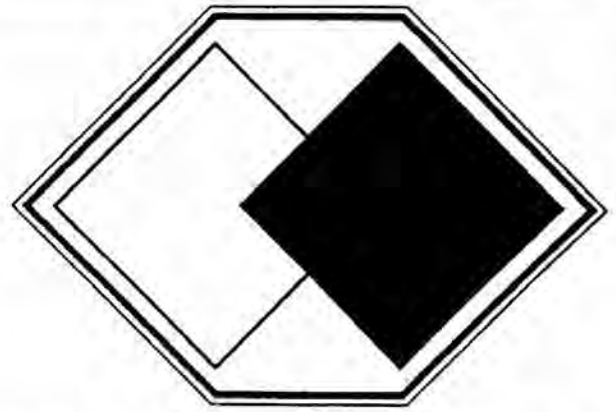
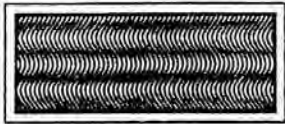


96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION • WW II

THE DEADEYE DISPATCH



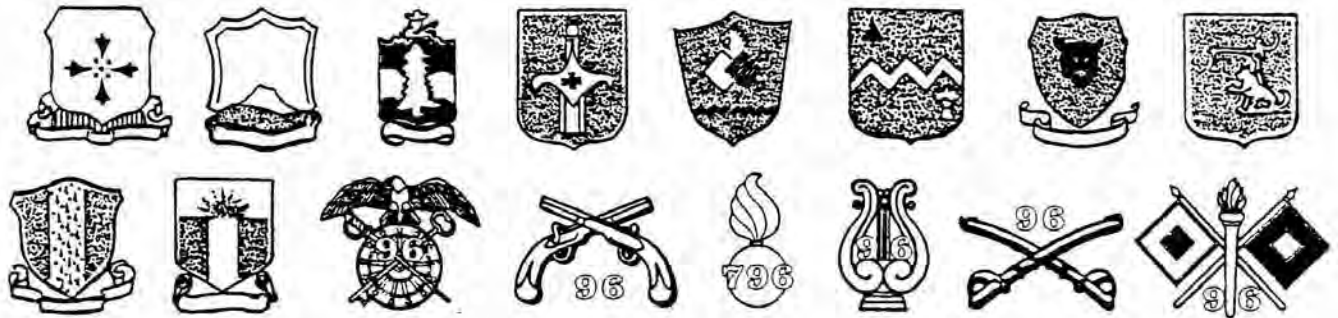
COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE 2005



PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION for

*1st April 1945
to
30th June 1945*

EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST AN ARMED ENEMY ON OKINAWA



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

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TO:

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* * * * *

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Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706-1426
1-914-478-0066



2ND VICE PRESIDENT

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* * * * *

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96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION AUXILIARY OFFICERS



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2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Carol Wargo (John) – 381 Can.
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Hazleton, PA 18202
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HISTORIAN

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Minneapolis, MN 55432
1-763-571-2269

CHAPLAIN

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

**President's
Corner**



To say goodbye doesn't seem right. To say hello to the future seems better in light of the successful transition of the 96th Infantry Division Association to the new 96th Infantry Deadeye Association. It also seems very important that we receive strong and faithful support from life members, annual members, family members and friends. Attendance at reunions is not enough. The new Association needs lots of support in planning and helping with future reunions and governance matters.

Financial support shouldn't be overlooked even though the old Association Life Members do not have to pay dues. The need for contributions of any amount, or volunteer service is necessary to assure a solid future for the new Association. This will help continue the legacy of the 96th blue and white diamond shoulder patch now being worn all over the world, including Iraq and Afghanistan, by our young reservists of the 96th Regional Readiness Command.

Former members, friends and families of the old Association are invited to join the new one. We need to encourage our friends and neighbors to join, or contribute to the Deadeye Association. They should know that part of its purpose is to promote a strong defense, service and protection of our freedom and values. Also, we are hopeful there will be a bonus benefit to contributors in the form of tax deductions for contributions. The new 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association has applied to the IRS for Chapter (3) status. If approved, contributions will be tax deductible. Either way, membership is a good investment.

Don't forget membership in the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association is open to the public and current, future or former members of the Armed Forces.

The amazing transition of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association to the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association gives us reasonable assurance of preserving wonderful memories and a bright future. I am very grateful for this because we so often witness the demise of so many organizations that have no way of enabling continuance. Their founders are fading away, or are unable to carry on. You know what I am talking about. I close with deep appreciation of what the Deadeye family stands for, asking all to cross the bridge to the future by staying with the new 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association; joining it, supporting it, and assuring it a bright future.

I hope to see you at the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association Reunion next July, 2006 in Denver.

Warmest Regards,



George Rastall
President 2005 until business is closed

Auxiliary Corner

96th INF. DIV. ASSN.

DEADEYES
ANNUAL REUNIONS



Members of the 96th Infantry Division Association and Ladies Auxiliary!

The final chapter of the 96th Infantry Division Association Memory Book has been written and recorded for posterity. The reunion in Arlington, VA was an adventure in saying farewell to the Association as we have known it to be these past 48 years.

Every reunion had unique features based on the city where we met. Cruises on our rivers, sightseeing the highlights of each city, luncheons with unusual themes, dancing until late in the night with fantastic bands, the new friendships that were created and renewing old friendships. Our reunion in Arlington also had unique features. Paying our respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was for me an unforgettable moment. So many of us visited the World War II Memorial to honor our fallen heroes.

Each day in Arlington was filled with excitement. Thursday night kick-off party hosted by Anne Moroz was filled with diverse activities that showcased the intergenerational quality of this reunion. As a result of the efforts by my son-in-law, Dwight Hall, the reunion planning committee was able to have Sgt. Major Preston of the United States Army address us reference activities of today's Army. Thank you Dwight.

The Ladies Luncheon was an outstanding affair and I would like to thank all the ladies who helped make it possible. The Banquet was such fun as we enjoyed the atmosphere that had been created with decorations. Our thanks to all the individuals who decorated the banquet tables. Thank you Barb Schmidt for your address at the banquet honoring your Dad, Bob Schmidt and all of the men who reported for duty when their country needed them. We are so proud of all our Deadeyes.

On a personal note – thanks to all my family and friends who helped me be a part of the reunion without my beloved Charles. Your love and support gave me courage to fulfill my duties as President of the Auxiliary and a member of the Planning Committee.

We now close the Memory Book that covers chapters 1 through 48 written by our Deadeyes and their ladies. We begin a new Memory Book with the authors being 2nd and 3rd generation children of our Deadeyes and the 96th Regional Readiness Command. Chapter 1 will be written in July, 2006 in Denver, CO. Hope to see you in Denver,

In the bond of the 96th

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

Glendoris Cole, President – 96th Infantry Division Association Auxiliary

CERTIFICATES PRESENTED AT OUR 48TH REUNION ARLINGTON, VA – 2005

10 YEAR CERTIFICATES

Cronshey, Bob – 381 – E Company
Kaufman, Hans – 381 – A Company
Strenski, Ray – 383 – Medical
Triplett, Renwyn – 382 – Anti-tank

15 YEAR CERTIFICATES

Canedo, Louis – 381 – E Company
Causey, James – 381 – C Company
Chapman, Elmer – 382 – C Company
Stryker, Harold – 381 – C Company
Tolliver, Donald – 381 – L Company

20 YEAR CERTIFICATES

Hill, Mervin F. – 363 – Field Artillery
Pintacura, Jack – 381 – E Company
Thompson, Earl – 381 – D Company
Wright, Edwin – 382 – Cannon

ATTENDED ALL 48 REUNIONS

Clarence Snyder – 383 – I Company

25 YEAR CERTIFICATES

Boyack, John – 382 – F Company
Craig, Gearld – 382 – C Company
Malkewitz, Ernest – 382 – M Company

30 YEAR CERTIFICATES

Stinnett, L. T. – 383 – G Company

45 YEAR CERTIFICATES

Huff, Robert – 383 – A Company

47 YEAR CERTIFICATES

Heinrich, Val – 361 – FA
Hoffman, Hubert – Signal
Snyder, C. L. – 383 – I Company

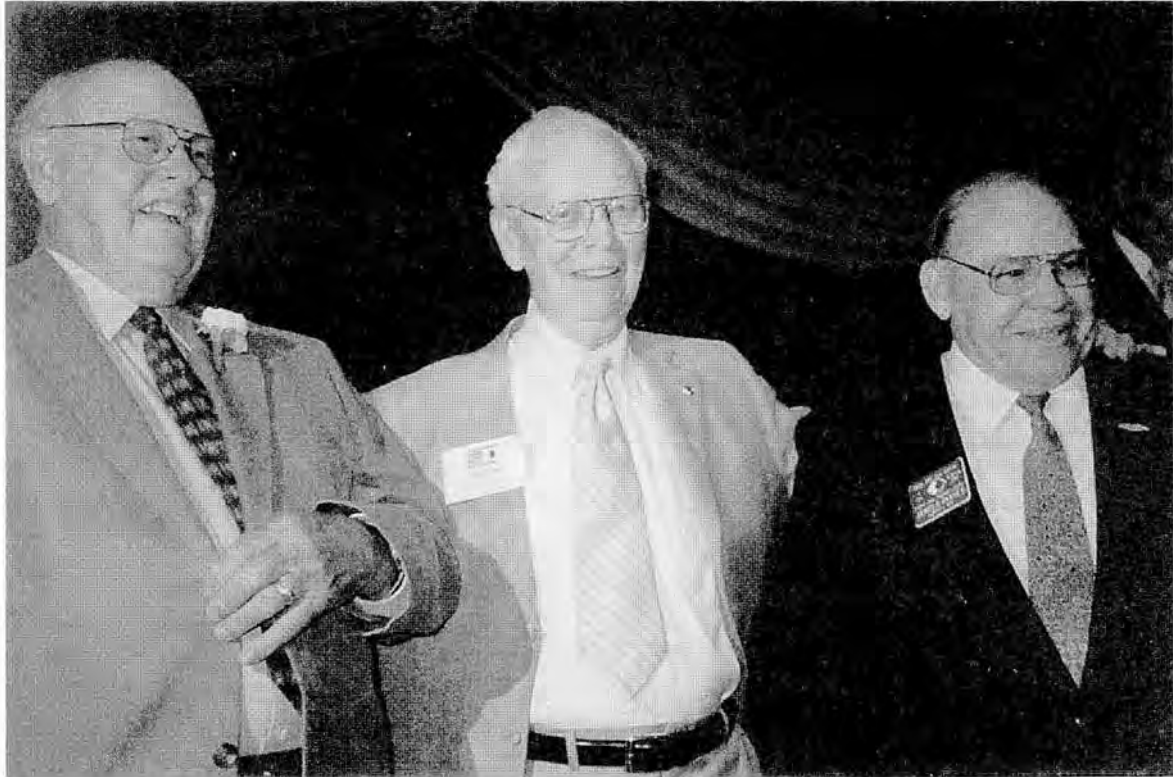
ATTENDED ALL 48 REUNIONS

White, Mary Lou – (Auxiliary)



DISTINGUISHED DEADEYES

Raymond Boykin, John Holt, James Causey



OUR KIND OF GAL

Dorothy Jacobson



APPRECIATION AWARDS

Phyllis Schmidt



Bob Siefert – Reunion Planning Chairman



Molly Dey – Armed Forces Reunions Inc.



THE DEADEYE

DISPATCH

FIRST TO
THE FRONT



April 1, 1945. PUBLISHED BY THE 96th INFANTRY DIVISION. TOL Ext-500. Vol 4, No 1.

DEADEYES LAND ON RYUKYUS STORM BEACHES OF HAGUSHI, OKINAWA

Most 96th Infantry Division overseas veterans have fond memories of *The Deadeye Dispatch*, our almost sole connection to the current events happening worldwide. *The Deadeye Dispatch* was produced by the Information and Education Office of Division Headquarters and was first published on November 4, 1944 on Leyte Island, Philippines. Major Daniel Millsaps was the officer in charge with the reporting and production by a talented group of enlisted men.

The Deadeye Dispatch had a motto "First to the Front" and it truly was six days a week (Monday excluded) on Okinawa. A team of four reporters highlighted the activities of units in the three Infantry Regiments, Division Artillery and smaller units of other branches. Yes, even on Okinawa landing day, *The Deadeye Dispatch* reported events as they happened.

LATE INVASION BULLETINS

(11:00--April 1--By 1000 this morning troops of Lt Col Byron King were 1200 yards inland and air observer reports placed our troops in his sector on a road more than one mile inland by 1045.

In another sector soldiers of another division were reported pushing east of the southeast end of the Katena airstrip. (2000 yards inland) and meeting very light opposition.

In addition to news of the war against Japan, *The Deadeye Dispatch* kept us abreast of the war against Germany and events in the United States, and elsewhere. Complete coverage included Major League baseball and football scores. Cartoons were often inserted in its issues. It truly was tailored to what interested Deadeyes.

The Deadeye Dispatch also caught the interest of Lt. Gen. Joseph Stilwell where he is quoted in the June 8, 1945 issue as saying "The 96th Division has done a magnificent job. They are a damn good slugging outfit and have a damn good commanding general." Stilwell further commented on battle conditions, "Mud is bad anyplace, but where caterpillars and tractors sink and spin their tracks, it's damn bad."

With this heritage the 96th Infantry Division Association had no alternative, other than calling their publication *The Deadeye Dispatch*.

