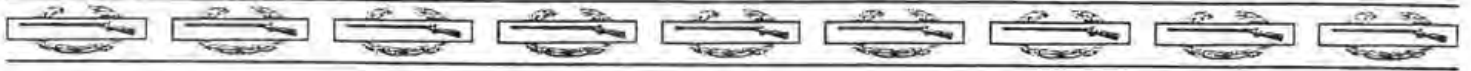
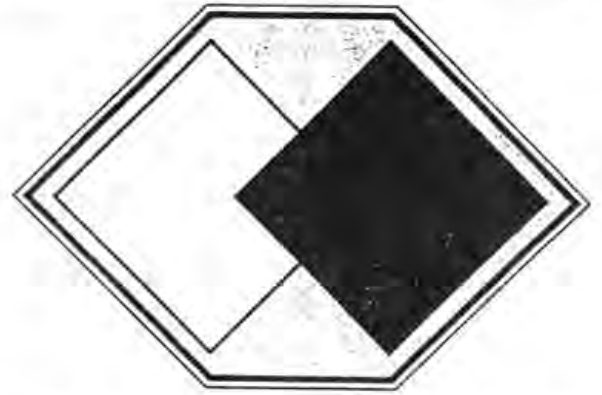
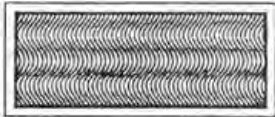


96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION • WW II

THE DEADEYE DISPATCH



FALL ISSUE 2004

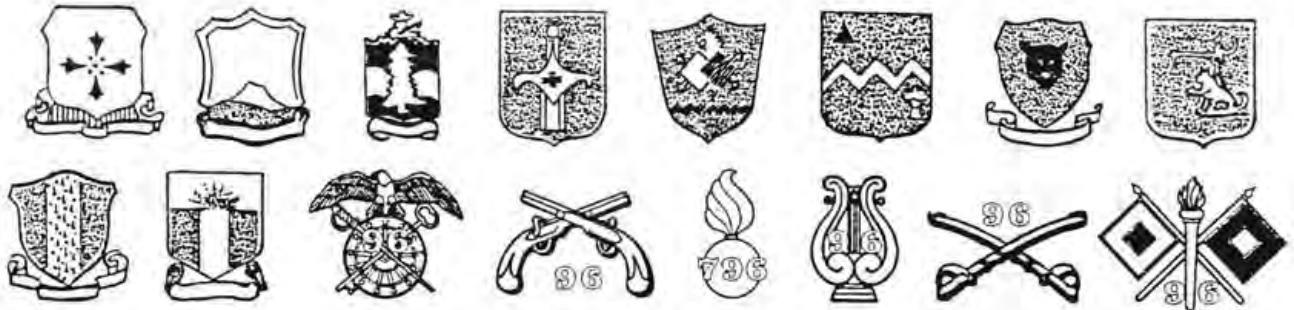


PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

1st April 1945
to
30th June 1945

for

EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST AN ARMED ENEMY.



Return to:
Robert Schmidt
1284 McKusick Rd. Ln. N.
Stillwater, MN 55082-4162

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96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

2004 - 2005 OFFICERS

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2ND VICE PRESIDENT

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e-mail: kolamamal@webtv.net

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CHAPLAIN

Dorothy Daniels (Grady) – 383 A
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Granbury, TX 76049
1-817-279-7576



Dear Deadeyes, Spouses, Families, Friends,

When Ed Wright turned the gavel over to me for 2004-2005, I was happy to announce our transition of the 96th Infantry Division Association to the 96th Deadeye Association as a new beginning rather than an ending. We now have the promise that there will be promotion and cultivation of the continued friendship and association of the veterans of the 96th Infantry Division who served during World War II, the soldiers who served after that war with the 96th Division U. S. Army Reserve, the 96th Army Reserve Command, the 96th Regional Readiness Command, and the Army Reserve units assigned and attached to those Commands, their families, and members of the public who have an interest in the history of the campaigns in which soldiers of the 96th Infantry Division and its Army Reserve counterparts have served and continue to serve.

The 48th Reunion of the 96th Infantry Division Association (IDA) will be held July 25 to July 31, 2005 and the 2005 Reunion Planning Committee will meet October 23, 2004 at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. Bob Siefert will chair the meeting, and he and committee members George Rastall, Bob Schmidt and Glendoris Cole will work out the 2005 Reunion details. The choices for programs, meetings and sight seeing are very numerous. The WWII Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, and all of the well known institutions, monuments, and memorials in and around Washington D. C. provide opportunities so numerous that many of us might want to stay longer to visit those not chosen by the Reunion Planning Committee. The D. C. Transportation System is convenient to the hotel, so getting around to your desired sites will be easy. All Reunion details will be in the spring Deadeye Dispatch. Your ideas and suggestions are invited.

The 96th IDA Executive Committee will meet after the Planning Committee meeting, and plan the phase out of the 96th IDA to the new association. There are many details and issues to resolve to make sure we act in the best interests of our Life members who will automatically be members of the new association.

I urge all of you loyal members, family, friends and associates who attended and contributed to the success of the 96th IDA during the past 47 years to contact any one you know to experience a very rare transition from our beloved Association to a new beginning Association that promises to do so much to uphold all of the cherished values, traditions and love we hold together and among all citizens and institutions of our country and Armed Forces. Hope to see you at the 48th.

/S/ George Rastall, President

Auxiliary Corner

96th INF. DIV. ASSN.

DEADEYES
ANNUAL REUNIONS



Members of the 96th Infantry Division and Ladies Auxiliary!

All of the 2004 paperwork has been filed away for posterity, but never the memories from another wonderful 96th Infantry Division Reunion in Salt Lake City. Every activity was so well planned. We so missed those of you that could not attend the reunion.

The USO Room was something new for us this year. Individuals organizing the event did an outstanding job and so many of you brought items to share. It was such a delightful area for visiting with everyone. Thanks to those persons who brought the idea to fruition. Thursday night opening festivities were such fun hosted by Anne Moroz.

The entertainment for the Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon was arranged by Pat McMillan and her selection was awesome. I like to listen to the CD of The Crocker Sisters to remind me of the joy they brought all of us during the luncheon. The Planning Committee members are busy researching entertainment so we can have something special for our last reunion luncheon.

I will miss not having the Merchandise Sales Area this year.. During the past years we have had a lot of fun working and laughing together. Several of the men were great salespersons and cashiers. They also were there to help us unpack new merchandise and to pack up the leftovers to be shipped for use the following year. My personal thanks to all of you for your efforts in making the Merchandise Sales Area a roaring success.

I am honored to be the President of the Auxiliary this year and it will be a year of many challenges. The Planning Committee is already hard at work researching, discussing, and reviewing past activities and future opportunities to bring together the very best events for our last reunion.

Enjoy life by living well and laughing a lot while you make plans to join us in Arlington, VA for our last 96th Infantry Division Reunion. in July, 2005.. Extend an invitation to your children and grandchildren so we can have an intergenerational final reunion.

In the bond of the 96th,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glendoris Cole".

Glendoris Cole, President
96th Infantry Division Association Auxiliary

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

REUNION COMMITTEE

Robert Siefert (Chairman) – 53034 Ormerod's Shores Rd., Deer River, MN 56636-2613 (218-659-2891) e-mail: rsiefert@paulbunyan.net.

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Glendoris Cole – 1323 Park Ave., Unit 18, Canon City, CO 81212-4396 (719-269-3822) e-mail: Glen96th@aol.com.

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Marvin Margoshes – 25 Maple Ave., Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706-1426 (914-478-0066).

Richard Haglund - 1504 Euclid, Steilacoom, WA 98380-3310 (253-588-8310).

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Ernest Malkewitz - 303 Timber Creek Cir.NW, Comstock Park, MI 49321-8545 (616-784-0465) e-mail: ernm96@aol.com.

Robert Cronshey – PO Box 492, Logandale, NV 89021-0492 (702-398-3003) e-mail: Cronshey@mvnet.com.

