



**"New Orleans" is the password. The countersign is:
"I will be there!"** Reunion dates are July 27, 28, 29, 1972

OFFICERS 1971 - 1972

PRESIDENT

Joe J. Fritz 381-E
1429 N. 14th St., Beatrice, Nebraska 68310

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

James M. Breece 382-Service
6618 Robinhood Lane, Huntsville, Ala. 35806

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Ilden Johnson 383-1st Bn. Hq.
2210 W. 3rd St., Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

TREASURER

Ed Daken 381-B
P.O. Box 1254, Dubuque, Iowa 52001

RECORDING SECRETARY

Edward Funk 383-M
3066 Knollwood, Muskegon, Mich. 49441

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Sherman Deckrow 382-2nd Bn. Hq.
3740 N. Pontiac Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60636

CHAPLAIN

Rev. John K. Ormond 383-Hq.
707 W. Church St., Elizabeth City, N.C. 27909

HISTORIAN

Harold Strand 381-M
604 S. Hazel, Glenwood, Iowa 51534

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Sam Benson 381-D
1725 Travis St., Waco, Texas 76711

LEGAL ADVISOR

George Buttell 381-Hq.
311 Milburn, Crete, Illinois 60417

NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

Hoss Mitchell 383-L
Box 537, Ponchatoula, La. 70454

PEORIA CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

Glenn Hamilton 381-CN
2910 N. Western Ave., Peoria, Illinois 61604



JOE FRITZ TAKES OVER FROM ED DUNNING

AUXILIARY OFFICERS 1971 - 1972

- PRESIDENT** -Hilda Biggs (Edmund)
213 Wayside Dr., Plainfield, Ind.46168
- 1ST V.P.** - Rose Fritz (Joe)
1429 N. 14th, Beatrice, Nebr. 68310
- 2ND V.P.** - Eleanor Markus (Alexander)
3629 N. Plainfield, Chicago, Ill. 60634
- 3RD V.P.** - Gladys Boals (Bill)
2701 No. 70 - Apt. 4, Lincoln, Neb. 68507
- TREASURER** - Etha Caswell (George)
4323 Locust Ave., Odessa, Texas 79760
- REC. SEC.** - Mary Ragsdale (Howard)
Box 510, Lamar, Colorado 81052
- CORR. SEC.** - Mary Lou Sinnen (Claude)
229 W. 1st Ave., Shakopee, Minn. 55379
- CHAPLAIN** - Elvira Leal (Ruben)
5418 Morningside, Dallas, Texas 75206

ASSOCIATION - Front Row (L to R) Funk, Breece, Fritz, Dunning, Johnson, Dakan. Back Row (L to R) Klassen, Strand, Benson.

AUXILIARY - Front Row (L to R) Sinnen, Easley, Leal, Ragsdale. Back Row (L to R) Fritz, Caswell, Boals, Markus.



THE GREATER THING
Great it is to believe the dream
When we stand in youth by the starry
stream ;
But a greater thing is to fight life through
And say at the end, "The dream was
true."

- Edwin Markham

376 DEADEYES,
PLUS FAMILIES,
RENEW FELLOWSHIP
AND HAVE HOLIDAY
IN DENVER

REUNION is the Word for It !



The revelry began when they boarded 11 huge Trailway busses and took off in convoy-style for the trip to the Air Force Academy and Flying W. For three busy days and nights the men of the 96th celebrated. The reunion in Denver added another exciting chapter to the story of the DEADEYES. Just ask anyone who was there!



Reunion Chairman Ragsdale taste-tested the Bar-B-Q beef at Flying W





NEBRASKA FOREIGN SERVICE REVIEW

SEPTEMBER, 1971

Fritz Named 96th Leader

Joe J. Fritz of Beatrice was elected president of the 96th (Army) Infantry Division association of World War II at the organization's 14th annual reunion recently in Denver, Colo.

Fritz was also one of seven members honored for 14 years of perfect attendance at the reunions.

His wife, Mrs. Rose Fritz, was elected first vice president of the auxiliary. She also received the auxiliary's Faithful Award and Charter Member award.

The national organization has nearly 10,000 members from all over the United States.

Fritz is District 16 commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and chief of staff for the state department of Disabled American Veterans.

Mrs. Fritz is District 16 president of the VFW Auxiliary.



AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS PAST AND PRESENT

Lila Buxton engineered the proceedings as the Auxiliary observed their 10th anniversary in Denver. Hilda Biggs was chosen to be the new leader of that energetic group.

EDITORIAL

The fact that the 96th Infantry Division Association has lasted 15 years represents a considerable accomplishment. There must be few, if any other division-size units of World War II that have so successfully maintained the interest and devoted participation of their members through the years. Such a record as that of the **DEADEYES** is eloquent testimony to the comradeship that was developed under harsh conditions.

When **DEADEYES** met in St. Louis in 1958, their numbers were few, but their hopes were without bounds. By tireless effort and at his own expense, Minor Butler had gathered the nucleus of an organization that would eventually become known world-wide. The feature story in this issue of the Dispatch recalls that eventful year.

They started late. Their buddies had become widely scattered. The job was clear - to locate every **DEADEYE** who was still alive.