REMINISCE WITH THE ASSOCIATION!!!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Distinguished Deadeye(s)</u>
1958	St. Louis, MO	103	Minor Butler	
1959	Chicago, Il	223	Minor Butler	
1960	Kansas City, MO	264	Hubert Hoffman	
1961	Detroit, Mi	over 250	Morris Roberts	
1962	Dallas, TX	over 200	Willard"Hoss"Mitchell	
1963	Little Rock, AR	about 200	Jack Fisher	
1964	Portland, OR	about 150	Patrick McDermott	Minor Butler
1965	Minneapolis, MN	330	Alex Marcus	Richard Klassen
1966	Indianapolis, IN	364	Robert Huff	Ed Dakan
1967	Omaha, NE	351	Peter Pohl	Edmund Biggs
1968	Chicago, IL	551	Paul Bauer	Harold Roetker
1969	Des Moines, IA	345	Robert Fitzpatrick	Alex Markus
1970	Detroit, MI	434	Henry White	LeRoy Collins, Jr.
1971	Denver, CO	376	Edward Dunning, Jr.	James Breece
1972	New Orleans, LA	426	Joe Fritz	Paul Bauer
1973	Peoria, IL	526	Iden Johnson	Harold Strand
1974	Indianapolis, IN	433	James Breece	Sam Benson
1975	Kansas City, KS	482	Edmund Biggs	Dean Sterner
1976	Ft. Worth, TX	462	Cyril Dean Sterner	Peter Pohl
1977	Cincinnati, OH	449	Tyson Shelton	Victor Barth
1978	New Orleans, LA	398	Douglas Burton	Henry White
1979	Denver, CO	432	Atwell Champion	Willard Mitchell
1980	Springfield, IL	533	Fred Weeks	Glenn Hamilton
1981	Milwaukee, WI	487	Glenn Hamilton	Elmer Stuckemeyer
1982	Dearborn, MI	476	Russell Watts	Virgil Below
1983	Houston, TX	376	Ernest Qualls	Anthony Skaronea
1984	St. Paul, MN	591	Harm Alberts	William Broschke
1985	Oklahoma City, OK	549	Virgil Below	Russell Watts
1986	Fresno, CA	428	Louis DeLuca	Douglas Burton
1987	Memphis, TN	607	Anthony Pavell	Glyn Hollingsworth
1988	Peoria, IL	622	Donald Foster	Stanley Smith
1989	Rapid City, SD	632	Tom Roby	George Buttell
1990	Omaha, NE	660	James Warren	Donald Foster
1991	Spokane, WA	511	James Knight	Hubert Hoffman
1992	Louisville, KY	670	Joseph Garabedian	Tyson Shelton
1993	Sparks, NV	519	Robert Siefert	Louis DeLuca
1994	Hot Springs, AR	645	Robert Schmidt	Joe Fritz
1995	Lubbock, TX	416	Louis Canedo	Robert Schmidt
1996	Des Moines, IA	517	Glenn Amonett	Robert Siefert
1997	St. Louis, MO	550	Don Dencker	Iden Johnson
1998	Ft. Mitchell, KY	416	John Elliot	Tom Roby
1999	Denver, CO	407	Richard Haglund	James Knight & Donald Dencker
2000	Salt Lake City, IT	322	Glyn Hollingsworth	Robert Huff & Steve Melnyk
2001	Omaha, NE	407	James Causey	Richard Haglund & George McMahan
2002	Kansas City, MO	309	Ernest Malkewitz	Joseph Garabedian & James Warren
2003	Tulsa, OK	273	Robert Cronshey	E.Jay Thompson & Louis Canedo
2004	Salt Lake City, UT	226	Edwin Wright	Tom Roby
2005	Washington D.C.	250	George Rastall	John Holt,Jim Causey,Ray Boykin

AUXILIARY REIMINISCE

Date Place	President	Our Kind Of Gal (s)
1962 Dallas, TX	Juanita South Kimmel	
1963 Little Rock, AR	Inez Easley	
1964 Portland, OR	Norma Bauer	
1965 Minneapolis, MN	Norma Bauer	
1966 Indianapolis, IN	Dorothy Coykendall	
1967 Omaha, NE	Juanita South Kimmel	Norma Bauer, Dorothy Coykendall, Dorothy Fitzpatrick, Rose Fritz, Teresa Hoffman, Frances Huff, Juanita Kimmel, Helen Klassen Eleanor Markus, Ann Pohl
1968 Chicago, IL	Juanita South Kimmel	Hilda Biggs, Susan Boals, Inez Easley, Alta Mack, Janet Markus, Karen Pohl, Rose Roether Patricia Johnson, Lorraine Strand
1969 Des Moines, IA	Lorraine Strand	
1970 Detroit, MI	Dorothy Fitzpatrick	
1971 Denver, CO	Lita Buxton	
1972 New Orleans, LA	Hilda Biggs	Lila Buxton, Etha Caswell, Van Champion, Marion Deckrow, Doris Dickinson, Ann Dunning Mary Latour, Elvira Leal, Sarah Mitchell, F. Moore, Mary Ragsdale, Mary Lou White Dorothy Benson, Rachel Butler, Gail Funk, Eva Grostefon, Rosalie Hamilton, Mildred Stuckemyer, LaVon Wilker.
1973 Peoria, IL	Rose Fritz	Virginia Alberts, Thelma Champagne, Germaine LeBlanc, Mary Meyer, Wannetta Skaronea, Harriet Sterner.
1974 Indianapolis, IN	Eleanor Markus	Virginia Alberts, Celia Ellis, Sandra Porter, Helen Rader, Imogene Smith.
1975 Kansas City, KS	Frances Huff	Lula Andrews, Gladys Boals, Pat Buttell, Polly Chutter, Mary Lou Sinnan, Cecile Tatman.
1976 Ft. Worth, TX	Ann Dunning	Norma Barth, Ruth Below, Gladys McDermott, Jacqueline Peden, Margaret Rhodes, Juanita Shelton, Jo Watts.
1977 Cincinnati, OH	Florence Moore	Loyola Bardwell, Thelma Burton, Charlotte Freeland, Lucille Guthrie, Fran Marlenga, Lois Qualls, Mariam Silvey.
1978 New Orleans, LA	Dorothy Benson	Mary Ann Bergen, Barbara Ganaway, Helen Klaasen, Theresa Parris, Michelle Rohn, Ann Wassinger.
1979 Denver, CO	Virginia Alberts	Imogene Smith, Jeannette Weeks.
1980 Springfield, IL	Imogene Smith	Candice Hewitt, Jan Marlenga, Fran Marlenga
1981 Milwaukee, WI	Van Champion	Candice Shuet, Wannetta Skaronea.
1982 Dearborn, MI	Frances Marlenga	Irene Hanna, Fran Marlenga, Wannetta Skaronea, Lorraine Strand, Jeannette Weeks.
1983 Houston, TX	Lois Qualls	Roxie Caldera
1984 St. Paul, MN	Lucille Guthrie	Delores Butts, Donna Foster, Phyllis Fritz, Ann Pohl, Ann Pope.
1985 Oklahoma City, OK	Thelma Burton	Ruth Broschk, Clelie DeLuca, Harriet Hooker, Mary Pavel.
1986 Fresno, CA	Celia Ellis	Bette Hollingsworth, Lois Nelson, Irene Pierson Leila Rucker, Elaine Snyder.
1987 Memphis, TN	Irene Hanna	Catherine Cale, Etha Caswell, Catherine Chapman, Eleanor Gibbons, Marjorie Homes Jean Owens.

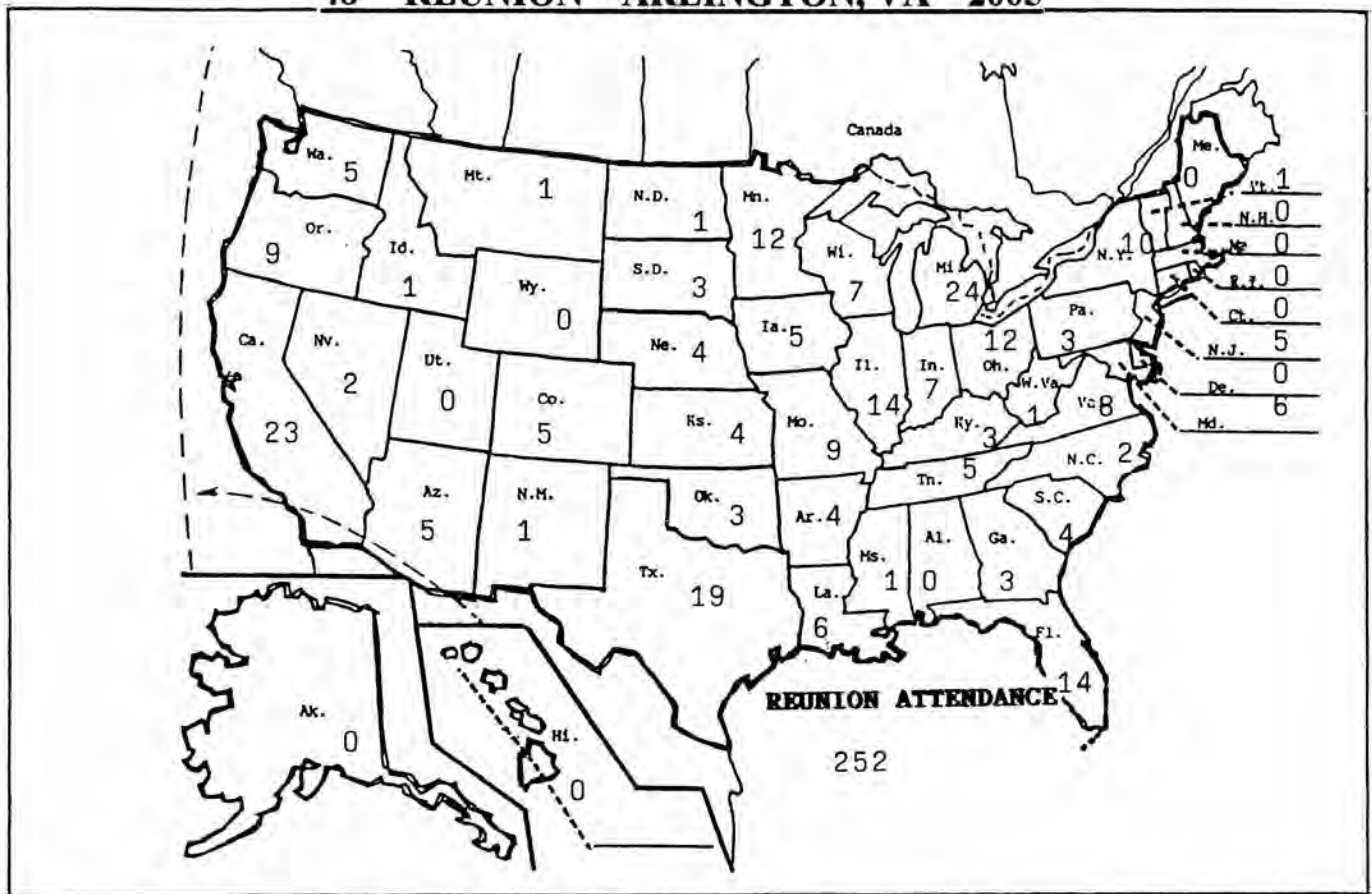
AUXILIARY REIMINISCE CONTINUED!!!

Date Place	President	Our Kind Of Gal (s)
1988 Peoria, IL	Donna Foster	Rosalie Hamilton, Irene Hanna, Lorraine Strand, Jeannette Weeks, Mary Lou White.
1989 Rapid City, SD	Phyllis, Fritz	Van Champion, Phyllis Fritz, Bernice Larson Mary Thompson, Frieda Vessel.
1990 Omaha, NE	Juanita Shelton	Lillian Clemens, Phyllis Fritz, Ernestine Roby, Margaret Stubbe, Lorraine Warren.
1991 Spokane, WA	Rosalie Hamilton	Marilyn Elliot, Betty Jacobsen, Clara Belle Knight, Gwen Martin, Ruth Siefert.
1992 Louisville, KY	Mary Lou White	Ann Dunning, Rosalie Garabedian, Jewel Gill Maggie Rafferty, Emily Von Holle.
1993 Sparks, NV	Jewel Gill	Thelma Burton, Bernice Caspers, Theresa Melnyk, Ann Pohl, Phyllis Schmidt.
1994 Hot Springs, AR	Lillian Clemens	Melinda Baran
1995 Lubbock, TX	Dorothy Brehmer	Phyllis Schmidt.
1996 Des Moines, IA	Phyllis Schmidt	Pat Glasscock, Susan Johnson, Florence Thompson.
1997 St. Louis, MO	Kathryn Chapman	Ruth Brown, Glendoris Cole.
1998 Ft. Mitchell, KY	Susan Johnson	Anne Obal.
1999 Denver, CO	Glendoris Cole	Helen Robertson, Betty Shearer
2000 Salt Lake City, UT	Anne Obal	Joyce Confer.
2001 Omaha, NE	Mary Eleanor Smith	Alice Muff, Lela Russell.
2002 Kansas City, MO	Joyce Confer	Muriel Haglund, Carole Wargo.
2003 Tulsa, OK	Carole Wargo	Deborah Hall, Mary Eleanor Wood Smith.
2004 Salt Lake City, UT	Pat McMilan	Ann Moroz
2005 Washington D.C.	Glendoris Cole	Dorothy Jacobson

AUXILIARY PAST PRESIDENTS At the 48th Reunion



48TH REUNION – ARLINGTON, VA – 2005



DIVISION HEADQUARTER

Archibald, John – Webster Groves, MO
 Kline, Charles – Tucson, AZ
 Olcheski, Bill – Falls Church, VA

381 HEADQUARTERS

Mannell, Leon – Topeka, KS
 Murcko, John – Brookfield, OH
 Simmons, Virgil – Bay City, OR
 Thompson, E. Jaye – Mercer Islands, WA

381 ANTI-TANK

Beeler, Arlene – Newaygo, MI
 Bjorklund, B. J. – Cloverdale, CA
 Bree, Harold – Melbourne, KY
 Cahill, Jr. – Dallas, TX
 Cole, Glendoris (Charles) – Canon City, CO
 Domarus, Leroy – Tomahawk, WI
 Roles, Wayne – Decatur, IL
 Schmidt, Bob – Stillwater, MN
 Trybulski, Al – Saginaw, MI

381 – CANNON

Hamilton, Glenn – Metamora, IL
 Morichetti, Madeleine – Hurley, WI

381 – MEDICS

Flores, Sisto – San Antonio, TX
 Ventura, Nicholas – Kansas City, MO

381 – COMPANY A

Kaufmann, Hans – Baton Rouge, LA
 Sizemore, Marvin – Kinston, NC

381 – COMPANY C

Baran, John – Hot Springs, AR
 Causey, James – Liberty, MS
 Chapman, Elmer – Memphis, TN
 Filla, Eino – Lacerter, WA
 Freeman, Leslie Sr. – Symsonia, KY
 Spagnuolo, Pete – Tampa, FL
 Stryker, Harold – Victory, NY

381 – COMPANY D

Benson, Dorothy – Hewitt, TX
 Bleeker, Mary Nell – Muleshoe, TX
 Johnson, Bill – Weaverville, GA
 Kelcourse, Richard – Columbus, NJ
 Kolko, Myron – Rochester, NY
 Thompson, Earl – Newtown, MO

381 – COMPANY E

Boykin, Raymond – Noble, OH
 Burton, Douglas – Selma, CA
 Camp, Virginia – Fresno, CA

REUNION REGISTRATIONS – CONTL

381 COMPANY E

Canedo, Louis – San Diego, CA
Carpenter, Jacquelyn – Flushing, MI
Cronshey, Bob – Mesquite, NV
Edmunds, Duane – Blaine, MN
Fritz, Phyllis – Beatrice, NE
Hagelgans, Fred – Pasadena, MD
Haglund, Dick – Steilacoom, WA
Jacobson, Dorothy – Fridley, MN
Knight, James – Grove City, OH
Pintacura, Jack – Swartz Creek, MI
Poe, Marge – Santa Rosa, CA
Sather, Paul – El Cajon, CA
Siefert, Bob – Shakopee, MN