Donald Dencker – 1375 Musket Ridge Dr., Sun Prairie, WI 53990-3436 (608-837-7479) e-mail: dizzydon@aol.com.

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Robert Siefert – 53034 Ormerod's Shores Rd., Deer River, MN 56636-2613 (218-659-2891) e-mail: rsiefert@paulbunyan.net.

George McMahan – 2203 Alberton Lane, Pearland, TX 77584 (281-485-9144) e-mail: gmm796ord@juno.com

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John M. Holt – 3421 Bay Road North Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46240 (317-849-3246).

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Douglas Burton – 11279 S. Fowler Ave., Selma, CA 93662-9619 (559-891-0352).

CERTIFICATES PRESENTED AT OUR 47TH **REUNION IN SALT LAKE CITY, UT**

10 YEAR CERTIFICATES

A. M. Bartazat – 381 H, Jack E. Bernardi – 382 E, Everett M. Combs – 382 A, Vernon L. Corbin – 383 F, Joe Gonzales – 381 M, Michael Moroz - 382 L, Nels Olsen – 383 Med..

15 YEAR CERTIFICATES

Howard Bentley – 383 HQ, Raymond Boykin – 381 E, Floyd Brehmer – 381 K, Herman Buffington 383 K, Orrie Gruwell – 383 F, Gerald Fawley – 382 Med., Ed Mauer 381 L.

20 YEAR CERTIFICATES

Joseph Camilleri – Sig., Charles Moynihan – 361 FA, Robert R. Schmidt – 381 AT, Robert Siefert – 381 E.

25 YEAR CERTIFICATES

Fred Hagelgans – 381 E, Steve Melnyk – 381 L, Karl F. Sinning – 321 Med.

35 YEAR CERTIFICATES

Douglas Burton – 381 E, Donald J. Foster – Div Art., Alvis Harrell – 321 Med.

ATTENDED ALL 47 REUNIONS

Hubert Hoffman, Clarence Snyder & Mary Lou White (Auxiliary)

OTHER AWARDS PRESENTED

DISTINGUISHED DEADEYE AWARD

Tom Roby

OUR KIND OF GAL AWARDS

Anne Moroz

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Harriet Nichols, Mary Eleanor Wood Smith, Carole Wargo



Distinguished Deadeye – Tom Roby



Our Kind of Gal – Anne Moroz



Certificate of Appreciation
Carole Wargo – Mary Eleanor Wood Smith – Harriet Nichols

DEDICATION OF THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Memorial Day weekend was very special for Floyd Brehmer of Madison, Minn. In fact, he ranked it the third happiest day of his life, behind the day he came home from WW II alive and the day he married his wife, Dorothy.

Brehmer's name was selected in a drawing by the National Order of the Purple Heart on January 9, 2004 to be the organization's representative from Minnesota to attend the dedication of the World War II Memorial. He had already arranged to participate in the Don Dencker escorted tour for the dedication from which he withdrew.

The expense paid trip included the Friday, May 28 Northwest Airlines flight and hotel accommodations at the Courtyard Marriott in Springfield, Va.

Accompanying Floyd and Dorothy to Washington, D.C. were daughter Judy, and her husband, Gary Dillon of Southwick, Mass.

The Purple Heart organization took very good care of the veterans. There were volunteer service people who made sure everyone got on the shuttle busses provided for the events.

Floyd H. Brehmer
504 Western Ave.
Madison, Minn. 56256

World War II Honoree



Floyd and Dorothy Brehmer began attending DEADEYE reunions in 1985.



Floyd is dealing with a lifetime of aftereffects from his relatively brief career with the 96th Infantry Division on Okinawa.

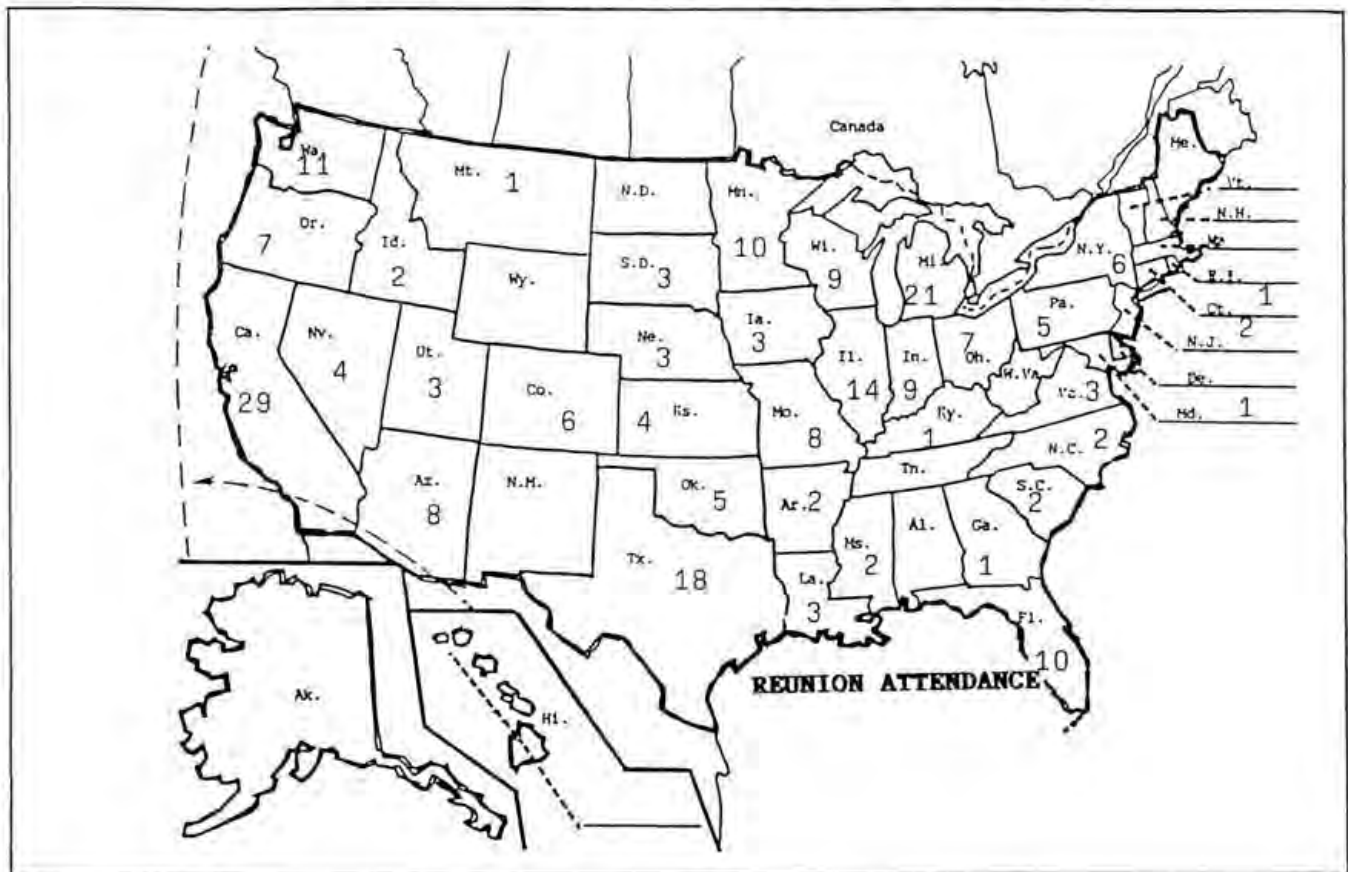
OKINAWA. WOUNDED IN LEFT KNEE AND BACK ON CONICAL HILL BY JAPANESE MACHINE GUN FIRE. RECEIVED THE PURPLE HEART, BRONZE STAR AND 1 BATTLE STAR, COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE, ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION. 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 381ST REGIMENT, COMPANY K.

by Ed Dakan B-381



The highlight of the trip for Floyd Brehmer was when President George W. Bush left the podium following the ceremony. As Brehmer was sitting right on the corner, he was the first veteran to receive a handshake from the Commander in Chief. "He shook my hand and thanked me for my days in combat and for fighting for freedom for our country," Brehmer said, still in awe of the incident. The president complied with daughter Judy Dillon's request for taking a picture with her father by placing his arm around his shoulder.