It is of interest to note that while the objects of the Association as stated in its Constitution were similar to those of other veterans groups, the men of the 96th have never passed a resolution regarding National policy, advocated any particular philosophy or sought favors from anyone.

The Association has flourished and reached its maturity mainly on the simple belief that **DEADEYES** like each other. Enough said!

COUPON ON BACK PAGE OF DISPATCH **DEADEYE REUNIONS ARE PLANNED FOR ENJOYMENT BY ENTIRE FAMILIES**
SEND IN YOUR REUNION RESERVATION

NAMES OF REGISTRANTS IN DENVER

Special recognition: Mrs. Claudius Easley, her 12th Reunion

**381st
HQ & HQ**
Henry Birdseye
Albuquerque, N. Mex.
Edward Grebik
Chicago, Ill.
Adrian Pasternik
Westmont, Ill.
Richard Todd
Seattle, Wash.

ANTITANK
Leonard Carlson
Minneapolis, Minn.

CANNON
Jack Bredfeldt
Dexter, Minn.
Dean Haith
Los Angeles, Calif.
Glenn Hamilton
Peoria, Ill.
D.L. Hershey
Astoria, Oregon
Lyle Hull
Grand Rapids, Mich.
Raymond James
N. Royalton, Ohio
Cloyce Rucker
Lacygne, Kansas

**MEDICS
NONE**

SERVICE
Edward Cullen
Bunkie, La.
John Grafton
Brock, Nebr.
John Harrenstein
Hastings, Nebr.
Bernard Lippens
Chamberlain, S. Dak.
Alvin Nelson
Wheeling, Ill.
Ernie Sabloudil
Hastings, Nebr.

1st BN. HQ. CO.
Alton Bouchard
Tucumcari, N. Mex.
Joseph Picone
New Orleans, La.

A CO.
Dewey Jones
LaSalle, Colo.
Arel Langston
Lakewood, Colo.
Frank Matheny
Decatur, Ill.
Max McIntosh
Eureka, Kansas

B CO.
L.J. Brinkmeyer
El Dorado, Kan.

**381st
B CO. Cont.**
Donald Brown
Trilla, Ill.
Minor Butler
Aurora, Ill.
John Byers
South Bend, Ind.
Ed Daken
Dubuque, Iowa
John Donze
Max, Nebr.
Rosendo, Jimenez
Commerce City, Colo.
Herman Kurowski
Chicago, Ill.
Bernard Sadoski
Toledo, Ohio
Gerald Wallace
Altus, Okla.

C CO.
Lawrence Albert
Wichita, Kan.
Gaylon Enos
Denver, Colo.

D CO.
Sam Benson
Waco, Texas
Edgar Jeswein
Orland Park, Ill.
Joe Johnson, Jr.
Tecumseh, Nebr.
Paul Lambrix
Olympia, Wash.

2nd BN. HQ. CO.
Edward Dunning, Jr.
Skokie, Ill.
Ed Elliott
Burley, Idaho
Robert Kline
LeRoy, Ill.
Kenneth Ulery
Marshalltown, Iowa
Ernest Vogt
Arlington, Nebr.

E CO.
Wallace Archer
Sarcoxi, Mo.
Frank Biggs
Pueblo, Colo.
Milford Birkmann
Berger, Mo.
Douglas Burton
Selma, Calif.
Joe Fritz
Beatrice, Nebr.
Gerald Jacobson
Minneapolis, Minn.
A. Leroy Larson
Mobridge, S. Dak.
Joseph Micek
Chicago, Ill.
Milo Nilsen
Shade Hill, S. Dak.

**381st
E CO. Cont.**
Kenneth Poe
Twin Falls, Idaho

F CO.
Jack Bacon
Wibaux, Mont.
Floyd Brown
Stamford, Nebr.
Virgil Pekrul
Enid, Okla.
Melvin Vietti
Pontiac, Ill.
Glen Wilson
Breckinridge, Okla.

G CO.
Don Reinke
Chicago, Ill.

H CO.
J.L. Bass
Farwell, Texas
George Caswell
Odessa, Texas
Ray Doctor
Alva, Okla.
Floyd Dye
Citrus Hgts, Calif.
A.C. Elrod
Belton, Texas
Russell Gipperich
Detroit, Mich.
Clifford Green
Livonia, Mich.
Carl Hage
Madelia, Minn.
Herbert Johnson
Rockford, Ill.
Robert Maxwell
Chicago, Ill.

3rd BN. HQ. CO.
Louis Dell 'Aquila
Chicago, Ill.
Raymond Holderman
Cupertino, Calif.
Edward Logan
Denver, Colo.
John Obal
Omaha, Nebr.
Patrick O'Gorman
Greeley, Nebr.
Fred Sears
Midland, Mich.
Elmer Shady
Farmersburg, Iowa
Bill Stolberg
Belleville, Ill.
Thomas Underhill
Bakersfield, Calif.

I CO.
Marvin Anderson
Viroqua, Wisc.
Paul Foster
Topeka, Kan.

**381st
I CO. Cont.**
Philip Galloway
Covington, La.
Jack Hallowell
Littleton, Colo.
Edgar Huseby
Nome, N. Dak.
Robert Nelson
Lincoln, Nebr.
Arthur Ziomek
Chicago, Ill.