381 COMPANY F

Adkins, Bert – Lottsburg, VA
Bollinger, Willard – Clayton, MO
Holt, John – Indianapolis, IN
Williams, Bill – Pomona, CA

381 COMPANY G

Pridgeon, Arden – Saint Joseph, MI
Sprecher, Curt – Eugene, OR
Wenker, Maurice – Melrose, MN

381 3RD BN HEADQUARTERS

Henning, Ray – Oak Brook, IL
Obal, John – Omaha, NE
Reis, Arthur – Cicero, IL
Scherger, Albert – Naples, FL
Sears, Fred – Clearwater, FL

381 COMPANY H

Baricev, Vojko – New Orleans, LA
Bartzat, A. M. – Eugene, OR
Dryers, Bill – Park Falls, WI
Malone, Velma – Gibson, TN
Martinez, Eutiquio – Villa Park, CA
Maxwell, Bob – Chicago, IL
McCarthy, Frank – Lenhartsville, PA
Schroeder, Joe – Hillside, MI
Weiss, Al – Teaneck, NJ

381 COMPANY I

Dewitt, Edward – Lundington, MI
Scott, Oren – Pawnee, IL
Wong, Kelly – Portland, OR
Worthy, Lyle – Atwood, KS
Ziomek, Arthur – Chicago, IL

381 COMPANY K

Anderson, Howard – Topeka, KS
Brehmer, Floyd – Madison, MN
Large, James – Aberdeen, WA
Larson, Alf – Naples, FL
Strom, Louis – Council Bluffs, IA

381 COMPANY L

Chrisman, Theo – Hallsville, TX
Davis, Bob – Goshen, NY
Frazier, Dottie – Terre Haute, IN
Hageboeck, Richard – Show Low, AZ
Lockyer, Arnold – Marshall, MI
Melnik, Steve – Detroit, MI
Sartain, George – Tulsa, OK
Simon, Charles – Mansura, LA
Tolliver, Donald – Vincennes, IN

381 COMPANY M

Chilcote, Bruce – Baltimore, MD
Floyd, Horace – Troy, MI
Garabedian, Joseph – Fresno, CA
Gonzales, Joe – San Diego, CA
Hollingsworth, Glyn – Collierville, TN
Malkewitz, Ernest – Comstock Park, MI

382 SERVICE

Sitler, Lorraine – Midlothian, VA

382 ANTI TANK

Davis, William – Wynne, AR
Fawley, Gerald – Elkhart, IN
Fox, Louis – Farmington, MI
Oropeza, Carlos – San Diego, CA
Rastall, George – Pensacola, FL
Triplett, Renwyn – Middletown, VA
Watts, Russell – Columbus, OH

382 CANNON

Wargo, John – Hazleton, PA

382 MEDICS

Weissman, Jerry – New York City, NY

382 COMPANY A

Webb, Harvey – Denison, TX

382 COMPANY B

Boyd, Robert – Corsicana, TX

REUNION REGISTRATIONS – CONT.

382 – COMPANY C

Amelung, Alva – Minerva, OH
Boyd, Walter – Waco, TX
Champagne, Whitney – Lake Charles, LA
Craig, Gerald – Burton, MI
Ellis, Richard – Athens, MI
Harkins, Margaret – Roseville, MN
Hawkins, John – North Fort Myer, FL
Heise, Ralph – Winchester, VA
Kinkley, Irene – St. Mary, OH
Margoshes, Marvin – Hastings On Hud., NY
Roby, Thomas – Watertown, SD
Savoie, Darlene – Lake Charles, LA
Thompson, Mary Margaret- Fort Worth, TX

382 – COMPANY D

Bornong, John – Sioux City, IA
Reding, Clifton – Denton, TX

382 – 2ND BN. HEADQUARTERS

Pelerossi, Anthony – Rome, NY

382 – COMPANY E

Bernardi, Jack – Reno, NV
Duncan, Vernon – Jacksonville, FL
Goll, Edward – Wayland, NY

382 – COMPANY F

Armstrong, Hank – Castole Rock, WA
Berrier, Ralph Jr. – Radford, VA
Boyack, John – Vacaville, CA
Burns, Robert – Murphys, CA
De Ross, Ino – Weed, CA
Graves, John – Standish, MI
Huber, Donald – Lake Geneva, WI
Kots, Ervin – Alsip, IL
Lovsin, Bette – Willoughby, OH
McCutcheon, Mary Therese – Greer, SC
Miele, Pasquale – Hyde Park, NY
Mockrish, Dorothy – Greenville, SC
Ricker, I. C. – Salisbury, MD
Volk, Bill – Hyde Park, NY

382 – COMPANY G

Parrish, Melvin – Denver, CO
Smalley, Arza – Alexandria, VA

382 – COMPANY H

Cisko, Dolores – Port Richey, FL
Combs, Everett – Desoto, TX

Kellegrew, Kent – Chatsworth Lake, CA
Schram, Norm – Rogers, AR
VanDoornik, Donald – Holland, MI

382 – COMPANY I

Daley, John – Chicago Heights, IL
Frazier, Charles – Beech Grove, IN

382 – COMPANY K

Alley, F. Dean – Urbandale, IA
Brooks, George – Kalamazoo, MI
Johnson, Jesse – North Little Rock, AR
King, Paschal Sr. – Kingsports, TN
Lazarick, Leonard – Holland, PA
Pohle, Russel – Angels Camp, CA
Seiler, Robert – Portland, OR
Wright, Edwin – Rogersville, MO

382 – COMPANY L

Bourgeois, Peter – Houma, LA
Dencker, Don – Sun Prairie, WI
Foster, James – Alexandria, OH
Moroz, Michael – Mount Laurel, NJ
Sleven, Neilan – Redondon Beach, CA
Young, Dick – Claremont, CA

383 – 1ST BN HEADQUARTERS

Barron, Jack – Rentz, GA

383 – COMPANY A

Carroll, Tom – Plano, TX
Daniels, Grady – Grandbury, TX
Haerther, Daryl – Parachute, CO
Huff, Robert – Indianapolis, IN
Marlenga, Frances – Milwaukee, WI

383 – COMPANY B

Black, Jim – McMinnville, OR
Fischer, Herbert – Whitehouse, NJ
Norman, Jack – Ooltewah, TN
Reineck, James – Grandbury, TX
Sletten, Harold – Northridge, CA
Switzer, Frank – Danville, IL

383 – COMPANY C

Bullard, Spencer – Lakewood, CO
Cochran, Keith – Dewey, AZ
Ensor, Bos – Oakton, VA
Hufstetler, Charles – Simpsonville, SC

REUNION REGISTRATIONS – CONTL

383 – COMPANY C (CONTL)

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

Thomas, Steve – Dulce, NM

383 – COMPANY F

Corbin, Vern – Cincinnati, OH
Hachen, Robert – Charlotte, NC
Haynes, Henry – Auburn, NE

383 – COMPANY G

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

383 – COMPANY H

Book, Richard – Miles, TX
Connolly, Jerry – Vero Beach, FL

383 – 1ST BN HQ

McMillan, Pat (Bob) – Springdale, AR
Vickers, Oscar – Coahoma, TX

383 – 3RD BN HQ

Bentley, Howard – Columbus, OH
Olsen, Nels – Huron, SD

383 – COMPANY I

Branough, Charlie – Yankton, SD
Brown, Harry – Saint Louis, MO
Gruwell, Orrie – Enterprise, OR
Ludwig, David – Platteville, CO
Morris, S. T. – Holdenville, OK
Phillips, Iva Dean – Memphis, TX
Snyder, C. L. – Shenandoah, IA
Von Holle, Alvin – Villa Hills, KY
Weidler, Charles – Paradise Valley, AZ
White, Mary Lou – Mackinaw, IL

383 – COMPANY K

Boals, Gladys – Livermore, CA
Brown, Les – New Palestine, IN
Buffington, Herman – Jefferson, GA
Emmons, Ray – Eugene, OR
Reames, Marvin – Kingfisher, OK

Sinnen, Claude – Shakopee, MN
Staley, Ken – Schenectady, NY
Stewart, Glenn – San Carlos, CA
Uscinowicz, Ed – Westland, MI
Wolf, Herbert – Fayston, VT
Wood, Sam – Spartanburg, SC

383 – COMPANY L

Eastin Schable, Anne – Atwood, IL
Helsel, Erma – Quizman, TX
Hymas, Max – Sweet, ID
Rezac, Agnes – Lincoln, NE
Warren, James – Fairbault, MN

383 – COMPANY M

Henderson, Jack – Napa, CA
Ulrich, Larry – Cincinnati, OH

DIVISION ARTILLERY

Foster, Don – Topeka, KS

RECON

Borkin, Edward – Wixon, MI
Juhl, Jim – Princeton, WV
Qualls, Lois – Lebanon, MO

SIGNAL

Altman, Murray – Rockville, MD
Clements, Calvin – Lubbock, TX
Jukuri, Paul – Westland, MI
Keegstra, Clarence – Wayland, MI
Koons, George – Berkeley Height, NJ
Lisle, George – Chesterfield, MO
Nelson, Marvin – Superior, WI

921 FIELD ARTILLERY

Libershal, Theodore – Baltimore, MD

361 FIELD ARTILLERY

Heinrich, Val – Sarasota, FL
Klimkowicz, Roman – North Olmstead, OH
Knutson, Karela – Puposky, MN
Rabine, Elsie(Harold) – New Baltimore, MI

362 FIELD ARTILLERY

Clemens, Lillian (Arnold) – Adams, ND
Secrest, Leonard – Clarkston, MI

REUNION REGISTRATIONS – CONTL.

363 FIELD ARTILLERY

Hill, Merwin – Verona, IL

321 MEDICS

Creason, Arthur – Hannibal, MO

Lindman, Stuart – Minneapolis, MN

321 ENG.

Clark, Elgie - Sun City Center, FL

321 – COMPANY C

Simonetti, Peter – Ocala, FL

321 – COMPANY D

Miller, Adelbert – Richmond, MI

796 ORDNANCE

Confer, Ben – Medford, OR

McMahan, George – Pearland, TX

96TH RRC

Collins, Jim – Rancho Santa Fe, CA

GUESTS/OTHER REGISTRATIONS

Bjorklund Family

Boykin Family

Brown, Frank – Redington Shore, FL

Buffington, Mike – Jefferson, GA

Buffington, Scott – Jefferson, Ga

Cole, Candyce – Scottsdale, AZ

Connell, Adele

Cooke, Peter S., General

Daniels Family

Domarus Family

Dryers Family

Franks, Marilynn

Hachen Family

Hall, Andrew – Littleton, CO

Hall, Deborah & Dwight – Littleton, CO

Hansen, Katherine – Ogallala, NE

Helling, Rosemarie

Heindel, Richard – Farmington, UT

Hrobak, Larry

Jacobson Family

Laubach, Colleen – Lehighton, PA

McGinley, Terry – Mount Airy, MD

Melnyk Family

Miele Family

Murray, Raymond – Farmington Hills, MI

Nichols, Harriet

Orr, Sonia Maria – Paxton, NE

Phillips, John – Gladstone, MO

Pridgeon Stanton, Rught – Durham, NC

Rame, Sue – LeSueur, MN

Rastall, Stafford – Mentone, AL

Rhodes, Margaret – Saint Elmo, IL

Richer Family

Roby Family

Siefert, Julie – Dallas, TX

Sinnen Family – Shakopee, MN

Styskal, Brenda – Grant, NE

Taylor, Diana – Surfside Beach, SC

Taylor, Ed – Grove City, OH

Taylor, Tim – Grove City, OH

Toles, Tommy – Jefferson, GA

Wojick, Isabelle – Sterling Heights, MI

Wynn, Helen – Yakima, WA



Keeping the memory alive



By Mike Buffington
editor of The Jackson Herald

A SEA of bowed, gray heads dominated the room as the trumpet played "Taps." The keynote phrase from President Ronald Reagan's famous 1984 D-Day speech came to mind: "*These are the boys...*" who won the war.

Reading a new book about Reagan's speech coincided with my attending the annual reunion of my father's WWII unit, the 96th Division. That unit saw action in the Pacific during the war and while less noted in the history books, had their own bloody D-Day on the island of Okinawa.

This year, the 96th Division reunion was in Washington D. C. and was the final traditional reunion of the outfit.

But that playing of "Taps" wasn't the last note for these gray-haired men who were the "boys" of World War II. At the reunion were many of the children and grandchildren of the old soldiers. From all corners of the nation they had come to a non-descript hotel in Washington to celebrate and honor their fathers and grandfathers.

And it is they who will now carry forward with future reunions through a newly-created heritage association.

It was like this in the early part of the 20th century when old Civil War soldiers gathered at their reunions. Imagine being a grandchild at one of those events as the gray-bearded old men talked about Gettysburg or Shilo. It must have been like touching the face of history itself.

But they're all gone now. The Civil War is just something children read about in school. The living voices from the conflict are silent. "The smoke is long gone from their fields of battle.

And yet, their stories continue to live. In the same way, the grandchildren of the WWII generation now touch the face of history. By the time they have grandchildren of their own, the living voices of WWII soldiers will have become silent. Yet their stories will remain alive because families have chosen to keep the memories alive.

Much has been written in recent years about this "greatest generation." Books and movies have examined their heroics. The political and cultural impact of the WWII generation on modern society has been endlessly dissected.

And yet it is the individual stories which matter most. History records the movement of great armies, but posterity records the actions of men.

That was the message President Reagan gave in 1984 at Normandy. It was the individual men who scaled the cliffs which he spoke about when he quoted a poem: "*You are men who in your lives fought for life. . . and left the vivid air signed with your honor.*"

The gray-haired old soldiers I saw in Washington were part of something much larger than themselves. They and their comrades-in-arms risked their lives for a cause which was no longer abstract, but very real.

Someday in the not-too-distant future, "Taps" will play for the final time over the flag of the last remaining WWII soldier.

And then it will be up to the grandchildren to tell the stories they heard, to salute the flag of their grandfathers and most of all, to keep alive the memories of what was gained and lost.



A Memory Shared!

Master of Ceremony - Ann Moroz



Who's On First!!!