MEMBERS REGISTERED AT OUR 47TH REUNION IN SALT LAKE CITY, UT - 2004



DIVISION HEADQUARTERS

Beeghly, Tom – Santa Ana, CA
Katerberg, Ev – Grand Rapids, MI

381 HEADQUARTERS

Mannell, Leon – Topeka, KS
Obal, John – Omaha, NE
Thompson, Jaye – Mercer Island, WA

381 ANTI-TANK

Beeler, Arlene – Newaygo, MI
Bjorklund, B. J. – Cloverdale, CA
Bree, Harold – Melbourne, KY
Cole, Charles – Canon City, CO
Fryer, Eldred – Mineral Wells, TX
Rebholz, Gene – Peoria, IL
Schmidt, Bob – Stillwater, MN
Trybulski, Al – Saginaw, MI

381 CANNON

Hamilton, Glenn – Metamora, IL

381 - 1ST BN HQ

Simmons, Virgil – Bay City, OR

381 – COMPANY B

Brinkmeyer, Loren – El Dorado, KS
McDermott, Patrick – Las Vegas, NV

381 – COMPANY C

Baran, John – Hot Springs, AR
Causey, James – Liberty, MS
Culp, William – Aurora, CO
Filla, Eino – Lacey, WA
Spagnuolo, Peter – Tampa, FL
Stryker, Harold – Victory, NY

SALT LAKE CITY REUNION REGISTRATION – CONTINUED

381 – COMPANY D

Johnson, Bill – Weaverville, CA
Thompson, Earl – Newtown, MO

381 – 2ND BN HQ

Altig, Al – Hemet, CA

381 – COMPANY E

Boykin, Raymond – Noble, OK
Burton, Douglas – Selma, CA
Canedo, Louis – San Diego, CA
Carpenter, Jackie – Flushing, MI
Cronshey, Bob – Logandale, NV
Hagelgans, Fred – Pasadena, MD
Haglund, Richard – Steilacoom, WA
Jacobson, Dorothy – Fridley, MN
Knight, James – Grove City, OH
Puryear, Herman – Austin, TX
Siefert, Robert – Deer River, MN
Tomcal, Evaline – Chesaning, MI

381 – COMPANY F

Bollinger, Willard – Clayton, MO
Holt, John – Indianapolis, IN
Williams, Bill – Pomona, CA

381 – COMPANY G

Pridgeon, Ruth – Durham, NC
Pridgeon, Arden – St. Joseph, MI
Seward, Jim – Scottsdale, AZ
Wenker, Maurice – Melrose, MN

381 - COMPANY H

Barnett, Julie – Mt. Pheasant, TX
Bartzat, A.M. – Eugene, OR
Dryer, William – Park Falls, WI
Martinez, Eutiquio – Villa Park, CA
Maxwell, Robert – Chicago, IL
McCarthy, Frank – Hamburg, PA
Schroeder, Joe – Hillsdale, MI
Weiss, Al – Teaneck, NJ

381 - 3RD BN HQ

Sears, Fred – Clearwater, Fl

381 – COMPANY I

Baker, Marie – Brookfield, WI
Dewitt, Edward – Ludington, MI
Dowell, Frank – New Port Richey, FL
Meyer, Stephen – East Troy, WI
Spence, Don – Concord, CA
Wong, Kelly – Portland, OR
Ziomek, Arthur – Chicago, IL

381 – COMPANY K

Brehmer, Floyd – Madison, MN
Larson, Alfon – Naples, FL

381 – COMPANY L

Annis, Francis – Flushing, MI
Chrisman, Theo – Hallsville, TX
Davis, Bob – Goshen, NY
Frazier, Dottie – Terre Haute, IN
Hageboeck, Richard – Arizona City, AZ
Maurer, Ed – Harshaw, WI
Melnyk, Steve – Detroit, MI
Sartain, George – Tulsa, OK
Simon, Charles – Mansura, LA
Tolliver, Donald – Vincennes, IN
Weber, Carl – St. Louis, MO
Weber, Steve – St. Louis, MO

381 – COMPANY M

Below, Ruth – Fostoria, OH
Floyd, Horace – Troy, MS
Gonzales, Joe – Renton, WA
Lundberg, Darrell – San Diego, CA
Malkewitz, Ernest – Comstock Park, MI

382 – ANTI-TANK

Fox, Louis – Farmington, MI
Oropeza, Carlos – San Diego, CA
Pittsley, Paul – Boscobel, WI
Rastall, George – Pensacola, FL
Triplett, Renwyn – Middletown, VA
Watts, Russell – Columbus, OH

382 – CANNON CO

Wargo, John – Hazleton, PA

382 – MEDICS

Fawley, Gerald – Eckhart, IN

SALT LAKE CITY REUNION REGISTRATION – CONTINUED

382 – COMPANY A

Combs, Everett – De Soto, TX
Webb, Harvey – Denison, TX

382 – COMPANY B

Vaughan, Betty – Ventura, CA

382 – COMPANY C

Boyd, Walter – Waco, TX
Champagne, Whitney – Lake Charles, LA
Craig, Gerald – Burton, MI
Ellis, Richard – Athens, MI
Heindel, Richard – Farmington, UT
Jennings, Troy – Elberfeld, IN
Margoshes, Marvin – Hastings on Hudson, N
Roby, Tom – Watertown, SD
Rodrigues, Mark – Capitola, CA
Russell, Lela – Curtis, NE
Strickland, Marvin – Elberfeld, IN
Thompson, Mary – Fort Worth, TX

382 – COMPANY D

Bornong, John – Sioux City, IA
Ralph, Mark – Centralia, WA

382 – COMPANY E

Bernardi, Jack – Reno, NV
Duncan, Vernon – Jacksonville, FL
Shelton, Juanita – Elk City, OK

382 – COMPANY F

Armstrong, Hank – Castle Rock, WA
Boyack, John – Vacaville, CA
Burns, Robert – Murphys, CA
DeRoss, Ino – Weed, CA
Graves, John – Standish, MI
Huber, Donald – Lake Geneva, WI
Kotwasinski, Ervin – Alsip, IL
Miele, Pasquale – Hyde Park, NY

382 – COMPANY G

Parrish, Melvin – Commerce City, CO
Smalley, Arza – Alexandria, VA

382 – COMPANY H

Hollenbeck, Elwyn – Tecumseh, MI
Kellegrew, Kent – Chatsworth, CA
Staver, Kenneth – Saginaw, MI

382 – COMPANY I

Burtis, Dean – Imperial, NE

382 – COMPANY K

Brooks, George – Kalamazoo, MI
Johnson, Jesse – N. Little Rock, AR
Garber, Andrew – Hobard, IN
Lazarick, Leonard – Holland, PA
Pohle, Russell – Angels Camp, CA
Seiler, Robert – Portland, OR
Walsh, John – Laukspur, CA
Wright, Edwin – Rogersville, MO

382 – COMPANY L

Bourgeois Jr., Peter – Houma, LA
Dencker, Don – Sun Prairie, WI
Foster, James – Alexandria, OH
Moroz, Michael – Mt. Laurel, NJ
Yound, Dick – Claremont, CA

382 – MEDICS

Fawley, Gerald – Eckhart, IN

383 – ANTI-TANK

Tobin, Marvin – Philadelphia, PA

383 – 1ST BN HQ

Barron, Jack – Rentz, GA
Nowicki, Edmund – Dearborn, MI
Vickers, Oscar – Coahoma, TX

383 – COMPANY A

Carroll, Tom – Plano, TX
Daniels, Grady – Granbury, TX
Hearther, Daryl – St. George, UT
Huff, Robert – Indianapolis, IN
Marlenga, Joseph – Milwaukee, WI
Robertson, George – Cambridge, NY