K CO.
Robert Akin
Olton, Texas
Ted Hanna
Grosse Pointe, Mich.

James Hull
Princeton, Kan.
Fred Pfeiffer
Springfield, Mo.
Stanley Smith
Coggon, Iowa

L CO.
Herbert Carhart, Jr.
San Mateo, Calif.
James Rigg, Jr.
Grand Junction, Colo.

M CO.
Harm Alberts
Culbertson, Nebr.
Virgil Below
Risingsun, Ohio
Jim Glasscock
Tulia, Texas
Joe Kaminski
Wisconsin Dells, Wis.
Edwin Phillips
Bettsville, Ohio
Homer Sawyer
Dodge City, Kan.
Harold Strand
Glenwood, Iowa
Harold Williams
West Branch, Iowa
Leo Wittig
Decatur, Ill.

**382nd
HQ & HQ**
Robert Banigan
Englewood, Colo.
George Banning
Spirit Lake, Iowa
Frederic First
Toledo, Ohio
Edward Jorgensen
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Roland Niemann
Davison, Mich.
Donald Quinn
Brush, Colo.
George Rummelhart
Coralville, Iowa

**382nd
HQ & HQ Cont.**

Edward Zondlo
Chicago, Ill.

ANTITANK

Edward Bennett
Dearborn, Mich.
Louis Fox
Auburn, Ind.
Lawrence Hartman
Brandon, S. Dak.
Johnnie Karry
Parsons, Kan.
Philip Maresca
South Amboy, N.J.
Anthony Skaronea
Mundelein, Ill.
Russell Watts
Columbus, Ohio

**CANNON
NONE**

MEDICS

Robert Bolton
Oconomowoc, Wisc.

SERVICE

James Breece
Huntsville, Ala.
Aulry Dyer
San Luis Obispo, Calif.
Oscar Nowlin
Holton, Kan.

1st BN HQ. CO.

John Wynn
Davis, California

A CO.

James Goettling
Euclid, Ohio

B CO.

Alex Markus
Chicago, Ill.

C CO.

Whitney Champagne
Lake Charles, La.
Atwell Champion
Baton Rouge, La.
Gerald Craig
Flint, Mich.
Richard Ellis
Athens, Mich.
Frank Gibson
South Lyon, Mich.
Harvey Hahn
Cannon City, Colo.
Walter Kleinschmidt
Jacksonville, Ill.
Clarence Rogner
Saginaw, Mich.

**382
C. CO. Cont.**

Marvin Strickland
Tempe, Ariz.
F.H. Tommy Thompson
Ft. Worth, Texas

**382nd
D CO.**

Harold Burgener
Flora, Ill.
Charles Hilt
Blanchard, La.
Arnold Sauber
Lakeville, Minn.
Irving Trainer
Spickard, Mo.

2nd BN. HQ. CO.

Arthur Cross
Belton, Texas
Sherman Deckrow
Chicago, Ill.
Robert Dianovsky
Chicago, Ill.
Forrest Fulton
Westminster, Colo.
Ernest Ganaway, Jr.
Paterson, La.
George Hatfill
Effingham, Ill.
Joseph Hayes
Port Huron, Mich.
Marcel Oubre
Donaldsonville, La.

E CO.

William Weidler
Ocheyedan, Iowa

F CO.

Robert Laird
Boise, Idaho

G CO.

Howard Carrico
Ft. Worth, Texas
Harold Fluck
North Redwood, Minn.
Thomas Martin
Creston, Wash.
Roland Mc Clurg
Viroqua, Wisc.
Melvin Parrish
Commerce City, Colo.
Edwin Wooters
Salem, Ill.

H CO.

James Moore
Denver, Colo.
Keith Neighbors
Denver, Colo.

3rd BN. HQ. CO.

William Guthrie
Litchfield, Ill.

**382nd
I CO. Cont.**

Alton Berger
Westby, Wisc.

K CO.

Andy Jacobson
Alexandria, Minn.

**L CO.
NONE**

M CO.

Ray Berglin
Livingston, Mont.
Raymond Gullion
Mattoon, Ill.
Robert Johnson
Chicago, Ill.
William Procknow
Oxford, Wisc.

383

HQ & HQ

Victor Barth
Toledo, Ohio
Arnold Kuester
Olin, Iowa
John Murphy
Albany, N. Y.
M.C. O'Shea
Denver, Colo.
John Regan
Denver, Colo.

ANTITANK

Clarence Burton
Newton, Iowa
Milton Colliflower
Belleville, Ill.
Alvin Jenkins
Covington, La.
John Nasser
River Grove, Ill.
W.T. Pearson
Marked Tree, Ark.
Howard Ragsdale
Lamar, Colo.
Paul Southard
Commerce City, Colo.
Bob Wilson
Littlefield, Texas
Charles Witte
Concord, Ill.

CANNON

Ervin Kessler
Santa Barbara, Calif.
William Rakoczy
Chicago, Ill.
Everette Shawgo
Astoria, Ill.

**383rd
MEDICS**

Lee Wright
Oregon, Ill.