Guest Speaker
Sgt. Major Kenneth Preston



Our Andrew Sisters

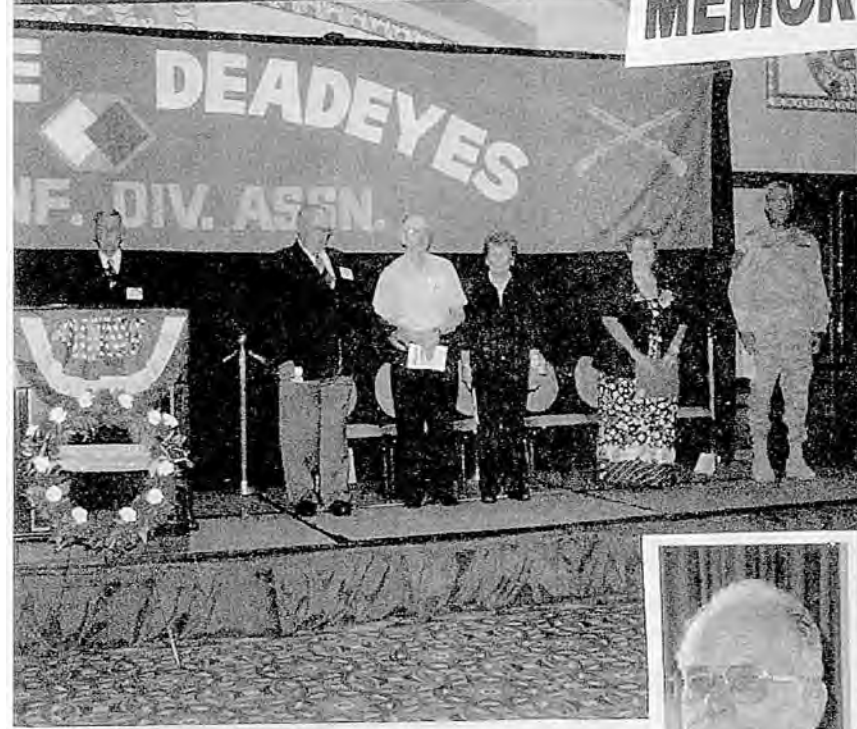
THURSDAY KICK OFF PARTY



Style Show!



MEMORIAL SERVICE





Guest Speaker - MG Peter Cooke



BANQUET



THE LAST MAN CLUB CEREMONY

Submitted by: **George McMahan**

At the 96th Infantry Division Association reunion, in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1987, the following six veterans from the 796th Ordnance Company, formed the "Last Man Club".

Robert M. Bartlett, Kal Kovach, Russell W. Nickerson, Pat Casey, Ben C. Confer, George M. McMahan.

The sole purpose of the *Club* was to honor and perpetuate the memory of these six men, the 796th Ordnance Company, and the 96th Infantry Division.

A bottle of Champagne was purchased and a suitable container constructed to house the bottle. It was the duty of the last man alive to open the bottle and propose a toast to the memory of the other five men, the 796th Ordnance Company, and the 96th Infantry Division. The empty bottle and the container are to be sent to the 96th Infantry Division exhibit at the Fort Douglas Military Museum.

Due to the fact that the 96th Infantry Division Association was holding its final reunion in Washinton D. C., the two surviving members of the *Club*, Ben C. Confer and George M. McMahan, decided it would be appropriate to also dissolve the "Last Man Club, at this reunion. Among friends and veterans of the 96th Infantry Division Association, the champagne was opened by Ms. Patti Wright, granddaughter of George McMahan. The 18 year old champagne was undrinkable, (it having turned to vinegar), never-the-less, a proper toast was delivered in due form, to the memory of Robert Bartlett, Kal Kovach, Russell Nickerson and Pat Casey, the 796th Ordnance's Last Men, and the 96th Infantry Division.

After the ceremony was completed and most of the people departed, Bob and Phyllis Schmidt, their daughter Barbara, her husband Jim Persoon, Eileen Sowell, daughter of George McMahan and Patti Wright, granddaughter of George McMahan, remained. There were other friends in attendance also, but unfortunately I neglected to secure their names. Barbara suggested we secure another bottle of champagne and continue the celebration. A drinkable bottle of champagne was furnished by Mr. Persoon and glasses were raised and toasts were offered to the 796th Ordnance Company and the 96th Infantry Division, the President of the United States and his Wife, the great states of Texas and Minnesota and to every person who remained.

The celebration ended and the "LAST MAN CLUB", having served its purpose, was dissolved.



ESSAY CONTEST

The 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association sponsored an essay writing contest during the reunion. The theme of the essay was: **“WHY SHOULD WE PERPETUATE THE LEGACY OF THE 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION”**. The winners are...

Division I: Ben Wenker – age 6 – Cottage Grove, Minnesota
Grandson of Max Wenker, Melrose, Minnesota – 381st Company G

Division II: Graham Thomas
Grandson of the late, Jesse R. Thomas - 383rd Company F

Division III: Charles Wenker – age 13 – Cottage Grove, Minnesota
Grandson of Max Wenker, Melrose, Minnesota – 381st Company G

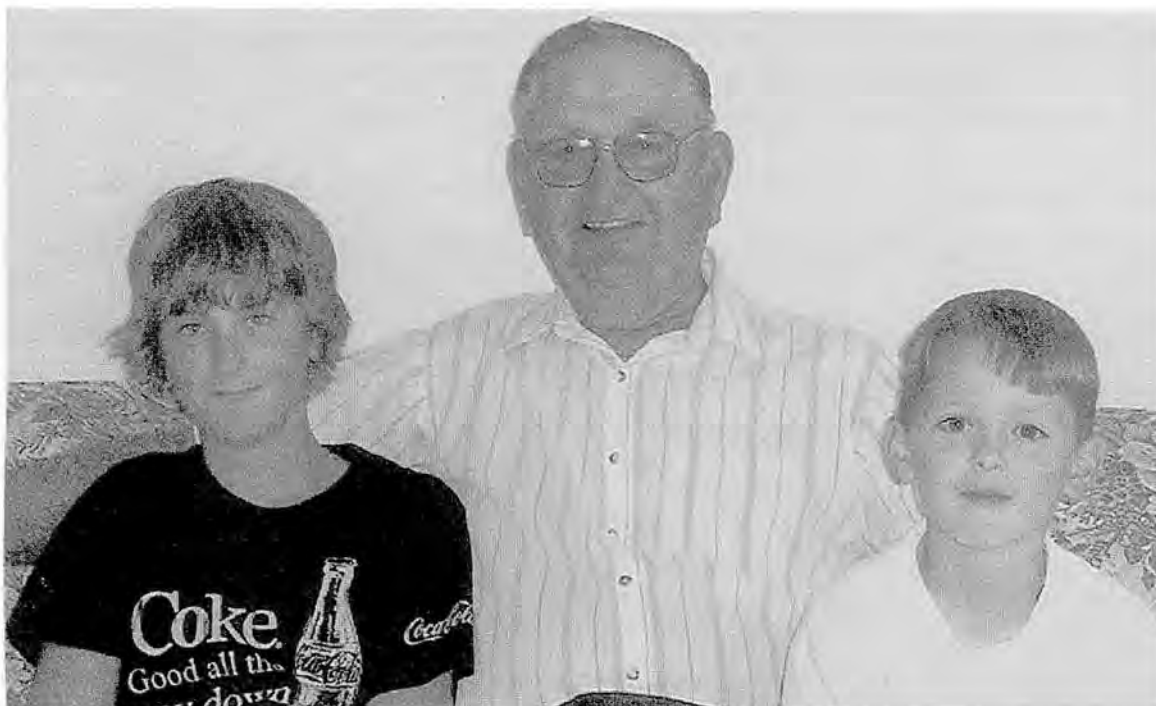
Division III: Marty Laubach – age 9 – Leighton, Pennsylvania
Granddaughter of Frank McCarthy – 381st Company H

Division IV: Morgan Finke – age 16 –
Granddaughter of Joseph Marlenga – 383rd Company A

Division V: Terri Boykin Jones – Lenhartsville, Pennsylvania
Daughter of Frank McCarthy – 381st Company H



BEN WENKER
My Grandpa and the 96th Division
Bens' thoughts and words!
Grandpa
Love
Brave
War
American
Purple Heart
Washington, D. C.



Max Wenker, 381st Company G, with his Grandson Charles and Ben, both contest winners!

Division IV – Essay Winner
MORGAN FINKE

WHY KEEP THE 96TH INFANTRY LEGACY ALIVE?

Grady Daniels, George Robertson, Tom Carrol, Don Dencker, Bob Huff.

These men and countless others are what the Deadeyes mean to me.

Although my grandpa Mr. Joseph Marlenga of Company A 383rd Infantry died when I was 11, I remember his pride in being a Deadeye. I've grown up a lot since then and now I understand why it meant so much for my grandpa to say that he was a Deadeye. He said once that one of the most special parts of being a Deadeye was that he had the opportunity to serve our nation with the best group of guys in the world. I didn't know it then, but now that I've had a similar opportunity to get to know that same group of guys I most definitely agree.

Many of you don't know it, but you have become like grandpas to me. I often think of you and your families and think of how lucky they are to have you with them. To all those children and grandchildren, cherish your grandpa. Hug and kiss them as many times as you can because someday they will be with my grandpa in heaven and it will be too late. Too late to cherish the things that I've seen when you thought I wasn't looking.

While Grady Daniels thought I wasn't looking – I saw the subtle, yet evident respect and love he had for his Lord.

While George Robertson thought I wasn't looking – I saw how gently and lovingly he took care of his wife.

While Tom Carroll thought I wasn't looking – I saw the honor and respect he had for his fellow Deadeyes.

While Don Dencker thought I wasn't looking – I saw him magnificently represent 96th Infantry on the History channel.

While Bob Huff thought I wasn't looking – I saw his kind demeanor shine through in how he treated me and my family.

While Joe Marlenga thought I wasn't looking – I saw his bravery, selflessness, and unconditional love show in his fellow man. This behavior has created a personal goal to let all of the love he showed me shine through to all of his fellow soldiers.

I hope there is a Deadeye reunion in heaven and all the troops will be together sound and whole in celebration of the lives they so selflessly dedicated to the freedom and well being of our country.

Division II – Essay Winner
GRAHAM THOMAS

WE WILL REMEMBER

I will remember grandpa, (Jesse R. Thomas) as a kind, brave, and powerful man. He was a Captain in Leyte and Okinawa with the F Company, 383rd regiment. He was willing to give his life so he volunteered to go. He did tons so you and I can live. He was lucky, he lived through it.

We should keep the history of the veteran's dead and those alive because kids can learn about their grandfathers. We should keep the reunion going because most of the veterans are having a GOOD time! Like my grandfather when he went to the reunion, he loved it. It is almost the only way they will talk about the war.

My grandpa died on December 7, 2002. I was eight when we were coming home from a trip. I was asleep. I was barely awake when I heard he was dead. I did not believe it. I went to sleep again but it was true.

I hope all the people remember that they gave their lives for you. Enjoy the reunions and remember the veterans.

Division III – Essay Winner
MARTY LAUBACH

FOREVER LIVES A DEADEYE

I THINK THIS GENERATION MUST KEEP THE LEGACY OF THE 96TH Infantry division because my Pop-Pop and his “Band of Brothers” are gone, there will be no one but their survivors to tell the story of World War II as they saw it.

The people, who fought in WWII, helped save our country and protect our freedom.

My grandfather is one of the bravest men I know. He tells lots of stories about long days in the rain when he was in the same clothes and he was carrying heavy guns. The men ate food out of cans with their fingers and had to sleep in smelly fox holes. They did all of this so that we could eat, sleep, and breathe FREEDOM!

I hope to one day see all of the kids here today at a reunion of our own!! We can share pictures and stories that our grandfathers told us. We need to write them down in a scrapbook to pass on to our own children.

We are lucky kids to have such important men like Pop-Pop and other grandfathers in our lives. Their legacy deserves to be supported through the children who knew them and loved them best.

Whether these men served in Companies A-D,E-H, I-M or any support group in the 96th Infantry Division, I know that they have made sure all of us have been, are now, and always be in the great Company of Freedom. The Deadeyes will live on through me! I love you Pop-Pop!!

Division III – Essay Winner
CHARLES WENKER

IT'S OUR TURN

From sitting in a foxhole for days on end, to fixing the wheels on a fighter jet, these men and women have saved our country, and made it what it is today. Although we have come from across the United States of America for the 96th Infantry Reunion, we must not forget the other service men and women who gave their lives to make us what we are today.

The experiences that these men and women have gone through are ones that can not be described. They can only be lived. For those of us who have not seen war, we may only listen closely and imagine. We will never know the horrible sights, sounds, and feelings of war that these groups of men have seen, heard, and felt throughout their entire lives.

We care greatly for these men and women and we honor them but we can never give them as much as they deserve. Although we try to honor and care so much, we definitely can always give them much more --- by remembering the entire 96th Division and their work.

The men and women of World War II did not have a choice of what they did during the war. We do have the choice to carry on the legacy, and we must.

We must continue the knowledge of the 96th so that generations form now, the people of all ages will know who made this country what it is. They too must try to understand and appreciate what the men and women at war and at home went through.

This is the only way that we can keep these great people in our hearts, and minds forever.