383 – COMPANY B

Carter, Charlie – McAlester, OK
McCarthy, Richard – Coos Bay, OR
Reineck, James – Granbury, TX
Stewart, Gerald – Benson, AZ
Switzer, Frank – Danville, IL

SALT LAKE CITY REUNION REGISTRATION – CONTINUED

383 – COMPANY C

Bullard, Spencer – Lakewood, CO
Ensor, Bos – Oakton, VA
Hutsletler, Charles – Simpsonville, SC
Peterson, Don – Merrifield, MN
Sagurton, Ed – Vero Beach, FL
Stinnett, L.T. – Rock Island, IL

383 – COMPANY D

Shearer, Donald – Glendive, MT

383 – COMPANY E

Bolton, Frank – Soda Springs, ID

383 – COMPANY F

Corbin, Vernon – Cincinnati, OH
Gruwell, Orrie – Sutter Creek, CA
Hachen, Robert – Charlotte, NC
Resetco, George – Bethlehem, PA

383 – COMPANY G

Caspers, Orville – Swaledale, IA
Cramer, John – Dixon, IL

383 – COMPANY H

Birchfield, Shirley – Seattle, WA
Connolly, Jerome – Vero Beach, FL
Conrad, Earl – Englewood, FL
Dawson, Estel – Banning, CA
Hill, Betty – Mesa, AZ

383 – 3RD BN HQ

Bentley, Howard – Columbus, OH
Olsen, Nels – Huron, SD
Saxton, Donald – Moses Lake, WA

383 – COMPANY I

Bennett, Merlin – Plainview, TX
Branough, Charles – Flower Mound, TX
Brown, Harry – St. Louis, MO
Coobs, Katharine – Boise, ID
Harbert, Mary – Grand Junction, CO
Snyder, Clarence – Shenandoah, IA
Weidler, Charles – Paradise Valley, AZ
White, Mary Lou – Mackinaw, IL
Wrightwood, Ruth – Oregon, IL

383 – COMPANY K

Boals, Gladys – Tucson, AZ
Buffington, Herman – Jefferson, CA
Buskirk, Robert – Lamuada, CA
Elliot, John – Cheney, WA
Emmons, Ray – Eugene, OR
Reames, Marvin – Yokon, OK
Rollins, Claude – Granite Bay, CA
Sinnen, Claude – Shakopee, MN
Staley, Ken – Schenectady, NY
Tinker, Carl – St. Louis, MO
Wood, Samuel – Spartanburg, SC

383 – COMPANY L

Novak, Kathryn – Pasadena, CA
Schable, Anne – Atwood, IL
Warren, James – Faribault, MN

383 – COMPANY M

Dolan, Kenneth – Denver, CO
Henderson, John – Napa, CA
Ulrich, Larry – Cincinnati, OH

DIVISION ARTILLERY

Foster, Donald – Topeka, KS
Woodbury, Charles – Yuma, AZ

96TH QUARTERMASTER

Heinritz, Robert – Lansing, MI

96TH RECON.

Borkin, Ed – Wixom, MI
Cain, John – Mequon, WI
Juhl, James – Princeton, WA
Warrick, Clifford – Vancouver, WA

96TH SIGNAL

Camilleri, Joseph – Sonoma, CA
Clements, Calfin – Lubbock, TX
Hoffman, Hubert – Wichita, KS
Morrisey, Thomas – Hamden, CT

921 FIELD ARTILLERY

McCallum, John – Minnesota Lake, MN

361 FIELD ARTILLERY

Daly, Terry – Brookfield, IL
Heinrich, Val – Sarasota, FL
Knutson, Karel – Purposky, MN
Moynihan, Charles – Sun City West, AZ
Russell, James – Burnet, TX

SALT LAKE CITY REUNION REGISTRATION – CONTINUED

361 FIELD ARTILLERY (Cont.)

Russell, James – Burnet, TX

363 – FIELD ARTILLERY

Hill, Merwin – Verona, IL

321 MEDICS

Creason, Arthur – Hannibal, MO

Harrell, Alvis – Mt. Vernon, IL

Sinning, Karl – Sioux Falls, SD

796 ORDNANCE

Confer, Ben – Medford, OR

McMahan, George – Pearland, TX

CAVALRY RECON

Cuthbertson, A.A. – Lamoille, NV

DIVISION BAND

Gillette, Gail – West Covina, CA

96TH READINESS RESERVE COMMAND

John Reed – Salt Lake City, UT

HONORARY MEMBERS

Taylor, David – Spring, TX

Rastall, Stafford – Fort Payne, IN

GUESTS/OTHER REGISTRATIONS

Boykin Family

Buffington, Mike – Jefferson, GA

Buffington, Scott – Jefferson, GA

Chadek, Robin/Jim – Glenwood, IA

Davis, Bob

Hall, Deborah/Dwight – Littleton, CO

Layton, David/Kathy – Bountiful, UT

LeMaire, Janet/Mike – South Jordan, UT

Miele, Pasquale

Moroz, Ann

Phillip, John – Gladstone, MO

Rhodes, Margaret – Saint Elmo, IL

Sinnen's Guests

Smith, Mary Eleanor – N. Augusta, SC

Thornton, Martin – Aubrey, TX

Wenker, Al – Albany, MN

Wenker, Bill – Freeport, MN

Woods, Sam Jr. – Fort Mill, SC

PLANNING COMMITTEE NOTES

Planning for our forty-eighth and final reunion is well underway following a very productive planning meeting on October 22nd and October 23rd. The meeting was held at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, VA, the site selected by the membership for our last "Hurrah" in 2005. We were well satisfied with the guest rooms and function rooms and are confident the hotel's staff will serve our group well during our stay next July.

We are working on what should be an entertaining selection of tours but obviously with so much to see in Washington D.C. you may wish to see more on your own during your free time. The Washington D. C. area has an easy to use Metrorail System that will get you to most of the popular sites in the capitol complex area in a short time. Our hotel provides complementary shuttle service to the nearest Metrorail Station for its guests. This area also has several fast food restaurants and a variety of interesting shops.

The hotel also provides a shuttle service to and from **REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT** every half hour between 6AM & 11 PM, about a ten minute trip (Shuttle service is not provided by the hotel to or from Dulles Airport.)

Our final reunion program along with all our nation's capitol city has to offer should make this get together a most memorable event for you Deadeyes and your families. Plan to be there and make it a family affair! **Make your hotel reservation now!**

Program details will be included in the spring edition of the Deadeye Dispatch.









THURSDAY KICK OFF PARTY



NOTICES

The Buckeye (Ohio) Chapter of the 96th Infantry Division Association will hold their 2005 Reunion Saturday, May 14, 2005 at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City, OH. All Deadeyes and attachment units are welcome. For information contact Russell Watts – 5107 Sassafras Rd., Columbus, OH 43229-5259 or James Knight – 6023 Landings Pond Pl., Grove City, OH 43123-9444, telephone 1-614-801-1775.

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The Pacific Northwest Chapter of the 96th Infantry Division Association will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, June 5, 2005 at the Monmouth Oregon Senior Center, 180 So. Warren St., Monmouth, Oregon. Arrival and sign-in time, 9:00 – 10:00 AM. Special activities for early arrivals will be held Saturday afternoon and evening, June 4th. (Details will be found in the Spring Newsletter and Spring Deadeye Dispatch.) Planning is in progress, your suggestions are welcome. For more information please contact Richard (Dick) Haglund, 1504 Euclid, Steilacoom, WA 98388-3310, Telephone (253) 588-8310 or John Pfaff, 20 So. 4th, Independence, OR 97531, Telephone (503) 838-1854.

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THANK YOU

The Merchandise Committee would like to express our appreciation to **Faye Wright** for the beautiful afghan she donated for our raffle. Thanks Faye!