SERVICE

George Villano
Denver, Colo.

1st BN. HQ. CO.

Jack Barron
Drayton Plains, Mich.
Myron Buroker
Soldiers Grove, Wisc.
Clarence A. Christiansen
Boulder, Colo.
Harold Friedman
Ogallala, Nebr.
Newell Hamilton
Mesa, Ariz.
Harold Hoffenbacher
Dearborn, Mich.
Iden Johnson
Cedar Falls, Iowa
Therkel Jorgensen
Tyler, Minn.
R.N. McMillan
Springdale, Ark.
Carl Spriggs
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Carl Thomann
Englewood, Colo.
Nelson Verrett
Morgan City, La.

A CO.

Robert Cannon
Westminster, Colo.
Wayne Courtney
Denver, Colo.
Daryl Haerther
Denver, Colo.
Robert Huff
Indianapolis, Ind.

B CO.

Glen Horal
Sunnyvale, Calif.
Joseph McCaffrey
Falls Church, Va.

**C CO.
NONE**

D CO.

Dan Barnett
Olympia, Wash.
George Bishop
Ft. Worth, Texas
Earl Hilby
E. Dubuque, Ill.
Donald Shearer
Glendive, Mont.

383rd
2nd BN. HQ. CO.
Edward Williams
Covington, Okla.

E CO.
NONE

F CO.
Clarence Hauber
Torrance, Calif.
Lee Irwin
Catalina, Ariz.
Joseph Keyes
Galveston, Texas
Delbert Yakes
Rockford, Mich.

G CO.
Orris Bakke
Iredell, Texas
John Cramer
Dixon, Ill.

H CO.
M.C. O'Shea
Denver, Colo.
Howard Stock
Lone Tree, Iowa

3rd BN. HQ. CO.
George Dowling
Benton Harbor, Mich.
F.H. Heine
Burton, Texas
John Massura
Chicago, Ill.

I CO.
Everett Angles
Columbus, Ohio
Vernon Brammeier
Syracuse, Nebr.
Ray Dickinson (WW I)
Grimes, Iowa
James Dunlap
Las Vegas, Nev.
Walter Frickey
Prosser, Nebr.
Tyrus Harbert
Grand Junction, Colo.
Clarence Hauber
Torrance, Calif.
Arnold Kuester
Olin, Iowa
Chester LeBlanc
Lafayette, La.
Maynard Ludwig
Boulder, Colo.
John McMullen
Fostoria, Mich.
S. T. Morris
Holdenville, Okla.
C.L. Snyder, Jr.
Shenandoah, Iowa
William Stevens
Lawrence, Kansas
Oscar Swanson
Minneapolis, Minn.

383rd
I CO. Cont.
Kline Wartman
Moline, Ill.
Henry White
Mackinaw, Ill.
Lee Wright
Oregon, Ill.

K CO.
Lynn E. Andrews
Wichita, Kan.
Byron Boals
Lincoln Nebr.
Larry Blanchette
Bradley, Ill.
Steve Bukosky
Flushing, Mich.
Nordahl Buros
Westby, Wisc.
George Buston
Forest Ohio
Anthony Guetter
Wabaso, Minn.
Richard Klassen
Denver, Colo.
Arnold Kuester
Olin, Iowa
Claude Sinnen
Shakopee, Minn.
Carl Tinker
St. Louis, Mo.

L CO.
Richard Dohra
Skokie, Ill.
J.E. Dowdy
Stockton, Calif.
Paul Eastin
Bement, Ill.
Harold Edwards
Sioux City, Iowa
Arnold Kuester
Olin, Iowa
Ruben Leal
Dallas, Texas
Hoss Mitchell
Ponchatoula, La.
John Rudell
Oakley, Kan.
William Smith
Hot Springs, Ark.
Billy Stubbe
Ayr, Nebr.
Edwin Ugelstad
Minneapolis, Minn.
James Warren
Faribault, Minn.

M CO.
Robert DeCrescentis
Wheat Ridge, Colo.
Kenneth Dolan
Topeka, Kansas
Edward Funk
Muskegon, Mich.
Eugene Holman
Raytown, Mo.
Edward Redlin
Utica, Mich.

383rd
M CO. Cont.
Bernard Taylor
Hastings, Nebr.

ARTILLERY
921st
Elmer Anderson
Red Oak, Iowa
Harold Bell
Tipton, Iowa
Carl Block
LaSalle, Colo.
Joe Bridges
Corpus Christi, Texas
Everett Bull
So. Lake Tahoe, Calif.
William Collins
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Clarence Coy
Danville, Ill.
Clyde Dent
Salina, Kan.
Lawrence Forney
Lakewood, Colo.
J.H. Freeman
Houston, Texas
Edward Gliwa
Chicago, Ill.
Kenneth Gruver
Bluefield, W. Va.
Andrew Hosnedl
Stevensville, Mich.
Ralph Josephson
Kankakee, Ill.
Dowaine Kinser
Red Oak, Iowa
William Lucero
Lakewood, Colo.
Vern Maas
Minneapolis, Minn.
Bob Meier
Hoxie, Kan.
Alan Poole
Princeton, N.J.
Ed Sand
Rosebud, S. Dak.
Daniel Smith
Shelbyville, Ill.
Lyle Stevens
Wilmington, Ill.