THE MONUMENT

*The monument – a tribute to WWII
Rises from the solid American soil.
Pillars outstretched – to the sky
Reaching towards soldiers – who have found their eternal homes.*

*The monument – A connection among the dead
The living, and the future
Stronger than marble, concrete, stone
Yet weathered with age – fragile as glass.*

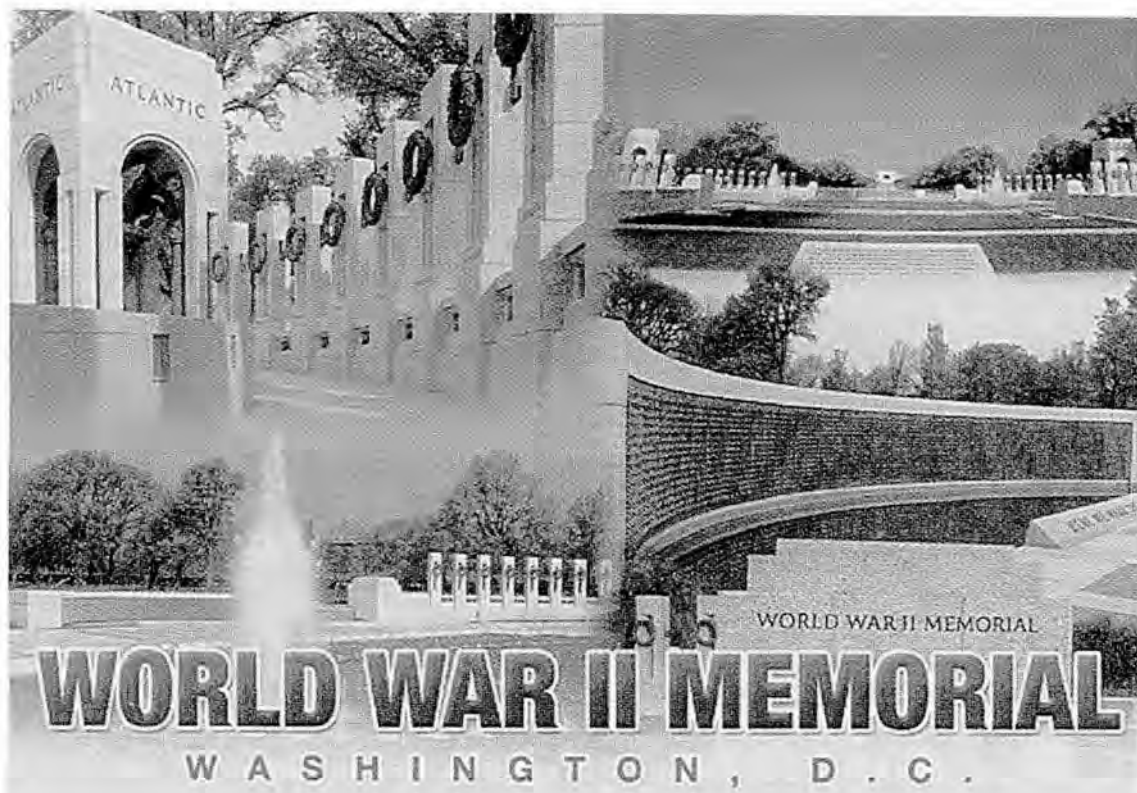
*The unwavering will to survive
Never breaks- courage strengthens*

*Physical injuries heal – Wounds remain
As stories of sacrifice flow like the water in the pools and fountains
At the Monument.*

*Lights illuminate the surroundings and
People with wisdom – Freedom!*

*Dedication to family and country –
Withstanding fighting and bloodshed,
Exhibiting valor and love.*

My Monument – My Father!



NOTICES

The Buckeye (Ohio) Chapter of the 96th Infantry Division Association will hold their 2006 Reunion at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City, OH on May 20, 2006; 1st Saturday following Mothers Day. All Deadeyes and attachment units are welcome. For information contact Russell Watts – 5107 Sassafras Rd., Columbus, OH 43229-5259, telephone # 1-614-848-9808 or James Knight – 6023 Landing Pond Place, 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 4, 2006 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 3, 2006. (Details will be printed in the Pac. NW Newsletter Spring 2006 or will be available by contacting persons listed below after March 1, 2006.) Planning is in progress – your suggestions are welcomed.

CONTACT PERSONS:

Richard “Dick” Haglund, Corr. Sec’y and Editor of Newsletter, 1504 Euclid, Steilacoom, WA 98388-3310, (253) 588-8310.

John Pfaff, Rec. Sec’y, 20 So. 4th, Independence, OR 97531, (503) 838-1854

Jim Black, Pres, 1445 NE Hoffman Dr., McMinville, OR 97128-2343, (503) 435-1283, e-mail: Jimblack96@comcast.net.

Glenn Perry, Chaplain/Historian, 5516 Broadview NE, Tacoma, WA 98422, (253) 927-0537, e-mail: glennrp@earthlink.net.

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96TH INFANTRY CAPS

To obtain a new 96th Infantry cap please complete the following form and mail it along with Your check for \$10.00, payable to **Douglas Burton** and mail it to their address at **11279 S. Fowler Ave., Selma, CA 93682-9619**.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____

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DON'T CRY BECAUSE IT'S OVER, SMILE BECAUSE IT HAPPENED!

ASTP 2006 REUNION LUNCHEON

WHERE: DoubleTree Hotel, Denver, Colorado
Room to be announced

WHEN: Thursday, July 27, 2006
11:30 am to 1:00 pm

WHAT: A Time To Renew Old Memories

MENU: Luncheon entree, salad, rolls/butter, desert and beverage

COST: \$17.00 inclusive. Send your check made out to:
Arden Pridgeon
721 Grant Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085 - 3335
Phone: (269)429 - 0450
E-mail: vpriid@juno.com

ATTENTION: We have to notify the hotel of number in attendance 48 hours in advance of start of luncheon, so please get your reservation in early. Keep your name current on our contact list with any change of address or info on yourself by sending to Arden at address above.

See you at the luncheon!
Ernie Malkewitz

SEND INQUIRIES REGARDING YOUR SERVICE AWARDS AND MEDALS TO:

National Personnel Record Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5100

If your records were there as of July 12, 1973 they would have been destroyed by a fire. It destroyed the major portion of the records of Army personnel for the period 1912 through 1959, and records of Air Force Personnel with surnames Hubbard through Z for the period 1947 through 1963.

I sent copies of my Enlisted Record and Report of Separation and Honorable Discharge along with my request for medals. They accepted this as their only record of service and then assigned an Awards Case Number and sent it to:

U. S. Army Tank Automotive Armaments Command
IMMC Soldier System Team
P.O. Box 57997
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19111-7997

I thought the Records Center had lost my request when my answer was sent to me. They informed me my Case Number would arrive in six to eight weeks after their letter to me. I currently am marking time for the Medals.

Ernest Malkewitz, Comstock Park, Michigan

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEWS WITH 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION VETERANS

A private college preparatory school in Indianapolis, Indiana is creating a comprehensive 96th Division history, which will be published as a DVD. They are seeking Deadeyes to interview.

This is a great chance for Deadeyes to assist a great bunch of promising high school students and let them hear real experiences of war. These students are experienced interviewers for the Library of Congress Veteran History Project, and they look forward to learning more about the men and women in the division and their experiences.

The Legacy Initiative has already published two excellent hardback books. These anthologies comprise formerly unpublished letters, diaries, and oral history accounts from all of America's wars. Students learn how to edit letter collections, do oral interviews, and complete research related to their special area of study. Their third volume is anticipated for mid-fall 2006. More importantly, the Legacy students are planning on having the 96th Division DVD available at that time.

Private interviews can be scheduled at your convenience. As an alternative, interviews can also be taken on-line. To assist in the selection process you may want to consider sending a synopsis of your experiences. Please contact us about other Deadeye material you may have.

The students and faculty of the school will make final selections of all materials and interviews. If you want your submissions returned please supply return address and postage.

Contact W. R. Hill at: 6721 Doris Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46214-3202. Or on-line at fpihill@comcast.net

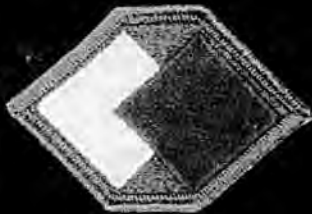




LOVE COMPANY

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

— ★ ★ ★ —
Leyte and Okinawa



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

Donald O. Dencker

Due to my publisher ceasing business, 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 Deadeye Association. To purchase Love Company, send a \$12.50 check made out to:

Donald Dencker
128 N. Musket Ridge Drive
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

96th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

The Association Website is Easy to Find at:

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

The site continues to average over 1.000 visits per month

Please View the website “Guest Book” and Help Deadeyes and Others Locate Deadeyes and provide 96th Infantry Division Service Information, or Just to Communicate with other Deadeyes.

COMING SOON: 96th INFANTRY DEADEYE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

To be located at: <http://www.96th-infantry-deadeyes.org>

96th INFANTRY DIVISION CD'S AVAILABLE

Cost is \$10.00 each

All income above CD Cost and Mailing to go to the Deadeye Association

CD No. 1: 96th Infantry Division and the Battle of Leyte (64 screens)

CD No. 2: 96th Infantry Division and the Battle of Okinawa (83 screens)

CD No.3: 96th Infantry Division Training in the U.S. and Hawaii, Mindoro Island, and Return to the U.S. and Disbandment (Ready 11/30/05)

**Make Check Out TO: Donald Dencker
128 N. Musket Ridge Drive
Sun Prairie, WI 53590**



96th INFANTRY DIVISION DEADEYE ASSOCIATION
***** MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION *****

Membership is open to 96th Infantry Division "Deadeyes", its Association Auxiliary and current and past members of the Regional Readiness Command; their families, friends and members of the general public who support and are interested in promoting and perpetuating the legacy of the 96th Infantry Division.

(Life members need not renew their membership but donation's are appreciated)

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

UNIT SERVED (If Applicable): _____

DEADEYE RELATIONSHIP: _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$10.00 - - - - - \$ _____

DONATION - - - - - \$ _____

TOTAL - - - - - \$ =====

Make checks payable to: 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association
Mail to: Mike McCafferty
P.O. Box 581254
Salt Lake City, Utah 84158

96TH INFANTRY DIVISION DEADEYE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Correspondence to the Association can be e-mailed to
deadeyes445@yahoo.com

* Denotes Executive Committee Members.

2006 REUNION/MEETING

The 2006 Reunion/meeting of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association will be held next year to honor the efforts of all Deadeyes who have worn or are wearing the Double Diamond patch.

This gathering will be an opportunity to perpetuate the legacy of the 96th Deadeyes by all generations and to learn about the past, present and future services of the U.S. Army soldier.

The meetings/reunions will be held the week of July 25-30, 2006, in Denver, Colorado at the Double Tree Hotel, located at 3203 Quebec St. The room rate will be \$89.00 per night. The hotel offers complimentary shuttle service to/from the airport and to Quebec Square where there are restaurants and stores for shopping. Tours will be announced for Tues., Wed., and Thurs. at a later date along with the program schedule.

These dates were chosen to accommodate both the training schedules of the Regional Readiness Command and the school age children of all Deadeye families.

The location was chosen to encourage the Regional Readiness Command to meet and to learn about the 1940 Deadeyes. The location was also chosen because the 2005 Reunion surveys indicated western cities as the more popular reunion sites.

Reservations can be made by contacting the Double Tree Hotel, as follow: 303/321/3333; 800/222/8733; Fax – 303/329/5233 or by mailing in the reservation form included in this issue. The hotel's web site is www.doubletree.com. Please indicate that you are reserving rooms for the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association, 2006 Reunion.

Tom Roby, President
96th Infantry Deadeye Association



DOUBLETREE HOTEL- DENVER, CO
(303) 321-3333, (800) 222-8733

The Doubletree Hotel Denver is located at 3203 Quebec Street, Denver, CO 80207, next to the new Quebec Square shopping center and minutes from downtown Denver. The Doubletree Hotel is approximately twenty minutes from the Denver International Airport. The hotel is conveniently located off of I-70. For more detailed directions, please call the hotel directly. All guest rooms have hair dryers, iron and ironing boards, and in-room coffee makers. An exercise facility is on site as well as an indoor pool and jacuzzi that is open year round. Handicapped accessible and non-smoking rooms are subject to availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your hotel reservation. There is ample complimentary parking. Check-in time is 3:00pm; check-out is 12:00pm. *The Café* offers a casual atmosphere, serving a breakfast buffet, lunch and dinner. *The Mile High Deli*, located inside The Café, serves customized deli sandwiches, open Monday-Friday. *Characters Sports Bar & Grill*, open daily at 4:00 pm, is an excellent place to relax, watch one of the big screen TV's or enjoy great food. Room service is available.

Complimentary airport shuttle is available for guests of the Doubletree Hotel Denver. Shuttles run every 30 minutes from 4:30 am-midnight daily. Guests will need to go to the baggage terminal area, level 5, and exit the airport from Door 511-if on east side of airport, or from Door 508-if on west side of airport, the shuttle van will pickup passengers just beyond Island 3. Guest will need to arrange return shuttle service to the airport, within 24 hours of their departure time.

The hotel does have complimentary RV parking, however they do not have any RV hookups. The Doubletree Hotel, due to liability and insurance issues, cannot have guests overnight in their RVs while parked on hotel property. Should you need full hookup service, please call Denver Meadows RV Park, 2075 Potomac Street, Aurora, CO, 303-364-9483 to make a reservation and to obtain directions. Please make your reservations at least two to three weeks in advance. This campground is located approximately ten minutes from the Doubletree.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheel chairs by the day and week. Please call their toll free number at (888) 441-7575 for details.

Vendors, Schedules, and Prices are subject to change.

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL -----

96th INFANTRY DIVISION DEADEYE ASSOCIATION – HOTEL RESERVATION FORM
Reunion Dates: JULY 26-30, 2006

NAME _____ TEL. NUMBER (____) _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ APPROX. TIME _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

OF ROOMS ____ # OF PEOPLE IN RM. ____ HANDICAP ACCESS ____ SMOKING ____ NONSMOKING ____

KING BED ____ 2 DOUBLE BEDS ____ If room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned.

RATE: \$89 + tax (currently 13.85%). Rate will be honored 3 days before and after reunion dates, based on availability.

CUT OFF DATE: Reservations received after 6/23/06 will be processed on space & rate available basis.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is cancelled by 4:00 pm day of arrival.

Adjustments to departure date after check-in, resulting in a shortened length of stay, may result in a \$50 early-departure fee. **All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit, enclosed.**

___ AMEX ___ DINERS ___ VISA ___ MASTER CARD ___ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) _____

MAIL TO: Doubletree Hotel Denver * 3203 Quebec Street * Denver, CO 80207

96TH INFANTRY DIVISION DEADEYE ASSOCIATION

Needs your help in preparing a play for and about the 96th men and women's experiences from the day they enlisted to the day they were back at home and getting their lives back in order. If you have any memories about any of the events that would enlighten and hopefully educate the second and third generations please send them by e-mail or regular mail to the USO Welcome night committee. We would like the information to be stories that you would share with a pal or a grandchild. Remember, the only way we can pass on the information about training, the ship, food, mail, laundry, friendships between the men, and any other non-battle information is for you to tell us! Any short note or memory would help us. Thank you!

Mary Eleanor and Harriet's e-mail address is deadeyes4445@yahoo.com, Ann Moroz's e-mail address is deadeyemk@wmconnect.com. Written or taped messages can be sent to Mary Eleanor Wood Smith at 2104 Slash Court, North Augusta, South Carolina 29841, Telephone 803-278-2109.

THE 96TH DEADEYE ASSOCIATION IS ASKING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR USO FUND!

We need your help to continue USO family activities at the 2006 reunion in Denver and for the continuation of the Deadeye Dispatch newsletter. To raise funds for this purpose we are planning a **Silent Auction** and a **"Bucket" Raffle** at the Reunion/meeting next July. Please bring or send a **"Love Gift"**, (something special to you, new or old, that others would purchase) and/or an item for the Raffle. Send your gifts to: Mary Eleanor Wood Smith, 2104 Slash Court, North Augusta, South Carolina 29841.