.....

~~~~~ ORDER FORM ~~~~~

96TH INFANTRY DIV. ASSOC. BLUE/ WHITE LICENSE PLATES

These plates are made of a special outdoor plastic, 12" by 6" by 1/8". They have blue background with white lettering. If your state only requires one license plate this can be used in place of a second license plate. Price of each is \$13.00 plus \$3.00 shipping/handling, totaling \$16.00.

The Executive committee authorized me to make the "96th Infantry Div. Assoc. plated available for the Association and Auxiliary members.

MAKE REMITTANCE PAYABLE TO:

Donald J. Foster
4217 SW Emland Dr. #2
Topeka, KS 66606-2137



Number of plates _____ at \$16.00 each = _____
Unit (Company) _____ Organization _____

Plates to be mailed to:

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Want a Permanent 96th Division Association Blue & White Name Badge?

The Executive Committee authorized me to present a plan to the membership to make badges available for Association and Auxiliary members. **NOW AVAILABLE FAMILY MEMBER BADGES.**

The price for as Association Badge is -----\$5.50 with choice of back

The price for an Auxiliary Badge is -----\$5.00 with choice of back

The price of a Family member Badge is -----\$5.50 with choice of back

NOW AVAILABLE MAGNETIC PIN BACKS FOR AN ADDED COST OF \$1.75 EXTRA EACH

All Badges will have the "96th Inf. Div. Ass'n." and "Div. logo" on them.

Postage and handling remains at \$2 for one badge and \$3 for two to the same address.

Ass'n.



ORDER BLANK FOR 96TH DIV. ASS'N.
BLUE AND WHITE PERMANENT
NAME BADGES
PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE
ALL INFORMATION

Auxiliary



96TH INF. DIV. ASS'N.

Unit _____ Organization _____

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

City _____ State _____

\$5.50

TYPE OF BACK, MARK ONE: PIN _____ SPRING CLIP _____ MILITARY PINS _____ MAGNETIC _____

96TH INF. DIV. ASS'N. AUX.

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

City _____ State _____

\$5.00

TYPE OF BACK, MARK ONE: PIN _____ SPRING CLIP _____ MILITARY PINS _____ MAGNETIC _____

96TH INF. DIV. ASS'N FAMILY

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

City _____ State _____ Relationship _____

\$5.50

TYPE OF BACK, MARK ONE: PIN _____ SPRING CLIP _____ MILITARY PINS _____ MAGNETIC _____

Make remittance payable to:

Donald J. Foster
4217 SW Emland Dr. #2
Topeka, Ks 66606-2137

MAGNETIC PIN BACKS \$1.75 EACH _____

Postage and Handling 1 - \$2.00 _____

2 - \$3.00 _____

TOTAL _____

Badges to be mailed to:

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

To insure prompt delivery of your **Deadeye Dispatch** and other information, please complete the address change form and send it to **Robert Schmidt, 1284 McKusick Rd. Lane N., Stillwater, MN 55082-4162**, or telephone **1-651-4309274**, or e-mail: **Schmidtprs@aol.com**.

NAME: _____ UNIT: _____

Co/Regiment

SPOUSE: _____

NEW ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

OLD ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

UNIT ROSTER

To obtain a roster of your unit, (Company, Regiment) please complete the following form and mail it along with your check for \$5.00, payable to **Steve Melnyk** and mail to his address at **7634 Fielding Ave., Detroit, MI 48228-3232**.

NAME: _____ UNIT: _____

Co/Regiment

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

96TH INFANTRY CAPS

To obtain a new 96th Infantry cap please complete the following form and mail it along with your check for \$6.00, payable to **Douglas Burton** and mail it to his address at **11279 S. Fowler Ave., Selma, CA 93682-9619**.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

FINAL 96th INFANTRY DIVISION HERITAGE FUND APPEAL

Do you want to help preserve the magnificent World War II Heritage of the 96th Infantry Division? The Officers and Executive Committee of the 96th Infantry Division Association hope that you will help preserve our cherished Heritage by contributing to the 96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund. This will be the last 96th Infantry Division Association appeal for the Heritage Fund.

The Objective of the 96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund is the preservation of the Legacy of the 96th Infantry Division through the establishment of museum quality displays of 96th Division related historical photographs, artifacts and memorabilia at selected locations for permanent public viewing.

To date we have established an Okinawa Battle Heritage Exhibit at the Fort Douglas Military Museum in Salt Lake City, Utah and a Leyte Battle Heritage Exhibit is nearing completion in the Headquarters Building of the 96th Regional Readiness Command at Fort Douglas. Additional Contributions are needed to completely finance the Leyte Battle Heritage Exhibit.

In addition 96th Infantry Division Heritage exhibits have been presented to Military Museums at Camp San Luis Obispo, California and at White City, Oregon, the location of Camp White. In addition a 96th Infantry Division Display will be placed at the Fort Lewis Military Museum in early 2005; hopefully to be funded by additional contributions. The 96th Division was based at Fort Lewis, WA for a time during 1943.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all who have contributed to our Heritage Fund in the past and to all who contribute to this last appeal.

Donald Dencker
Association Historian

Please Send Your Contribution to:

Robert Schmidt, Treasurer
96th Infantry Division Association
1284 McKusick Road, Lane N
Stillwater, MN 55082-4162

96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund Contribution:

Name _____ Unit _____ Amount _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make Check to: 96th Infantry Division Association With Notation: Heritage Fund



LOVE COMPANY



**Infantry Combat
Against the Japanese
World War II**



*Company L,
382nd
Infantry
Regiment,
96th Infantry
Division*

Donald O. Dencker

Due to a Publishers Clearance, the Author, Don Dencker has for sale copies of Love Company for \$12.50, postage paid. In this 355 page book there are 100 photographs, maps, drawings and documents. (The regular retail price of Love Company is \$19.95.) Royalties from the sale of this book go to the 96th Infantry Division Association. To purchase Love Company, send a \$12.50 check made out to:

**Donald Dencker
1375 Musket Ridge Drive
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-3436**

SHERATON NATIONAL HOTEL
(703) 521-1900 OR (800) 468-9090

HOTEL LOCATION

The Sheraton National Hotel is located at Columbia Pike & Washington Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22204. The hotel is located on high elevation overlooking many Washington, D.C. famous landmarks and is just blocks from the Metro, The Pentagon, Ft. Myer, and Arlington Cemetery. Downtown Washington, The Kennedy Center, Crystal City, and the National Airport are just five minutes away. Complimentary shuttle van service departs every 30 minutes to and from Washington National Airport, Met The Pentagon, and Pentagon City Fashion Center. A pharmacy is conveniently located five blocks from the hotel.

HOTEL EXTRAS

The Sheraton National has 408 deluxe guest rooms with individual climate controls; color TV with in-room movies, and video check-out. Tower rooms offer in-room coffee makers, hair dryers, and irons/ironing boards. Guests can enjoy a rooftop indoor swimming pool, sundeck, (during the summer season) and an exercise room, open 6am-10pm, is located on the 16th floor by the pool. The exercise room features sauna, Staimaster, LifeCycle, and weight resistance equipment. Handicapped accessible and non-smoking rooms are available. Please request these special accommodations when making your hotel reservation. Currently garage parking is available complimentary for registered hotel guests. Check-in time is 3pm; check-out is 12pm.