361st
Robert Akin
Olton, Texas
Kenneth Camp
Ridgeway, Mo.
Roman Klimkowicz
N. Olmsted, Ohio
Karel Knutson
Puposky, Minn.
Ed Krise
Windsor, Colo.
Fred Lockman
Wellington, Colo.
Joseph Mysliwicz
Parma, Ohio
Warren Oelschlager
Minneapolis, Minn.
E.C. Stuckemeyer
Pekin, Ill.

ARTILLERY
361st Cont.
Richard Van Etten
Toledo, Ohio

362nd
Robert Anderson
Orland Park, Ill.
Carl Blase
Hordvill, Nebr.
Paul Burkhardt
New Lenox, Ill.
Arnold Clemens
Fairdale, N. Dak.
Charles Kunkle
Waterford, Mich.
Gerald Morris
Flagler, Colo.
Charles Visockis
Chicago, Ill.

363rd
Robert Adams
Ludlow, Ill.
Frank Bojanowski
Toledo, Ohio
Elwyn Meier
Wayne, Mich.
Joseph Mock
Denver, Colo.
Kenneth Newman
Hoxie, Kansas
Lloyd Osterink
Jenison, Mich.
Elden Wilker
Dubuque, Iowa

DIVISION TROOPS
321st ENGINEERS
Ken Aasen
Oconomowoc, Wisc.
Byron Beickman
Lakewood, Colo.
Elgie Clark
Dearborn Hgts, Mich.
James Dunlap
Las Vegas, Nev.
B.E. Herrington
Belton, Texas
Alfred Latour
Lafayette, La.
Clarence Moes
St. Paul, Minn.
Gerald Peterson
Tower, Minn.
Clarence Schumacher
Columbia, Ill.
Ivan Williams
Liberal, Kan.

321st MEDICS
Kenneth Boeldt
Waukegan, Ill.
Dean Davis
Springfield, Ill.
Danta Giannetti
Chicago Hgts., Ill.
Ralph Juarez
Houghton, Kan.

**DIVISION TROOPS
321st Cont.**

William Mason
Collinsville, Ill.
Hubert Muff
Crete, Nebr.
Bernie Scanlan
Springfield, Ill.

DIV. HQ.

Tom Beeghly
Santa Ana, Calif.
Fred Bush
Dallas, Texas
Lyle Brabander
Grand Island, Nebr.
Horace Covert
Berwyn, Ill.
W.B. Edmiston
Hamilton, Texas
Peter Garinger
Saginaw, Mich.
John Heck
Minneapolis, Minn.
Homer Kennedy
Albany, Mo.
Albert Manzo
Lakewood, Colo.
Myron Osborn
Denver, Colo.
Lloyd Pierson
Lakewood, Colo.
Arthur Plith
Grand Island, Nebr.
Anthony Posl
Anoka, Minn.
Charles Ratz
Springfield, Ill.
Leo Spitzer
Streeter, N. Dak.
A.D. Stephenson
Sun City, Calif.

**BAND
NONE**

MP

A.H. McCook
Bandera, Texas
Kenneth Simonson
Viroqua, Wisc.

796th ORD.

Robert Bartlett
Saginaw, Mich.
Jewell Brooks
Gallatin, Mo.
Willard Buttner
Toledo, Ohio
Ben Confer
San Luis Obispo, Calif.
Francis Kuenn
Westminster, Colo.
John McGuirk
Leadville, Colo.
Geo. McMahan
Houston, Texas

**DIVISION TROOPS
796th ORD. Cont.**

Lawrence Monnier
York, Nebr.

QM

Edmund Biggs
Plainfield, Ind.
Elmo Bluhm
Morrison, Colo.
Robert Boudreaux
Conterville, La.
Elwood Church
Lapeer, Mich.
George Freeman
Minneapolis, Minn.
Melvin Jackson
Olsenah, Okla.
Shirley Levy
Temple, Texas
Harold Mackin
Danville, Ill.
Ernest Niefeldt
Belvue, Kan.
Ray Schultz
Long Prairie, Minn.
Joseph Skubic
Clawson, Mich.
Ross Vohland
Salem, Oregon

RECON

Ernest Qualls
Lebanon, Mo.

96th SIGNAL

Hubert Hoffman
Wichita, Kansas
Angus Oddy
Porttage, Mich.

763rd TANK BN.

William Bonnell
Grand Island, Nebr.

UNIDENTIFIED

Seth Hunt
Ahsted, W. Va.
Wayne Luhtala
DeKalb, Ill.
Garmen Peickert
Minneapolis, Minn.
Donald Van Doornik
Hamilton, Mich.
Raymond Wahl
Huron S. Dak.
Alfred Wasinger
Denver, Colo.

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.....

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INFORMATION PLEASE



If you know anything
about the origin of this
plaque of General Bradley,
send your story to the
Historian:

HAROLD STRAND
604 S. HAZEL
GLENWOOD, IOWA 51534
.....

.....

