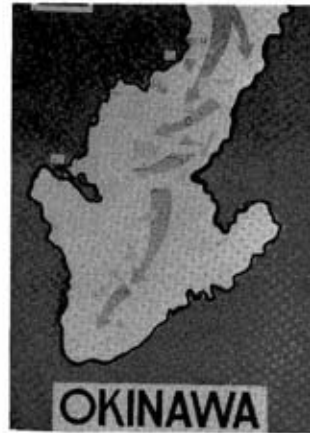
LADIES AUXILIARY

President	Mrs. Dorothy Coykendall	4247 Milan SW Wyoming, Mich. 49509
1st Vice President	Mrs. Cecile Tatman	202 Anthony Drive Donaldsonville, La. 70346
2nd Vice President	Mrs. Mary Meyer	MR# 50 Oxford, Ohio 45056
3rd Vice President	Mrs. Rose Roetker	4835 N.E. 20th Avenue Portland, Oregon 97211
Treasurer	Mrs. Ann Pohl	1630 E. Demont Avenue St. Paul, Minn. 55109
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Rose Fritz	1429 N. 14th Street Beatrice, Neb. 68310
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Dorothy Fitzpatrick	115 S. Hazel Pontiac, Illinois 61764
Chaplain	Mrs. Rachel Butler	458 Front Street Arcola, Illinois 61910

During the banquet on Saturday night, a watch was presented to Norma Bauer in remembrance of her untiring efforts to finance and obtain an official set of colors.

Dues for the Auxiliary are \$1.00 per year. Checks should be made payable to the 96th Division Auxiliary, and sent to the Treasurer.

Most of the fellows bring their families to the reunions. The Ladies Auxiliary, in particular Norma Bauer, went to great efforts to plan entertainment for the children and to supervise the various projects. There were around 150 children in the hotel most of the time, and keeping them occupied can present quite a problem.



THE TRAIL OF THE DEADEYES

The 96th Infantry Division never lost a battle. Its victories were a bloody trail marked by shattered bodies, broken minds and wind-swept graves of soldiers who believed that they were fighting that their children might inherit a world worth living in. Yet many survive.

It left behind a proud legacy, one in which glory and victory were the lesser ingredients; honor and courage the greater. It was a legacy which would forever do honor to the men who were the 96th Division – citizens of a free republic who left their farms, schools and jobs to fight its battles.



DISTINGUISHED DEADEYE AND HONORARY DEADEYE AWARDS

Many hundreds of DEADEYES were honored with awards and citations won in battle. They achieved for the 96th Infantry Division an enviable place among famed fighting outfits.

The same men carry on our traditions for dedicated service and have given of themselves and their time in great measure to bring our Association to its present state of success.

Pictured here is the DISTINGUISHED DEADEYE award that will be presented annually by the President. He and his Executive Committee will have the job of selecting only one DEADEYE to receive the honor. No higher award may be earned by a DEADEYE.

At the reunion in Minneapolis, where the award was presented for the first time, two DISTINGUISHED DEADEYES were chosen; Minor Butler, whose efforts were originally responsible for forming the Association and who also served as its first President, and Richard Klassen, Correspondence Secretary. He has been especially effective in locating DEADEYES through the years. Dick has probably become known to more DEADEYES than any other member.

HONORARY DEADEYE award may be made by the President each year to persons who perform valuable services at our reunions or who have previously served us. Such person will not have to be a DEADEYE, but someone who deserves special recognition. Our first honoree was Herb Paul, recently deceased, who served as newspaper correspondent with us during the island campaigns. The award was presented posthumously to his daughter in Minneapolis.

LOS ANGELES (AP) July 1965: A private investigator will help 19-year-old Okinawan beauty search for her American father.

William Young of San Jose, said Monday he will continue a search for Miss Okinawa, Lieko Arakaki, when she came to the United States as a contestant in the Miss Universe contest.

Miss Arakaki left Los Angeles today for her home in the southern Okinawa town of Naha, but Young said: " I intend to help this girl. It may take me a month or it may take a year, but I want to find her father."

Young said the girl was born in 1946 of an Okinawan mother and a U.S. Serviceman. The girl's mother was a maid in the officers quarters in Naha, and her father had left the island before her birth. "Miss Arakaki doesn't want to bother her father or put the finger on him," said Young. "We want to handle it discreetly and cause no embarrassment. We have it narrowed down to what divisions were in Naha at the time, and we will go to national veterans groups to disseminate information to possibly get the man to come forward."

Young said he doesn't know how many troops there were in Naha, but thinks he has a chance to locate the individual.

How about it fellows, any volunteers? The above was contributed by Dr. Harvey Drahos, Barstow, California (382nd - Service Co.) I'm sure it couldn't be any of us, could it?

Harold Roetker of Portland, Oregon (96th QM) has been doing our printing and mailing for the past year. Everyone at Minneapolis remarked about the quality of the printing and mailing, and what a great job he has done. Thanks, Harold, for a job well done.

Decals for automobiles will be available for Indianapolis later this year. They were designed by Ed Dakan and will be free to paid-up members. Ed has also designed the drawings which appear at the top of these pages. They are indeed a work of art, and at no cost to the Association.

We also had an honored guest at the reunion: Ray Dickinson of Des Moines, Iowa, was the first senior rated non-com of the 96th in World War I. He was present at the entire reunion and had a ball.

RETURN REQUESTED

Kankakee, Illinois

929 S. Myrtle

RICHARD KLASSEN



Non-Profit Org.
 BULK RATE
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Permit No. 793
 Portland, Oregon

96th INF. DIV.
 ASSN.



DEADEYES
 ANNUAL REUNION
 INDIANAPOLIS, IND. 1966