Hotel dining facilities:

- Potomac Restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner for snacks and full course dinners.
- Potomac Lounge: In the Atrium lobby; opens daily at 11am, serves regular cafe menu. Happy Hour is 4-7pm is daily.
- Room service is available 6:30am-11pm. Dial 4 on room telephone.

AIRPORT SHUTTLE

Complimentary shuttle van service departs every 30 minutes (6am-11:30pm) to and from Washington National Airport. Go to the Ground Transportation area of the airport to catch the shuttle.

NEARBY RV PARK

Harmony Place, Rt. 1, Richmond Road, (about 8 miles from hotel) can accommodate RVs needing hookup services. Call (703) 360-4460 at least one week ahead for information, reservations, and directions. There are no campgrounds in Arlington County.

WHEELCHAIRS

Apria Health Care rents standard wheelchairs for \$25/week. They deliver for \$25 each way. Call (703) 642-3141 to make arrangements for a wheelchair.

Vendors, Schedules, and Prices are subject to change.

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL TO HOTEL -----
96th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. - HOTEL RESERVATION FORM
REUNION DATES: JULY 27-31, 2005

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE # () _____ SHARING ROOM W/ _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ TIME _____ am/pm DEP. DATE _____

SPECIAL REQUESTS: Wheelchair accessible room _____ Nonsmoking room _____
King Bed _____ Two Double Beds _____ Bed types are not guaranteed.

RATE: \$89 (single/double) + tax (currently 10.25%).

CUT OFF DATE: 6/24/05. Reservations received after this date will be processed on a space available basis, at the prevailing public rate.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled 48 hrs. in advance of arrival date. Record your cancellation number. Call (703) 521-1900.

GUARANTEE: Reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit, enclosed.

____ MC ____ VISA ____ AM. EXPRESS ____ CARTE BLANCHE/DINERS ____ DISCOVER
CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) _____

Mail to: Sheraton National Hotel, 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204

60TH ANNIVERSARY BATTLE OF OKINAWA TOUR
June 17 through June 24, 2005

Association Historian, Don Dencker, Company L, 382nd Infantry, 96th Infantry Division will lead a 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa Tour oriented towards Army action during the Battle. Special emphasis will be directed towards sites of interest to Deadeye veterans, family and friends. The tour includes round trip air transportation from San Francisco, baggage handling and transfer, hotel accommodations on Okinawa, private sightseeing coach, entrance fees and breakfasts every day for \$2,500 per person.

Don led highly successful tours to Okinawa in 1995, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2004. Places the tour will visit include all major battlefield sites such as; Kakazu Ridge, Tombstone Ridge, Hacksaw Ridge and Needle Rock, Dick Hill, Conical Hill, Yaeju Dake (Big Apple) escarpment and Yoza Dake escarpment.

The tour will also visit the Brig. Gen. Claudius Easley and Col. May Monuments at the Gen. Buckner site, attend ceremonies at the Torii Station Army Base, and visit the Cornerstone of Peace Monument where the names of all who died during the battle of Okinawa are inscribed; including 14,005 killed from the United States. It is expected that there will be other 60th Anniversary events as yet unannounced.

Once described as a 'ghastly corner of Hell' Okinawa today is a delightfully colorful, safe and friendly place to visit. You will be amazed at the changes that have taken place since 1945.

This tour is organized by Valor Tours, Ltd. Who have conducted battlefield tours since 1977. For a brochure with details of the 2005 Okinawa Battle Tour, call or write to:

Valor Tours, Ltd.
10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965
1-800-842-4504

-or-

Don Dencker
1375 Musket Ridge Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590
1-608-837-7479

The 96th Infantry Division Association is not involved with this tour.

**DEDICATION OF THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL
WASHINGTON, DC - MAY 29, 2004**



A FIELD OF 4,000 GOLD STARS ON THE FREEDOM WALL HONORS THE MORE THAN 400,000 U.S. SERVICEMEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES DURING WWII



THE PACIFIC THEATER OF WAR PAVILION

A LARGE CONTINGENT OF DEADEYES, FAMILIES & FRIENDS WERE PRESENT



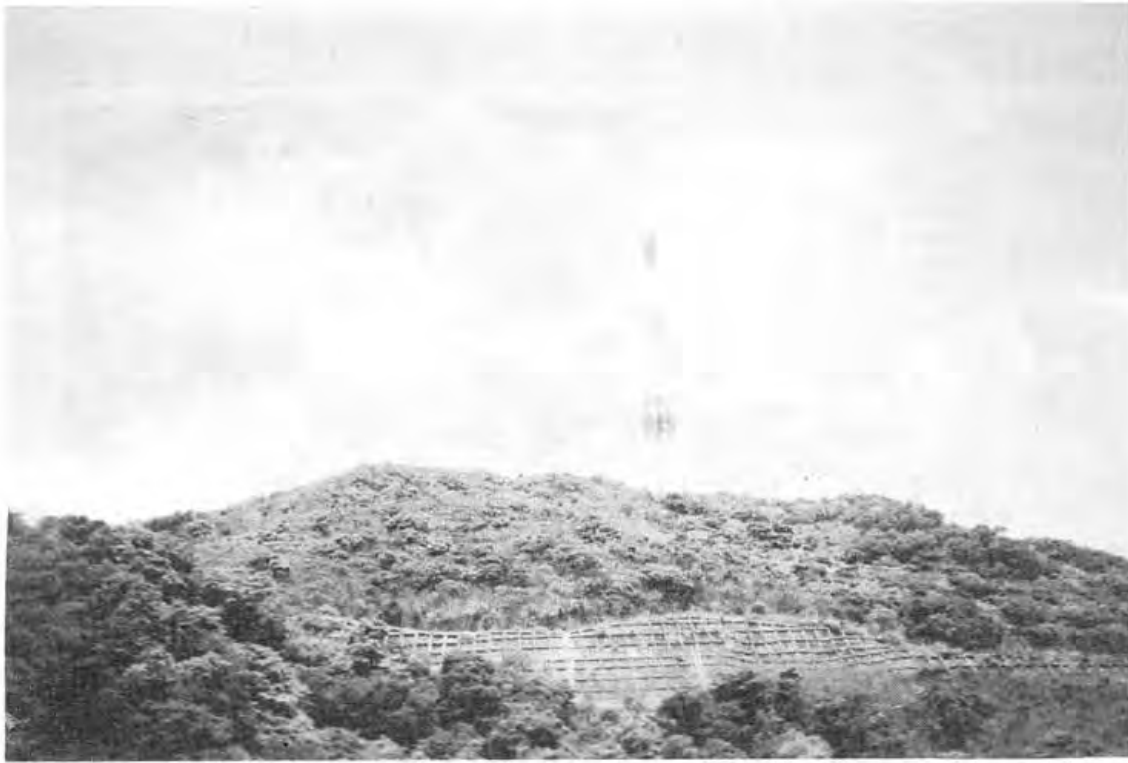
A VIEW OF THE CENTRAL FOUNTAIN PLAZA OF THE WWII MEMORIAL



I looked at the young people studying the inscriptions. **This isn't really for us veterans, I decided. *It's not so we may live in the past, but so the past may live in the future, and the sacrifices that made that future possible will be honored.***

(“Remembering” by Richard H. Schneider reprinted, in part, with permission from Guideposts. Copyright © 2004 by Guideposts, Carmel, NY 10512. All rights reserved.)

PART OF THE TREMENDOUS CROWD SEATED IN FRONT OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT



OBOE HILL TODAY WITH COMMUNICATION TOWER ON TOP



**PART OF TOUR GROUP AT RECEPTION
AT TORII STATION ARMY POST**

OKINAWA BATTLE TOUR - APRIL 2004



**BRIG. GENERAL EASLEY MONUMENT STANDING AT THE TOP OF THE HILL
AT THE LT. GENERAL BUCKNER MEMORIAL SITE**



**CREST OF CONICAL HILL BEHIND DON DENCKER STANDING ON THE
HIGHEST POINT OF THE OKINAWA COUNTRY CLUB GOLF COURSE**

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE 96TH REGIONAL READINESS COMMAND (96TH RRC)

Resolved, in view of the 96th Regional Readiness Command, direct descendents of the 96th Infantry Division having inherited a great legacy of service and loyalty, that the 96th Infantry Division Association, (1958-2005)

Does hereby commend you for your commitment to carry forward.

To enhance the legacy and to fulfill a destiny yet to be defined in the years that lie ahead, we share with you the honor, trust, teamwork, and patience that have already become waypoints for our successor organization, the 96th Infantry Deadeye Association, established in 2003.

Be it further resolved that as the concept of readiness fully embraces global paradigms of safety, security, peacekeeping and humanitarian outreach, increasingly stronger support will be made possible the better understood your mission becomes in: Personnel administration, Transportation, Logistics, Medical, Engineering, Military Police, and Public Affairs.

Be it finally resolved that as we collectively continue to nurture the great tradition signified by the blue and white double diamond, we wish you always the very best there is to be. Keep up the good work and may peace and harmony always prevail.



96th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

Our Association Website is easy to find at:

<http://www.96th-infantry-division.com>

Our site continues to average 1,050 visits per month

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO:

**Keep Informed on our Reunions, Heritage Exhibits and Battlefield Tours
View our Memorials or Exhibits at 11 Permanent Locations
Get Information of Value to Deadeyes, Family or Friends**

**Please View Our "Guest Book" and Help Deadeyes and Others Locate
Deadeyes and provide 96th Infantry Division Service Information,
or just Communicate with other Deadeyes.**

LOOKING AHEAD

Situation Summary – by Tom Roby, Transition Committee Chairman

If you have been following our previous reports, you already know that our Reunion Association is going to be dissolved after the reunion in 2005. Let me sort of summarize the current situation for you.