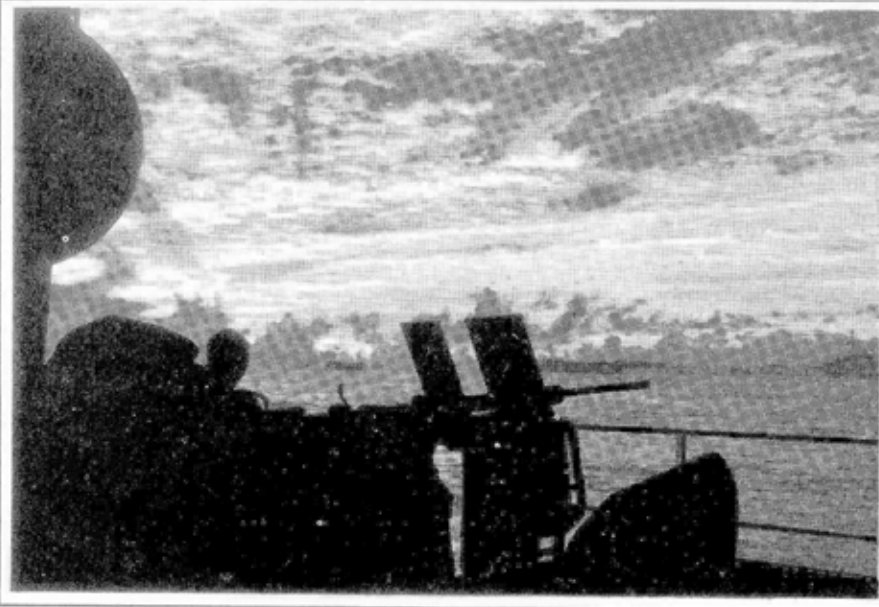
.....

What is the shouting
all about?

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REUNION
96th INF. DIV. ASSN.
JULY 27, 28, 29, 1972



ROOSEVELT HOTEL · New Orleans, La.



Tranquil sunset behind convoy at sea enroute
to Okinawa (From 96th Division Archives)

USE SPECIAL
MEMBERSHIP ENVELOPE
ENCLOSED IN THIS
NEWSLETTER

▶▶▶ **DUES PAY FOR THE DISPATCH**

LARGEST AND MOST
ACTIVE GROUP OF ITS KIND

DEADEYES:
join your old buddies
in
96th INF. DIV. ASSN.

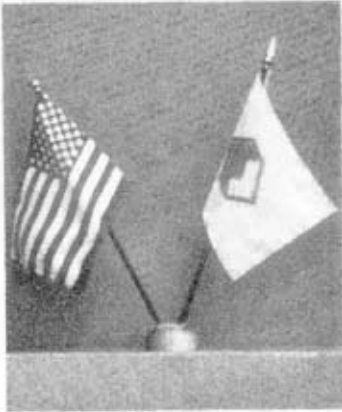
PAY YOUR DUES



**\$4.00
MAIL TODAY**

OFFICIAL COLORS

Brilliantly colored 4" x 6" printed rayon flags mounted on 10" black enameled wood staff with gilt spear



\$3.00 per set postpaid

TABLE SET - U.S. flag and 96th Infantry Division flag

ED DAKAN
96th INF. DIV. ASSN.
P.O. BOX 1254
DUBUQUE, IOWA 52001

Make Remittance Payable To
96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

I am ordering

enter number
TABLE SETS

Name _____

Address _____

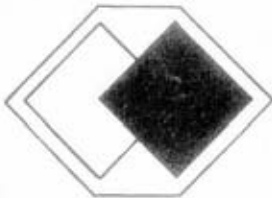
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

STATEMENT

DEADEYE DISPATCH is the official publication of the 96th Infantry Division Association. All communications should be directed to the Corresponding Secretary or Treasurer who serve as editors.

Aims are to promote the activities of the Association and serve its members in every way possible. Your comments, questions, pictures, anecdotes and suggestions are solicited.

If at any time fewer than 10 members are in attendance at a reunion, the Association will be dissolved and any remaining funds will be contributed to OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY, CORVALLIS, OREGON.



TO INSURE PROMPT DELIVERY OF *Deadeye Dispatch*
AND OTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE ADVISE THE
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NAME Regt. or Unit

NEW ADDRESS

OLD ADDRESS

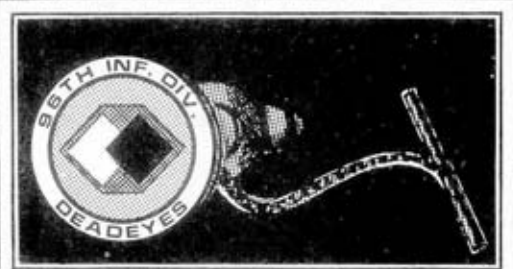
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TIE TACK Actual size - 1/2" dia.
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Statler—Hilton Hotel
 (Now St. Louis Gateway Hotel)



At the first reunion in St. Louis in 1958

By **MINOR BUTLER 381-B**
 1162 South Spencer
 Aurora, Illinois 60506

FAITH PAID OFF WITH A VICTORY

The beginnings of the 96th Infantry Division Association

DEAR COMRADES,

To tell you what motivated me to start a reunion of the 96th is difficult, but it must have been a feeling that many of you shared. I wanted the 96th to get together. I suspected that there were thousands who must feel the same way that I did and surely some connection could be made. So I scanned the notices in the veterans magazines for outfits having reunions, searching for a notice about the 96th. I kept thinking that certainly someone would call a reunion - I wanted to go.