BLUE DEADEYE JACKETS – FOR SALE

COST: \$40.00 – Sizes XL, XXL, and XXXL
Make your checks payable to: Sam Wood, Jr.
Contact or Mail to: Mary Eleanor Wood Smith
2104 Slash Court,
North Augusta, South Carolina 29841,
Telephone 803 278-2109, e-mail mewsmith@yahoo.com

96TH INFANTRY DEADEYE ASSOCIATION HERITAGE FUND APPEAL

It has been decided by the Board of Directors of the successor 96th Infantry Deadeye Association to continue the Heritage Fund. In the past, the Heritage Fund has been used to pay for 96th Infantry Division monuments, plaques, flags or Heritage Exhibits at the following locations:

- National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii – Monument
- Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia – Monument and Memorial Tree
- National Museum of the Pacific War, Fredericksburg, Texas – Plaque
- Douglas MacArthur Memorial, Norfolk, Virginia – Division Flag
- Fort Douglas Military Museum, Salt Lake City, Utah – Okinawa Battle Exhibit
- Fort Douglas, Headquarters Building, 96th RRC.U.S. Army Reserve – Leyte Battle Exhibit
- Camp White Museum, White City, Oregon – 96th Division Exhibit
- Camp San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo, California – 96th Division Exhibit
- Fort Lewis Military Museum, Fort Lewis, Washington – Leyte and Okinawa Battle Exhibit

It is the intent of the Deadeye Association to continue to establish exhibits and/or monuments which will help to preserve the heritage of units which have worn the Deadeye Double Diamond patch during World War II and since that time. This would include units who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan or in Desert Storm. Another possible effort could be the placing of a plaque or monument at The Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Another possibility is a monument or plaque at the 96th Regional Readiness Command Headquarters.

Your contribution will be greatly appreciated:

John Reed, Historian
96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association

Don Decker, former Historian
96th Infantry Division Association

Make your check payable to: The 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association.
With Notation: Heritage Fund

Please send your contribution to:

Mike McCafferty, Treasurer
96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association
P.O. Box 581254
Salt Lake City, Utah 84158

96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association Heritage Fund Contribution:

NAME _____ UNIT _____ AMOUNT _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MEDAL OF HONOR



*"For Conspicuous Gallantry and Intrepidity at the Risk of
Life Above and Beyond the Call of Duty"*



Capt. Seymour W. Terry,
Company B, 382d Infantry



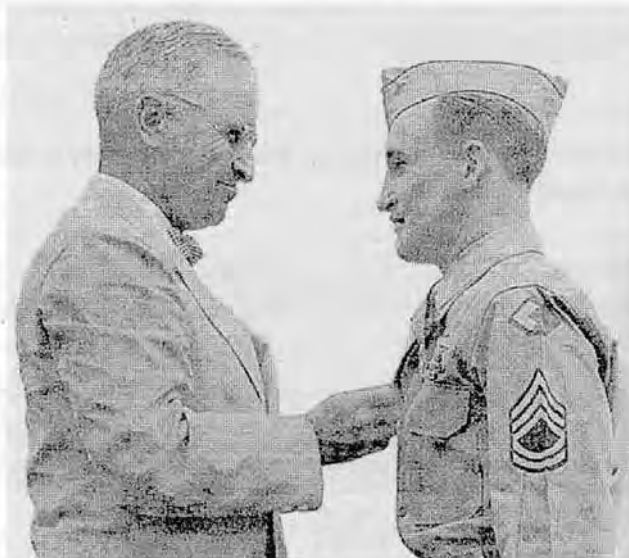
Pfc. Clarence B. Craft,
Company G, 382d Infantry



Pfc. Edward J. Moskala,
Company C, 383d Infantry



Pvt. Ova A. Kelly,
Company A, 382d Infantry



T/Sgt. Beauford T. Anderson, Company A, 381st Infantry, receives his
Medal of Honor from President Truman in Washington on Memorial Day,
1946.

Always a Deadeye

*Once a Deadeye, always a Deadeye,
I'm proud to be known by the name,
It's the nickname of my old Army outfit,
And deep down, we're the same
We are a brotherhood of combat men,
All proud dogfaces of World War 2,
The best division in the whole Pacific,
Doing what we had to do*

*The Ninety-Sixth settled a score,
And well we did it too,
We were on the lines in Leyte and Okinawa,
When the fighting was there to do
We wiped out Japs by the thousands,
And recaptured miles of their lands,
And lost many, many of our buddies,
Our legs, our arms, and our hands*

*Many years are now since gone,
The memories have slipped away,
But still remains that pleasant glow
of brotherhood, made upon that day
Once a Deadeye, always a Deadeye,
I'm really proud of the name,
We all enjoy comraderie in my old outfit,
And deep down, we're the same*

96TH INFANTRY DIVISION MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS

Memorials, Monuments and Exhibits which commemorate the achievements and sacrifices of the men of the 96th Infantry Division are located in the United States, the Philippines and Okinawa, Japan.

1. **National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl)**, Honolulu, Hawaii. 96th Infantry Division Monument dedicated April 1, 1999. Some of our dead from Okinawa are here.
2. **Arlington National Cemetery**, Arlington, Virginia. 96th Infantry Division Monument and Living Memorial Tree dedicated November 19, 1999. Has graves of 96th Infantry Division heros.
3. **National Museum of the Pacific War and Admiral Nimitz Museum**, Fredericksburg, Texas. 96th Infantry Division Memorial Plaque dedicated June 23, 2001.
4. **United States Army Presidential Unit Citation**. Framed plaque and Ribbon presented at award ceremony on July 27, 2001. In 96th Infantry Division Association historical collection.
5. **Douglas MacArthur Memorial**, MacArthur Square, Norfolk, Virginia. Division Flag Presentation, October 19, 2002. (Flag on Display)
6. **Fort Douglas Military Museum**, Fort Douglas, Salt Lake City, Utah. 96th Infantry Division Okinawa Battle Heritage Exhibit, dedicated June 14, 2003. Leyte Battle Heritage Exhibit now being assembled at different location in Fort Douglas.
7. **Fort McCoy**, Sparta, Wisconsin, U.S. Army Reserve Readiness Training Center. Congressional Medal of Honor winner Beauford Anderson Building dedicated December 15, 2000. Has fine T/Sgt Beauford Anderson exhibit.
8. **Site where Camp Adair Headquarters was located**, Oregon. Located off East side of Highway 99W a few miles south of Monmouth, Oregon. A fine 96th Infantry Division Monument. (Along with 70th, 91st and 104th Infantry Division Monuments.)
9. **Polk County Museum**, Rickreall, Oregon. Located on East side of Highway 99W, 6 miles North of Monmouth, Oregon. A fine 96th Infantry Division Exhibit.
10. **Benton County Museum**, Philomath, Oregon. (West of Corvallis.) 96th Infantry Division Display.
11. **Leyte Island, Philippines**. Hill 120, Blue Beach 1, just north of Dulag is the 96th Infantry Division Memorial Park. Numerous Monuments paying tribute to our Division installed and maintained by City of Dulag.

12. Fort Douglas, Salt Lake City, Utah. In the Headquarters Building, 96th Regional Readiness Command, U.S. Army Reserve is the 96th Division Leyte Battle Heritage Exhibit.

13. White City, Oregon and Camp San Luis Obispo, California. 96th Infantry Division items now on display in the Camp White Museum in the Veterans Administration Building and in the Camps San Luis Obispo Military Museum.

13. Eldred, Pennsylvania World War II Museum and Learning Center. 96th Infantry Division Okinawa Battle exhibit completed in 2004.

14. Fort Lewis Military Museum, Fort Lewis, Washington. 96th Infantry Division Leyte and Okinawa Battle Exhibit completed in 2005.

15. Leyte Island, Philippines, 96th Infantry Division Veterans Memorial Libraries (4) at Tabontabon, Dagami, Burauen and Jaro. Constructed with contributions and stocked with books by 96th Infantry Division Veterans and friends of Deadeyes.

16. Okinawa Japan, At southern end of Island site where General Buckner was killed stands our impressive Brig. Gen. Claudius Easley and Col Edwin May Monuments. Site maintained by Okinawans.

17. Okinawa, Japan. U.S. Army Okinawa Battle Monument with 96th Infantry Division plaque. Located at Torii Station, U.S. Army Base.

1. Okinawa, Japan. In the Peace Park at Mabuni near the southern end of Okinawa is the Cornerstone of Peace Monument. On large black marble plaques are the names of 14,005 Americans who died as a result of the Battle. This includes 96th Infantry Division men Killed in Action, Died of Wounds, or still Missing in Action.

2. Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Philippines. Has 96th Infantry dead from Leyte and the Memorial lists a few Deadeyes Mission in Action.

3. Washington, D.C., The National World War II Memorial and Registry of Remembrances was dedicated on May 29, 2004.

4. Elgin, Illinois. Combat Infantry Badge Commemoration with large replica of the Combat Infantry Badge. In park downtown near the Fox River.

Don Dencker, Historian
96th Infantry Division Association
July 28, 2005

96th INFANTRY DIVISION MEN MISSING IN ACTION

The Department of Defense in Washington, D.C. and the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command located in Hawaii are still seeking information about 96th Infantry Division Men still listed as Unaccounted For, Missing in Action from the Battles of Leyte and Okinawa as follows:

LEYTE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Date of Death*</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Baker, Willard T.	PVT	California	21 Oct. 1944	321 st Eng Bn.
Young, Wayne A.	PFC	Oklahoma	22 Oct. 1944	383 rd Inf. Reg.
Farnes, James D.	2LT	Minnesota	22 Oct. 1944	382 nd Inf. Reg.
Scheel, Marion A.	2LT	Washington	25 Oct. 1944	383 rd Inf. Reg.
Breder, John A.	PFC	New Jersey	25 Oct. 1944	383 rd Inf. Reg.
Guidroz, Edward Jr.	TEC4	Louisiana	26 Oct. 1944	382 nd Inf. Reg.
Passard, Douglas W.	PFC	Illinois	31 Oct. 1944	382 nd Inf. Reg.
Gonzalez, Manuel	PVT	California	6 Nov. 1944	383 rd Inf. Reg.
Skiver, Robert L.	TEC5	Ohio	27 Nov. 1944	763 rd Tank Bn.
Ingram, Garnett W.	PVT	Virginia	10 Jan. 1945	383 rd Inf. Reg.
Wallace, Theodore A.	PFC	Washington	12 Aug. 1945	381 st Inf. Reg.
Studey, Dareld A.	PFC	Wyoming	4 Sept. 1945	383 rd Inf. Reg.
Bertram, Richard R.	PVT	South Dakota	10 Oct. 1945	382 nd Inf. Reg.
Kent, Billy	PFC	Arkansas	4 Nov. 1945	382 nd Inf. Reg.

OKINAWA

Barclay, Allan J.	PFC	Iowa	5 Apr. 1945	381 st Inf. Reg.
Hughes, Eugene	1LT	Colorado	10 Apr. 1945	381 st Inf. Reg.
Middleton, Paul H.	SGT	North Carolina	12 Apr. 1945	381 st Inf. Reg.
Neu, Richard P.	2LT	Nebraska	26 Apr. 1945	381 st Inf. Reg.
Nelson, Arthur K.	PFC	South Dakota	20 May 1945	381 st Inf. Reg.
Lerch, Harold M.	SGT	Missouri	23 May 1945	381 st Inf. Reg.
Eden, Donald M.	PFC	Minnesota	5 June 1945	381 st Inf. Reg.
Berton, Donald S.	PFC	California	6 June 1945	281 st Inf. Reg.
Zysk, Stuart D.	PFC	Michigan	6 June 1945	381 st Inf. Reg.
Katkauskas, Peter J.	1SGT	Pennsylvania	8 June 1945	381 st Inf. Reg.
Fickies, Earl, R.	PFC	Indiana	12 June 1945	381 st Inf. Reg.
Sanchez, Luis	PFC	Texas	4 Apr. 1945	382 nd Inf. Reg., Co.F
Gray, Jesse J.	SSGT	Alaska	6 Apr. 1945	382 nd Inf. Reg., Hq.Co.
Laxton, John Jr.	PFC	Oklahoma	8 Apr. 1945	382 nd Inf. Reg.
Bundgard, William R.	PFC	Illinois	10 Apr. 1945	382 nd Inf. Reg., Co.D
Reyes, Tony P.	PVT	California	10 Apr. 1945	382 nd Inf. Reg., Co.A
White, James A.	PVT	Alabama	23 Apr. 1945	382 nd Inf. Reg., Co.K
Sanchez, Felipe	PFC	Illinois	25 Apr. 1945	382 nd Inf. Reg.
Jackson, James D.	PVT	New Mexico	11 May 1945	382 nd Inf. Reg., Co.C
Kundrick, Bernard J	PFC	Pennsylvania	14 May 1945	382 nd Inf. Reg., Co.L
DelaCruz, Nieves M.	PFC	Texas	14 May 1945	382 nd Inf. Reg.
Houk, Harold L.	PFC	Ohio	24 May 1945	382 nd Inf. Reg., Co.A
Stickley, Paul E.	PVT	Virginia	31 Aug. 1945	382 nd Inf. Reg.
Coleman, David D.	PFC	Ohio	11 Apr. 1945	383 rd Inf. Reg.
Beard, Leland E.	PVT	Texas	24 Apr. 1945	383 rd Inf. Reg., Hq.Co.
Johnson, Thomas S.	PFC	Michigan	27 Apr. 1945	383 rd Inf. Reg.

Chittenden, Everett F.	PFC	Michigan	29 Apr. 1945	383 rd Inf. Reg.,Co.L
Farlein, Daniel R.	PFC	Oregon	19 May 1945	383 rd Inf. Reg.,Co.E
Baliski, John W.	PFC	New York	6 June 1945	383 rd Inf. Reg.,Co.L
Murphy, John B.	PFC	Massachusetts	3 Apr. 1945	383 rd Inf. Reg.,Co.A
Lawrence, James V.	TEC4	California	31 May 1945	321 st Eng. Bn.,Co.A
Sales, Charles D.	PFC	California	21 May 1945	321 st Eng. Bn.,Co.A
Shever, Merlin M.	PFC	Iowa	5 Apr. 1045	763 rd Tank Bn.
Harbison, Clarence D.	CPL	Michigan	11 Apr. 1045	88 th Chem. Mortar Bn Co. C
Allen, Hugh H.			9 Apr. 1945	780 th Amph. Tank Bn Co. D
Smith, James			7 Jul. 1945	632 nd Ord. Amm. Co.

*Actual date of Death or Administratively Declared Date of Death

If anyone has any pertinent information concerning any of these men please contact:

Don Dencker
 128 N. Musket Ridge Drive
 Sun Prairie, WI 53590
 Phone: (608) 837-7479
 E-mail: dizzydon@aol.com

DEADEYES NOW

Deadeyes of the 96th Regional Readiness Command, U.S. Army Reserve right now are working to defend and serve the United States at home and abroad in a variety of capacities. 96th Soldiers have participated heavily in both Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and in Operation Iraqi Freedom since 11 September 2001. Currently there are over 900 96th RRC Soldiers from logistical and engineer units deployed in support of the Global War on Terror. The 96th will continue to play an integral part in the Global War on Terror as further troop rotations are anticipated.