The changing landscape of our membership has dictated that we shut down these annual reunions because attendance is dwindling fast and it will get worse. Rather than shut it down abruptly, we will be dissolving the Reunion Association which is an Illinois-chartered non-profit corporation, as we wind down after the 2005 reunion. In its place, we have established the new 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association which is a Utah-based non-profit corporation. We have applied for tax-exempt status from the IRS and hope to be approved by year end (2004). We have a 17 person Board of Directors and already have had three Board meetings. The next one will be a telephone conference on October 16th (before or after this is printed). A number of committees have been identified and members assigned to them.

Everyone who is currently a LIFE MEMBER of the Reunion Association will automatically be a LIFE MEMBER of the new Deadeye Association. No further payment of dues will be required.

The new corporation will not necessarily continue reunions as such as we have had. We will have annual meetings of the association and mini-reunions will probably be organized. The purpose primarily is to PERPETUATE THE LEGACY OF THE 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION. Currently, there are about 7,000 Reservists in the 96th Readiness Reserve Command headquartered out of Ft. Douglas in Salt Lake City. 2500 or so of them are on active duty throughout the world and they wear the same double diamond shoulder patch that we wore – and they do so with pride. They are primarily service personnel organized to perform specific tasks such as transportation, etc.

All Reservists are eligible to join our Deadeye Association. They will help us perpetuate our and their legacy. Members of the public, auxiliary members and offspring can all become full-fledged members. Currently, we do not have a life membership schedule for non-member folks except for the auxiliary – their life membership carries forward, too. What we do have for dues to present non-members is a \$10.00 payment which will take you to 1-31-05 as far as dues are concerned. Between now and then, we will set up a semi-permanent dues program and announce it as it is ready.

PREPETUATION OF THE LEGACY – what that really means is that we will try to keep alive the memory of the performance of our thousands of Deadeyes in the WWII; and, we will publicize the service of the Reservists of the 96th who are currently serving for us in the War on Terror. Our first effort was the creation of the diorama and display of factual information on the Okinawa Campaign at Ft. Douglas Museum in Salt Lake City. The Leyte Battle will be memorialized in some fashion, too. A replica of the Leyte Exhibit will be set up in a military museum in Pennsylvania. As soon as we get our IRS authorized tax-exempt status, we hope to receive donations from many sources to help us carry on this noble cause. We think that it is fitting that we do this in memory of all who gave the ultimate sacrifice and in appreciation of the pain and suffering that all of our wounded in action endured for us.

More information on future plans of the new Deadeye Association will be forthcoming after the Washington, DC reunion in July, 2005



October 11, 2004

GREETINGS:

On the 60th anniversary of the Leyte Landing, the 96th Infantry Division Association sends special greetings and best wishes to the Council of United Filipino Associations of Tidewater and The Filipino-American Veterans of Hampton Roads. The 96th Infantry Division, U.S. Army participated in the October 20, 1944 Leyte Landing.

You are commended for your sustaining interest, support, and cooperative efforts in nurturing the great legacy of that momentous event in history. Truly that great event helped to save the world for all freedom loving people everywhere.

Down through the years there has been, and far into the future there is a destiny that will make the bonds of comradeship, respect and loyalty grow stronger.

We very much appreciate all the events that have been shared with our association. Of special note was the ceremony at MacArthur Plaza in Norfolk when our friendship was formally established. As you dedicate the Memorial Garden, our thoughts, prayers, and continued good wishes will be with you and will continue for all the days that lie ahead.

Thank you again for your friendship and may peace and harmony always be present in everything you do.

Sincerely,

George Rastall, President
96th Infantry Division Association

Filipino American Veterans of Hampton Roads

October 23, 2004

Dedicated to the memory of all Filipino and Filipino-Americans who served, fought and died in service to the Armed Forces of the United States of America ... From the mountains and tunnels of Bataan and Corregidor to the infamous Capas Death March; from jungles of Mindanao, to the shores of Leyte; from the frozen landscapes of Korea and rice paddies of Vietnam to the crags of Afghanistan and the shifting sands of Iraqi desert... Your service and sacrifice for the preservation of freedom will stand forever as a testament to the Filipino - American concept of liberty that we will never forget. Our duty is to Remember.



**96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL DUES APPLICATION**

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____ New? _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Unit Served: Co/Rgt/etc. _____

ANNUAL DUES \$ 6.00 - - - - - \$ _____

DONATIONS - - - - - \$ _____

Total - - - - - \$ _____

REMITTANCE PAYABLE TO: 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MAIL TO: ROBERT SCHMIDT, TREASURER
1284 MCKUSICK ROAD LANE NORTH, STILLWATER, MN 55082

**96TH INFANTRY DIVISION AUXILIARY
ANNUAL DUES APPLICATION**

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Husband's First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

ANNUAL DUES: \$ 5.00 - - - - - \$ _____

DONATIONS: - - - - - \$ _____

TOTAL: - - - - - \$ _____

AUXILIARY DUES ONLY:
REMITTANCE PAYABLE TO : 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSN. AUXILIARY
MAIL TO: RUTH SIEFERT, ,TREASURER
53034 ORMEROD'S SHORES ROAD, DEER RIVER, MN 56636

In Memorium...



96th INF. DIV. ASSN.
DEADEYES



“Taps”

God in his infinite Wisdom, has summoned more “DEADEYES” who have served their country faithfully and well in war and peace. The 96th Infantry Division Association mourns their passing and extends sympathy to their surviving families.

Arp, Clarence - Medic
Per T. Underhill - 1/1997

Bartunek, Paul - 321 Engrs.
Per John Obal - 9/28/04

Bates, Herbert - 383 - Co. F
Per Son - 4/30/04

Bauer, Carl - Division Hq.
Per Tom Beeghly - 2/21/04

Boals, Byron - 383 - Co. K
Per Wife Gladys - 5/4/04

Burnes, Philip -
Per Daughter - 3/4/01

Calder, Grady - 381 - Co. E
Per Doug Burton - 12/3/04

Casey, Edward
Per Wife - 8/17/04

Cassidy, James - 383 - Co.H
Per Wife - 12/18/03

Castilleja, Bernie -383 BN HD
Per H. Bentley - 7/04

Clemens, Arnold
Per Wife - 4/19/04

Colwell, Bert
Per Wife - 5/3/03

Coobs, Melvin
Per K. Coobs - 2/29/04

Cookson, Fitzgerald - 382-Co I
Per J. Boyack

Ericson, Tom L. - Signal Co.
Per Daughter - 4/29/04

Gonzalez, Eugenio-382 CO M
Per Wife - 4/19/04

Greaves, Grant
Per D. Burton - 6/17/04

Ground, Robert
Per Wife - 4/26/04

Jorgensen, James Jr.-796 ORD
Per Steve Melnyk - 3/6/04

Kastle, John - 383 Cannon Co.
Per Ed Wright - 6/3/03

Klukas, Arnold E. - 381 Co. M
Per Wife - 3/19/04

Kreis, Fred - 381 - Co. L
Per R. Watts - 2/24/04

Lipar, Frank
Per Wife - 4/29/04

Lokey, Earl B. - 382 Medical
Per S. Melnyk

Lorenzen, Walter -381 Co.H
Per Wife - 8/4/04

McCullough, M. - 383-Co.I
Per G. McGary - 1/15/04

McMillan, Robert 381-1st BN
Per R Siefert - 7/7/04

Mockrish, Edward - 382-Co.F
Per J. Boyack - 10/6/03