(Continued)



MINOR BUTLER (Right Front) with buddies from 381-B.

15 ANNUAL REUNION SITES OF THE 96th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

St. Louis	1958	Little Rock	1963	Chicago	1968
Chicago	1959	Portland	1964	Des Moines	1969
Kansas City	1960	Minneapolis	1965	Detroit	1970
Detroit	1961	Indianapolis	1966	Denver	1971
Dallas	1962	Omaha	1967	New Orleans	1972

Certainly someone would call a reunion.

I believed that the 96th had been the best outfit in WW II and if others could have reunions, so could we. At that time, I was driving a school bus to supplement the ministry, taking a first aid course (only had five courses before), riding about 15 miles to attend. One of the fellows with whom I was riding had just returned from a reunion of the 25th Division at Gatlinburg, Tennessee. He told me about the great time that they had had and that convinced me that the 96th must have a reunion.

The problem was where to start. I knew nothing about conducting reunions, but I knew that we had men in the Division who knew how to do it and would be able to put together a good reunion. There had to be a way of contacting them and getting them started, so I began by writing to the only three men whose home addresses I thought I could remember. They were Captain John E. Byers, my C.O., Morgan McKee (assistant squad leader), and Oscar Johnson. My memory tricked me on the addresses and all three letters were returned. I was discouraged, but still determined.

"I began by writing to the only three men whose home addresses I could remember."

My next effort was to place a notice in the VFW of American Legion Magazine, I do not recall which was first, asking anyone interested in having a reunion to write to Minor Butler at Mount Erie, Illinois.

I received 30 replies from the first notice, so I tried again in both magazines. About 150 replies came in with statements like, "I'm interested, let's go!", "Where is the reunion - I'll be there!" Bang Meyer sent a check for \$5.00, the only money that came in until I asked for help on stamps.

My oldest daughter, then a sophomore in high school, and the school secretary (a very good friend) volunteered to prepare and reproduce a questionnaire that I needed to get ideas from the men, for I was still unsure of the direction that we should take, particularly, whether we should have three regional

reunions because of geographical separation, or aim for nationwide reunion. You know that the 96th was, for the most part, filled originally with men from the Mississippi Valley. Later replacements, however, gave us men from all over the U.S.A.

The opinions expressed in the questionnaires that I received back were unanimous for the latter. "Go nationwide", they said, "Shoot the works." All were for a single reunion. While this was taking place, I had been corresponding with three men who had offered to help me out. Their help was needed, for I still did not know how to organize a reunion and did not want to get a bunch of men together if the result was to be a flop. Two of the men dropped out - just stopped answering my letters. One of those even came by my home on his vacation from West Virginia, and we discussed reunion plans - but I never heard from him again. The third one though, Hubert Richter, 100 Harding Avenue, Kingston, New York, stuck with me and deserves the credit as co-founder. Without his advice and cooperation, the reunion that was held in St. Louis could not have been as successful as it was.

"Go nationwide," they said.
"Shoot the works."

Well that is about it for my part - you know the rest. It turned out as I thought - once we got some of the men together we found the knowledge, ideas, enthusiasm and drive that was needed. My faith paid off with a victory - 103 men - at St. Louis.

When the men saw that I was not promoting for personal gain, they got into the act. We elected a staff of officers, changed some plans, made new ones and everyone went home inspired and working. My major work had ended. It was Larry Johnson and others who were responsible for the success of the next reunion that was held in Chicago.

Looking back to 1958, I was always convinced that if we could get a small group of **DEADEYES** together, then we could reach increasingly larger numbers.

I wish to express my appreciation and extend my personal thanks to the many **DEADEYES** who have given so much to make the idea a reality. May God bless you all.

NO SUPERMAN

More than a casual interest in the Japanese soldier developed (or was indoctrinated) among **DEAD-EYES** when the course of events determined that the 96th would become an amphibious assault division. During the spring of 1944 the men listened to the stories from the Marine cadre at Camp San Luis Obispo; they attended classes on the subject "Know Your Enemy" and sometimes they wondered.

Generally they heard the Jap described as being the greatest jungle fighter in the world. He was supposed to be able to swim miles underwater while sucking air through hollow reeds, he could climb trees like a monkey, often tying himself to the trunks and fighting from the tree tops. He was tricky, capable of booby trapping the bodies of his friends, and he often cried out in English to lure the unwary into ambush. It was rumored that he was able to march further, eat less and endure more than any soldier in the world. Finally, he was credited with having a powerful ambition to die for his Emperor.

To visualize such an extraordinary soldier seemed impossible to **DEAD-EYES** preparing for battle. For some GIs there was an uneasy feeling that everything might be true; Mr. Moto just might turn out to be superman. Then there were those who seemed to say "so what?" It was simply too much to figure out.

Practically everyone knew that the Japanese believed in a strange religion that proclaimed them to be a master race of gods under a divine command to conquer the world. The Japs have been demonstrating that tenent for years.