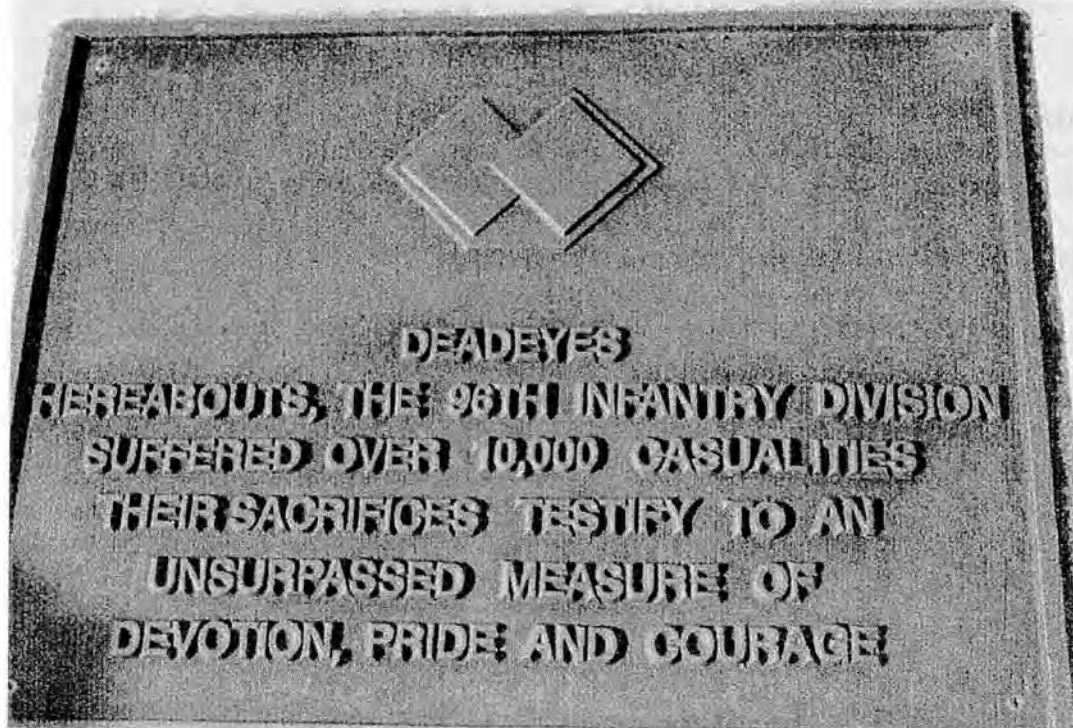
Not to be forgotten is the outstanding record of performance by Deadeyes in 1991 in Desert Storm.

On a more community focused aspect, the 96th RRC Public Affairs Office is currently coordinating efforts to support a large Veterans Day celebration in Utah. With the support of the Command, the City of Murray will have a parade with MG Cooke as the Grand Marshall. The parade will culminate with a program and ceremony honoring veterans.

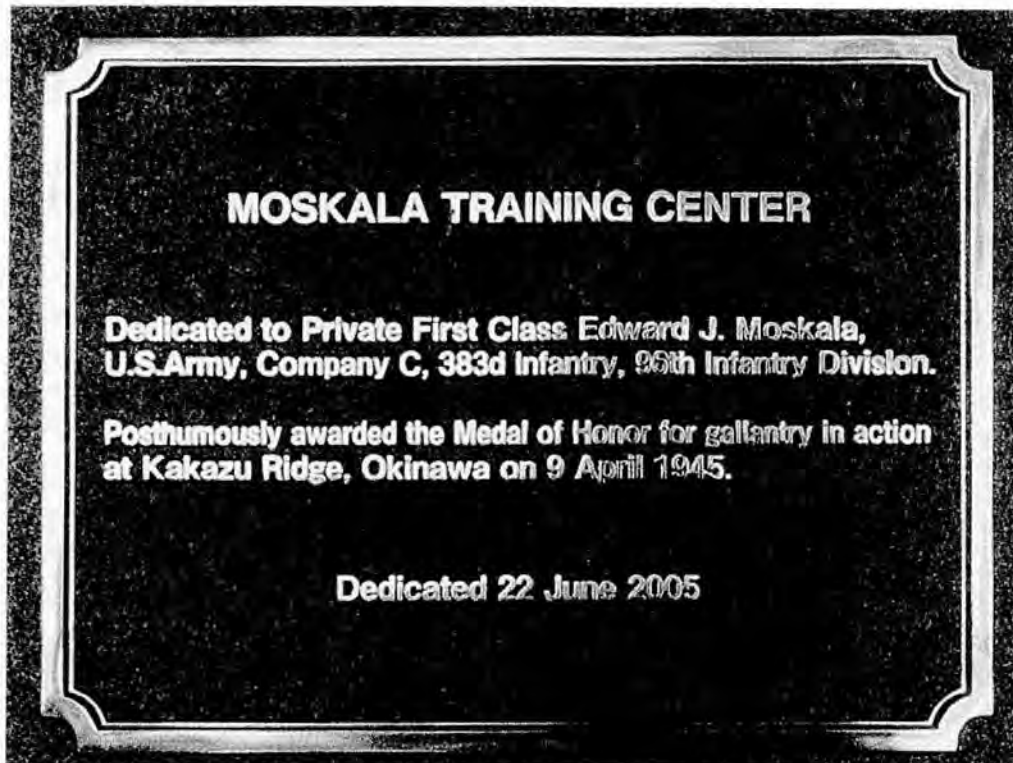
The Command is also working to aid in the transition from the 96th Infantry Division Association to the Deadeye Association. With this "reorganization," the new Association will focus on three objectives: preserving the proud heritage of the 96th Infantry Division and all successor Army Reserve Units, including those of the 96th Regional Readiness Command; providing assistance to deployed soldiers and their families; and fostering camaraderie among Deadeyes of all eras. Additionally the 96th RRC Commanding General, MG Cooke, and his predecessor, MG(R) Collins are actively engaged in the planning of the 96th Deadeye reunion in Denver, Colorado for July 2006.

60th Anniversary of Battle of Okinawa Tour, June 2005

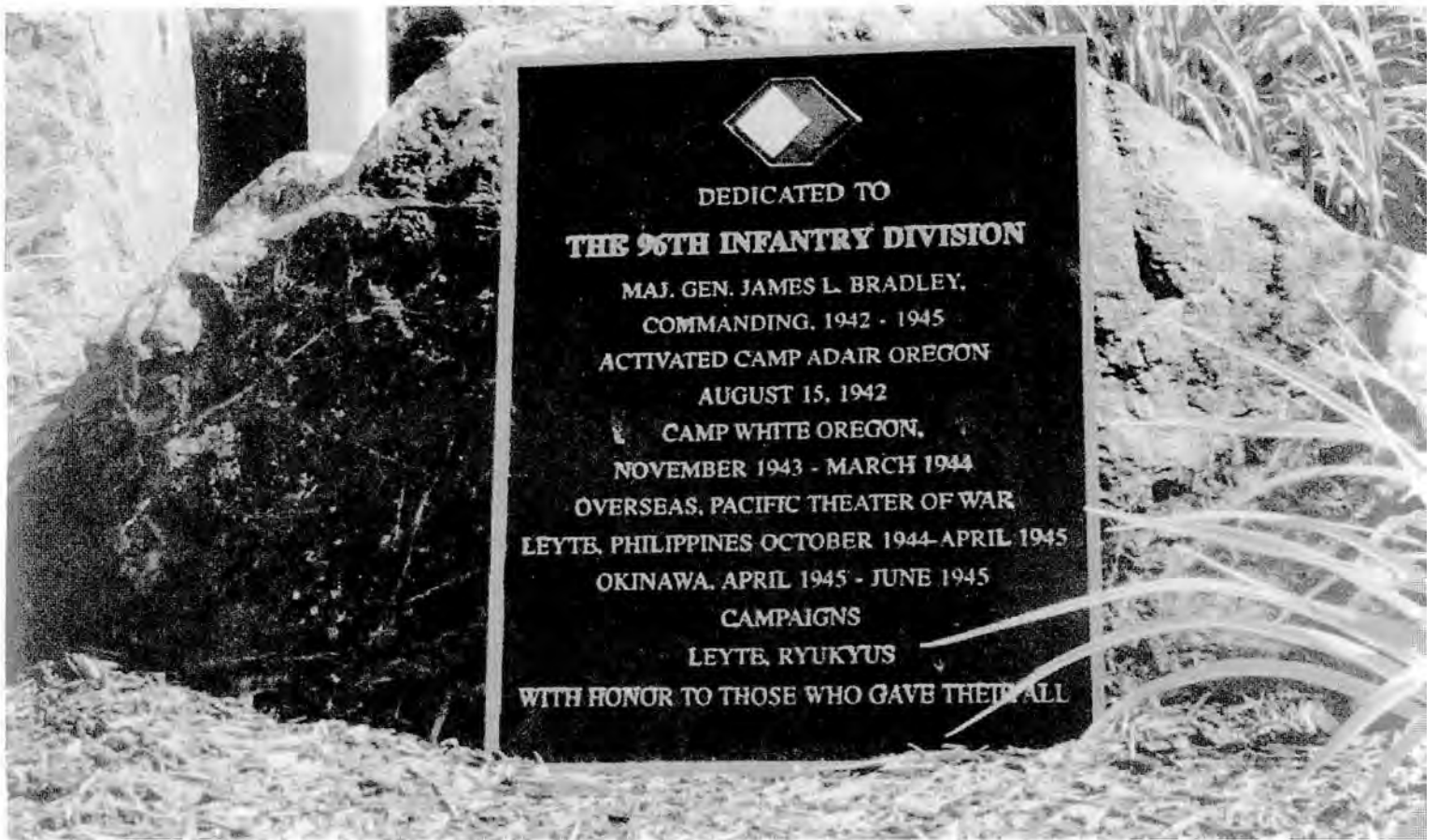
25 Persons in tour had a very informative Tour. Highlights of tour visit to Torii Station Army Base the Afternoon of June 22, 2005 are shown in two photos.



**An Impressive Program was held at the Army Okinawa Battle Monument.
We placed Flowers by the 96th Infantry Division Plaque shown**



The Group Dedicated the Edward Maskala Training Center Building at Torii Station



96th Infantry Division Plaque at Camp White Museum, White City, Oregon



**96TH INFANTRY DIVISION PLAQUE AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA**

CAMP PALI, HAWAII

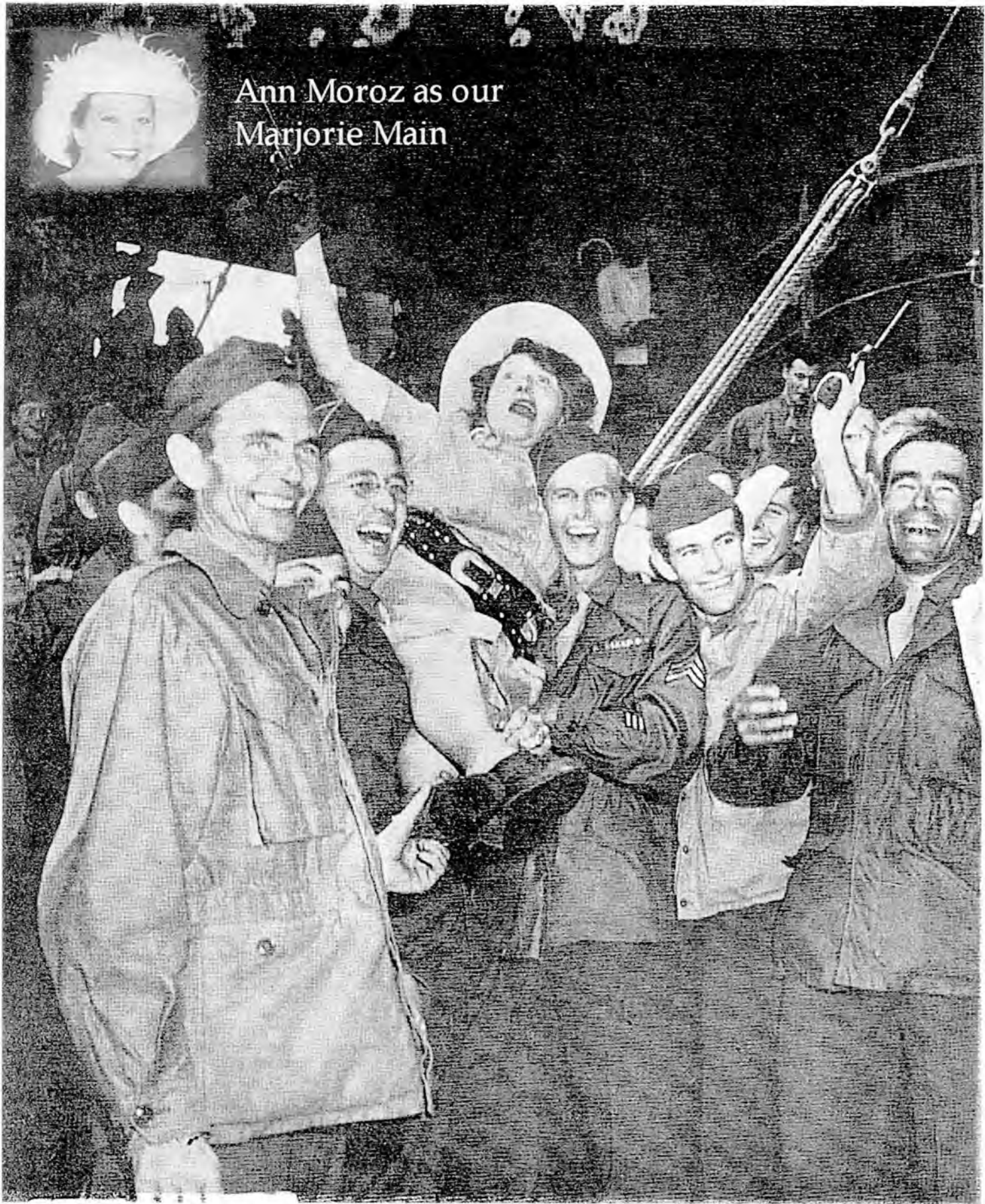
Submitted by: Bruce H. Chilcote, Baltimore, Maryland

Group of M Company, 381st at Camp Pali, Hawaii, 1944.



Bruce H. Chilcote on same site (now a golf course) 60 years later. Pali pass in background.