Odabachian, Ara - 382-3rd BN
Per Daughter - 3/31/04

Parlier, C. F. - 381 Co. E
Per Doug Burton

Pruitt, George Jr.-381-1st BN
Per Wife - 7/25/04

'TAPS'

Rogner, Clarence - 383 - Co. C Per T. Roby - 5/13/04	St. John, Chandler - 383-Co. I Per Son Thomas - 3/25/04	Wander, Raymond - 383-Co.B Per M. Wenker
Rucker, Cloyce - Per G. Hamilton - 6/12/04	Stephenson, Col. A. D. Per Wife - 11/03	Wilson, Howard - 321st Eng Per A. Harrell - 4/18/04
Schmidt, Albert - 381 - Co. A Per K. Sinning	Store, Col. Edward -383-3rd BN Per B. Von Holle - 3/2/04	Wood, Carl - 382 - Co. L Per Pacific NW Chap. 8/23/03
Slavin, Frederick Per Daughter - 2/24/04	Van Orsdol, Ralph - 382 - Co. I Per Wife - 8/30/03	Zech, Rolland - 382 - Co. F Per J. Boyack - 9/28/04

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***** OPERATION IRAQ FREEDOM *****

Penny (Boals) Marrs is pictured below presenting a flag from members of the 101st Airborne Division to members of the 96th Infantry Division Association. The flag was given by Penny's son Tom and his comrades in the 101st in memory of his late grandfather Byron (Bill) Boals and his 96th Division buddies in gratitude for their sacrifices and patriotism during World War II. Tom is with the 101st Airborne Air Assault Division stationed in Iraq. Grandfather "Bill" was a member of K Company, 383rd.



WWII veteran's reunion filled with tears

Weekly odds and ends touch on the wonderful world of reunions, the odd part being that sometimes these reunions include sadness, too.

Ed Dewitt is my down-the-hall neighbor in the 240 building at the Sheraton-Sherman. Ed is a widower and a veteran of World War II just recently returned home from his Army reunion of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association out at Salt Lake City, Utah.

Class reunions, family reunions and service-connected outfit reunions are big every summer, with most taking place in August. The Wilson clan, the George F. (me) division, just had a reunion of sorts at the Great Wedding of 2004 on Aug. 14. The next reunion of the Scottville High School Class of '48 is the 60th in 2008. The Scottville Clown Band Class of '47 celebrates its 60th in 2007.

Ed Dewitt's outfit, the 96th Infantry Division, was organized in 1918 just before the end of World War I. During the peacetime between the two worldwide conflicts, the 96th trained reservists, supported Citizens Military Training (a National Guard type group) and the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps), units established during the Great Depression. The

BY GEORGE



George Wilson
Daily News
Columnist

96th was reactivated for combat in July 1942 as a combat infantry division with support groups of artillery and engineers.

Ed joined his outfit in training in Oregon and Hawaii, and in 1944 was with the 96th when they assaulted Leyte Island in the southern Philippines where they took 1,800 combat casualties. The 96th then took part in the invasion of Okinawa on April 1, 1946, and by June 30, 1,622 of its men were killed or missing in action and presumed dead, and 5,614 were wounded. My neighbor Ed was one of those seriously wounded.

Because the war in Europe was over in early May, many of us here at home didn't

pay much attention to the war in the Pacific, other than the fact that we were bombing Japan every day. The Battle of Okinawa was one of the bloodiest battles of all World War II, ranked with the Battle of the Bulge as having the highest number of casualties suffered by U.S. troops. The 96th Division had the highest total casualties of the four Army divisions on the island.

Ed Dewitt told me there were some mighty glad times out at Salt Lake City, but many sad times, too. World War II veterans are dying at a rate of 1,500 a day, and many a face was missing from this year's reunion. "Our battalion is down hundreds of men since its original strength of 1,000. My company is down to a handful of buddies," said Ed. "Next year will be the last reunion for the Division. We'll hold it in Washington, DC, the site of the new World War II memorial, and that will be it."

Some individual units may have their own reunions, but the World War II version of the 96th Infantry Division is history, and that's the sad part of reunions, the inevitable ending due to the march of time.

A quick side note:

Dr. Rick Plummer, the impresario of sight and sound at West Shore Community

College, was a guest performer at the reunion, doing his one-man show, an enactment of the career of beloved GI war correspondent Ernie Pyle. Pyle lost his life to a Japanese sniper during the battle of Okinawa. "There wasn't a dry eye in the place. Ernie was with us when he was killed," said Ed.



Daily News/KEVIN BRACISZESKI

WORLD WAR II veteran Edward Dewitt, right, presented Rick Plummer with a certificate of Appreciation Thursday, to thank Plummer for his 2004 one-man show, "Live from the Front: Byline Ernie Pyle." Plummer performed his show for a reunion of Dewitt's WWII unit and Dewitt presented Plummer with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the unit.



Fall In For...

Mail Call!

Dear Bob,

Please pass along to the membership (and perhaps most especially to Don Dencker) my sincere thanks for the beautifully framed certificate of appreciation which Ed DeWitt presented to me at a recent DAV meeting here in Ludington, Michigan, for my performance at your recent reunion in Salt Lake City. Please know that I treasure this certificate and the memory of our short time together.



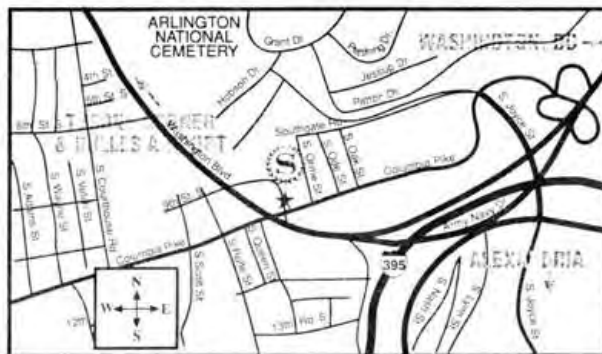
It was an honor to meet all of you and a privilege to perform for you. Thanks for your hospitality at the reunion, but more importantly, thanks for your comradeship. I continue to be as impassioned as ever in my determination to tell your story-the story of all of the courageous and heroic-WWII combat veterans and in a larger sense, the story of the remarkable dedication to duty and the sacrifices made by all Americans during the most defining moment in our nation's history. The debt of honor all of us from subsequent generations owe to you and to those of yours can never be fully repaid.

Let me thank you again for your certificate and for your generous comments about my play and its production, but most of all let me thank you from the bottom of my heart for your remarkable service to our great land and to the people of the world. God bless all of you Deadeyes!

Cheers,
Rick Plummer

SHERATON NATIONAL HOTEL

Arlington, Virginia



900 S. Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204
703 521-1900

From North: Take I-395 South to Exit 8 Washington Boulevard. Travel in the far right hand lane for 1/4 mile and take the Columbia Pike/Navy Annex exit. This will place you directly across from our hotel.

From South: Take I-95 North to I-395 and take Exit 8A — Washington Boulevard. Travel in the far right hand lane for 1/4 mile and take the Columbia Pike/Navy Annex exit. This will place you directly across from our hotel.

From East: Take I-95 South to I-495 West to George Washington Parkway. Follow the Parkway for 8 miles to I-395 South/Route 27 (Lyndon B. Johnson Exit). Stay right at the fork and take the exit for Route 224 West (Columbia Pike/Navy annex). The hotel is on the right.

From West: Take I-66 East to Route 110/Pentagon Boulevard. Stay in the right lane and take the Washington Boulevard exit to the Columbia Pike/Navy Annex. Our hotel will be directly in front of you.


If you are flying into Ronald Reagan National Airport, we do provide courtesy shuttle service every 30 minutes from 6AM until 11PM. Call the hotel from the courtyes phones at each terminal for shuttle pick-up.



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or call 800-325-3535
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