(Continued next column)



No one doubted that the Japanese soldier was brave. His boosters had said that he was brave because of Shinto - a meaningless word to most **DEAD-EYES** but everything to a soldier of the Rising Sun. Shinto had made him a warrior with a purpose.

He had been taught from childhood that it would be the greatest glory to die for the Emperor and the greatest disgrace to surrender - a disgrace that would cast him out of the ranks of the gods and his own family.

Most important of all, Shinto had taught him, that being a god, he would not really die, and if his life ended in battle after fighting well, he would continue to live as a god in the spirit world and would be worshiped as a patron god of the nation ever after.

Results of the Leyte and Okinawa battles, for example, seemed to emphasize the fact, that after all, he was just a man. So in the homeland of the **DEAD-EYES** the art of eating with chopsticks would not become stylish.



THE WAY IT WILL BE



in

New Orleans

by

Hoss Mitchell

Convention Chairman

LET'S MAKE '72 THE BIG ONE!

Besides myself, the New Orleans Reunion Committee includes 10 Louisianians. They are Atwell Champion (382), Baton Rouge, Vice Chairman; Chester LeBlanc (383), Lafayette, Tri-Chairman of Attendance; Alfred Latour (321st Engineers), Tri-Chairman of Attendance; Ernest Ganaway (382), Tri-Chairman of Attendance; Marcel Oubre (382), Donaldsonville; Whitney Champagne (382), Lake Charles; Phillip Ganaway (381), Covington; Charlie Lee (383), Lake Charles; Joe Picone (381), New Orleans; and Nelson Verrett (383), Morgan City. The entire committee is presently concerned with making contacts that will result in a large turn out of **DEADEYES**.

We have planned a four-hour river boat trip on the Mississippi River and through Bayou Barataria for Thursday, July 27. Please send in the coupon to assist us in our planning. That evening will be free time when everyone can go out on the town.

On Friday night, there will be our traditional Beer Bust with a Dixieland dance band.

The reunion will conclude on the night of July 29 with a Dinner-Dance in the fabulous International Room of the Roosevelt Hotel.

For the ladies, there will be a luncheon on either Friday or Saturday. Their other activities will include walking tour of the Vieux Carre, French Quarter and various historical sights. Auxiliary President Mrs. Hilda Biggs and Mrs. Van Champion will coordinate these plans.

Our Teen set up ought to be the best yet. They will have their own headquarters in the hotel and a program is being planned for kids of all ages.

(Continued next column)

In addition to the **DEADEYE** Reunion, why come to New Orleans? Ole New Orleans is America's most interesting city, the Convention City that Care forgot. There are many things that your entire family will want to see or visit, such as the Morning Call and Cafe du Monde coffee houses; famous restaurants such as Arnaud's, Antoinnes, Commanders' Palace, Galatoire's Kolb's, Tuajaque' and "Breakfast at Brennan's", St. Louis Cathedral, Royal Street antique shops; the Cabildo, the museum full of Spanish, French, Mardi Gras and Louisiana history; International Trade Mart with worldwide exhibits, Ponchartrain Beach, the world-re-knowned Bourbon Street and French Quarter, New Orleans jazz and the Blue Room right in the Roosevelt, our Convention hotel.

"New Orleans" is the password. The countersign is: "I will be there!" And we will be looking for you.

THINGS TO DO

DECALS ARE READY FOR NEW ORLEANS. HOW MANY DO YOU NEED? ASK FOR EXTRAS.

MAIL CALL WILL APPEAR IN THE SPRING ISSUE OF THE DISPATCH. PLEASE CONTINUE TO SEND NEWS TO THE EDITORS.

ASK DAKAN FOR A SUPPLY OF POST CARDS, THEN WRITE TO YOUR OLD BUDDIES AND REMIND THEM TO MEET YOU AT THE REUNION.

START SAVING YOUR NICKELS. PRICES FOR EVENTS AND ENTIRE PROGRAM WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE SPRING ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER.

SEND IN YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION NOW. ALSO, LET HOSS KNOW IF YOU WILL BE GOING ON THE BOAT TRIP.

HERE IS THE SITUATION: Because Hoss must charter a boat that will be large enough to handle the crowd, he needs to know if you are intending to go on the tour. All details Spring issue.

All aboard at 1:00 p.m. **▶▶▶ Thursday - JULY 27, 1972**



DEADEYE RIVER BOAT TRIP

- ★ NO OBLIGATION
- ★ PRICE WILL BE REASONABLE
- ★ TRIP WILL LAST ABOUT FOUR HOURS
- ★ CLIP AND MAIL COUPON TODAY



AN AFTERNOON OF LEISURE ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER
THROUGH THE ENCHANTING BAYOUS OF LOUISIANA

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is missing

DEADEYE DISPATCH – WINTER ISSUE – 1971–1972

96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION IS RECOGNIZED AS AN OFFICIAL VETERANS ORGANIZATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. OUR CHARTER IS IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. BEING A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, WHATEVER INCOME THERE IS MUST BE USED TO BENEFIT THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP.

96th INF. DIV. ASSN.



SEND IN YOUR REUNION RESERVATION