Ann Moroz as our
Marjorie Main



As promised, Marjorie Main met the Division when it returned to the States. Shortly after boarding the transport, she was hoisted on the shoulders of this group of cheering Deadeyes and later refused a waiting lunch in the Captain's cabin to wander around the ship and talk to the men. True to her promise, she was NOT in a bathing suit.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2307

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN
PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WESTERN HEMISPHERE, PEACE CORPS, AND NARCOTICS AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

July 28, 2005

96th Infantry Division

Dear Members of the 96th Infantry Division:

It is with great pride and admiration that I write to you today expressing my heartfelt thanks for your service in the Second World War. I am humbled by all of your many sacrifices that have ensured freedom and prosperity for the people of the United States of America.

As we approach the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II, I am filled with joy that you were able to visit the Memorial Plaque in honor of the service of the 96th Infantry Division. This memorial is a fitting tribute to the thousands who served along side you in the Pacific theater of battle and risked their lives to end tyranny around the globe.

As has been said many times, America will remain the "land of the free" only so long as it is the "home of the brave." We will never forget your bravery and willingness to confront evil in an hour of maximum danger, not for fame or wealth, but for a strong belief in family, friends and country.

Speaking at the dedication of the World War II Memorial, President Bush said, "We acknowledge a debt of long standing to an entire generation of Americans -- those who died, those who fought and worked and grieved and went on. They saved our country, and thereby saved the liberty of mankind."

We are all forever linked by your courage, honor and faith in the long twilight struggle for the preservation of democracy. God bless you.

Sincerely,



Norm Coleman
United States Senate



NORM COLEMAN
UNITED STATES SENATOR

Sept 20, 2003

Barbara,

I am humbled by your kind note regarding our recognition of the Service of the 96th Infantry Division.

I stand in awe of their sacrifice to this Nation. I am thankful that they blessed me with an opportunity to recognize them.

Again, Thanks.

Sincerely,
Norm



Among those who visited Minnesota Senator Norm Coleman's office during the reunion...
Barbara Schmidt, Bob Schmidt, Senator Norm Coleman, Joe Herkenratt & Bev Herkenratt

With Thanks to our Fathers

The following is text of a speech given by Barbara L. Schmidt, daughter of World War II 96th Infantry Division veteran Robert R. Schmidt. This speech was presented in tribute to all the men of the division on behalf of their sons and daughters as part of the closing moments of the final reunion of the 96th Infantry Division Association held in Washington, D.C. in July of 2005.

Thank you.

Good evening.

You probably can't see this from where you're seated, but this is a photograph of my Dad, my Deadeye, Robert R. Schmidt of St. Paul, Minnesota. In this picture, Dad is all of eighteen years old, full of youthful enthusiasm and wearing the uniform of the United States Army. Many of you might have a similar photo of your Deadeye back home.

My dad grew up on the East Side of St. Paul, the son of the Ramsey County clerk of court and his homemaker wife. Dad attended Johnson High School and later earned his degree at Macalester College. He went on to build a life-long career with 3M Company and married his sweetheart Phyllis Franklin with whom he had two children, including me. All in all, a good life characterized by a belief in God, a love of his country and a commitment to, as he always put it, "doing the right thing."

Those simple facts probably sound very familiar to you. Oh, the details, the names, the places may be different, but to those of you sons and daughters attending this reunion, in many ways these facts may sound very much like your Dad's life...growing up, going to school, starting a family and doing the hard work of paying the bills and supporting all the obligations of a family man.

But my Dad, your Dad, your Grandfather, your Great Grandfather, these men did something more. Something which changed their lives and, in fact, the course of the world as we know it.

These men were, and always will be, the 96th Infantry Division.

In their time, in an era where heroes were a fact of daily life, at a time when men and women throughout the world were making sacrifices of epic proportion to save millions of people from oppressive dictators, the men of the 96th distinguished themselves as few before or since.

Exemplifying the highest traditions of United States military service, the men of the 96th Infantry Division received that highest of honors, the Presidential Citation for Extraordinary Heroism. As one of only a very few full divisions ever so recognized, the 96th Infantry Division gave everything they had for their country and for the principles it represents. From Leyte to Okinawa, their spirit and love of country was unswerving throughout the Second World War. Since then, they have time and again demonstrated that same patriotism in their many acts of quiet charity and in their dedication to each other and to the honor of their comrades who made the ultimate sacrifice.

It is time, at long last, for all of us, the sons, the daughters, grandchildren, family and friends, to honor and to thank the men of the 96th Infantry Division. Their pride, their bravery and selflessness, their sense of honor and patriotism, gave each of us a better world. They did that noblest of deeds: they sacrificed their personal safety, indeed their very lives, to defend the principles we hold dear. For that, and for the love and generosity they shared with their country and with their families, it is time to honor them and commit ourselves to their legacy of duty, honor and country; to the freedom they defended for us and for future generations.

Because the 96th Infantry Division doesn't end with the close of this reunion. This reunion is really a new beginning. The spirit of these men and their legacy lives on in each and every one of us who knows and loves them. They gave us life, but most important, they preserved the freedom that makes our lives worth living.

These men responded to the call and did their duty for a grateful nation. Now it's our turn. And our duty, while not so difficult as theirs, is just as important. It's our duty to keep their spirit alive. It's our duty to remember their sacrifices, their beliefs, their love. To tell their stories and to always remind ourselves and others of the great lesson their lives taught us: Freedom isn't free.

When I look at my Dad, when I look at all of the men of the 96th, I see men who experienced the hell of war, but who somehow never lost the optimism and innocence of an America built on the time-tested values of duty, honor, courage, service, love of family and country and self-reliance. Our generations have reaped the benefits they provided and we could do no better than to follow their example.

On behalf of all of us, the children, the grandchildren and all of those whose lives have been touched by you, the men of the 96th, it is my honor to pledge our lifelong dedication to your legacy. It is my honor to thank each and every one of you for all that you have done and for all that you are.

We will never forget.

May God bless you all and may God continue to bless this great country.

Thank you.



Reprint by Permission

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We wish to thank all of you who contributed articles for this last Dispatch. Articles selected were considered to be representative of thoughts and tributes common to all.

The response was overwhelming. It was impossible to print all the articles in this issue as it would be as large as the Sears catalog.

We have, however, put many of the articles on our web site. You may read them by going to: <http://www.96th-infantry-division.com>.



ELMER SWEETER, CANTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

Submitted by Lynette Schroder, Granddaughter, Tea, South Dakota

So many horrific and gruesome stories could have been told by Elmer Sweeter but only a few were ever shared. I am sure he had many reasons to let those war stories stay in the past. When referencing a new WWII movie, I've heard him comment "Without being there and experiencing it first-hand, no one could truly understand what it was like. The smell, the sounds and the pain cannot be put into words let alone a movie". Grandpa's war stories were few; however, Grandpa's commitment to the USA didn't end when he returned home from his tour. His focus embraced the future as he taught his family to appreciate the liberties that come along with being a citizen of the United States.

He honored national holidays such as Veterans Day and Memorial Day by assisting with raising flags across the town park. "Keep in mind," he would remind me, "this isn't just a vacation day. It is important for all of us to recognize and honor the sacrifices that have been made by the men and women of our armed forces".

Grandpa wouldn't ask me who I voted for but rather he would ask "Did you vote"? He made sure that I knew that voting is one of the privileges and one of the responsibilities that we are given.

On more than one occasion, I have heard my mother tell the story of the time that she "shushed" Grandpa in church. He was quick to let her know that he had fought in the war to protect the country that provided him the right to free speech. This must have been his favorite freedom since we didn't ever have to worry about if he would speak his mind.

His gratitude and respect for his family, friends, community and this country were displayed in so many ways that I could probably write many, many pages. The old cliché "*His legacy lives on*", takes a whole new meaning. His legacy continues to live and breathe in me and the rest of our family. My eyes fill with tears when I hear bagpipes, remembering the pain that I saw on so many faces at the reunion memorial service. I find myself quoting him. His reminders of how lucky we are to be an American ring in my head. We lost Grandpa to lung cancer this spring. His void is huge. But Grandpa, **Sgt. Elmer Sweeter**, focused on the future and so will I. At work I post my pin that says "My Grandpa is a Deadeye". People ask about the pin and it provides me an opportunity to tell others about the sacrifices of the 96th Infantry Division and others like it. I vote and remind others to do so also. He taught us that it is about each of us doing our part is what will keep our country great. Grandpa did his. I miss you Grandpa!

EVERETT SIMONSON 363RD FIELD ARTILLERY, BATTERY C

Submitted by Orla Simonson, Readstown, Wisconsin

This is my tribute to my late husband P.F.C. Everett C. Simonson, who was a member of the 96th Infantry Division. He served with the "Deadeyes" during world war II in the Okinawa and Leyte battles. He served, his country from October 1, 1942, until December, 1945, with only one furlough. He was not home for three Christmas. I'm very grateful for the time I could be near him on the west coast before the Deadeyes shipped out in July, 1944.

He was a member of the 363rd Field Artillery, Battery C. I'll always remember his dog tag number, 36273289. I thank God he came home safely to become the father of three children and we lived to enjoy seven grand children.

At age 49, he suffered a massive stroke and lived 22 years disabled. He passed away at the age of 70 years.



MARION S. MITCHELL, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

I am writing to ask that you include this letter in your Commemorative Edition of the Deadeye Dispatch on behalf of my father, Alvin Roy Sellers (383rd, F Company). I am privileged to honor him, and all of the courageous Deadeyes in this brief letter.

My Dad is among the youngest of the boys of the 96th Infantry. He will turn 80 this year, but on October 20, 1944, the day he landed on Leyte's blue beach, he wasn't yet 19. Sometime before he boarded the transport ship Comet that had carried him and many of his fellow Deadeyes to Leyte, he prayed, opened a small envelope, and forgave with a communion wafer. It was October 20, his mother's birthday.

Dad left home, a boy and returned, a man. I know this because Dad has told me so. I am proud of his Bronze Star, his Deadeye loyalty, and his unbridled patriotism. I am also proud to honor Dad and the men of the 96th Infantry as men of America's Greatest Generation.

When questioned about this term *The Greatest Generation*, I remember Tom Brokaw's short answer, "That's my story and I'm sticking to it". I buy his story, both the short and the long versions.

America's Greatest Generation has changed the world in many ways. You led us by example. You heeded Franklin Delano Roosevelt's call that your generation had, "a rendezvous with destiny." You volunteered in record numbers, you were wounded in record numbers, you died in record numbers, and you triumphed in record numbers. All this to protect us from ruthless world rulers. And when the war was over, you studied, married, and built a changed America.

Thanks to men like you and my Dad, America has remained free. My family appreciates the price you paid for the freedoms we enjoy today. There are no greater treasures than the freedoms from want and fear, the freedom of speech, and the freedom of worship.

For the liberty and hard-fought privilege to stand on the sacred soil of the American free, we are grateful.

FROM THE FAMILY OF HOWARD BENTLEY, COLUMBUS, OHIO

I wanted to let everyone who reads this Deadeye Dispatch to know how I/we, the family of Howard Bentley feel about him and his service to this country. First, let me say it is a true honor to know him and call him my father-in-law. To let some of you know, Howard was one of the original members of the 96th Infantry Division. He was with the 383rd Headquarters Company. Howard's character was already formed before he was a member of the 96th, but as he trained with the men of the 96th and came under fire, his character was hardened and strengthened as he watched his friends get injured and die.

While fighting with the 96th Howard won two bronze stars along with other awards. He also fought in the Korean War where he received another bronze star.....

Howard not only represents the 96th with honor it deserves, but openly tells of the great men he served with. He speaks sometimes of the loss he feels for the men who did not come home, and how these men are the true heroes, and how he hopes and prays that these men walk with GOD.

We, Howard's family sometimes find it hard to put into words how we feel about him and the service he has given to his family and God and this country.

So we would like to say "Dad, Grandpa, Howard; We LOVE YOU, RESPECT YOU and THANK YOU. We are so Very Very Proud of You and the person you are. As we know our heavenly father is.

YOU ARE OUR HERO !!!!

FRED LONG, GRAND COULEE, WASHINGTON

(Excerpts from the 96th Division Web Site)

As a 96th Infantry Division Quartermaster Company Truck Driver, I had an opportunity to confiscate supplies. I would take large cans of fruit cocktail, peaches and pears and put them in my toolbox, behind the seat or wherever I could find a place to stash them.

Once in a while I was assigned the job, along with other drivers, to drive up near the front lines to haul out spent troops. As soon as we got behind range of enemy artillery fire, I would stop the truck and dig out my stash of canned fruit and toss the cans into the back of the truck.

Those men had been on the front line for around 30 days, as I remember, and had not had the opportunity to wash their hands, let alone bathe. They would cut the cans open with bayonets and with bare hands, grab the fruit and devour it.

RUSSEL WATTS 382ND ANTI-TANK

Submitted by Rebecca Watts Schumaker and Rachel Watts Mushrush, daughters, Columbus, Ohio

On the last night of the 48th Deadeye reunion, Barbara Schmidt represented all the children of Deadeyes as she gave a wonderful tribute to “our dads.” My sister and I agreed with everything she said, but wanted to make sure that **our** Deadeye knows the personal pride “his girls” have for him.

Russell Watts entered the service in 1941 and eventually became part of the original activation cadre of the 96th Division. As part of the Anti-tank Company, 382nd Infantry he made amphibious landings on Leyte (10/20/44) and Okinawa (04/01/45) and was discharged to the Army Reserve Corps in December, 1945. The military became a part of our lives as Daddy went to Ft. Hayes every Thursday night and spent his vacation every year at “summer camp.” He earned his commission and retired as a major after twenty years in the reserves.

As we grew up, we didn’t hear battle stories of the horror we all know the men of the 96th lived. But we heard bits and pieces and repeated themes that taught us life-long lessons. We heard more than once that Daddy probably would have made a career of the Army except he didn’t want “you girls to have to move around the way I did when I was a kid.” But his tone was not that of a martyr: it was simply a statement of fact, part of our family history that led us to permanent residence on Norwich Avenue in Columbus, Ohio. The lesson: sacrifice. Sometimes you give up your desires for what’s best for others or... your country... when you are called to duty.

The few stories we did hear usually had to do with his friends, “his men.” Our dad refused a battlefield commission in order to “stay with my guys... we’d kept each other alive so far... wasn’t about to leave them.” The lesson: loyalty. Above all else, you are loyal to your family, your friends, your country.

“Need to make sure the men have what they need; never ate till all my men were fed.” The lesson: leadership. A leader enables those he leads to do their jobs. He leads by example.

Our dad is innately inquisitive; How does it work? Why did it happen? Where is it located? He frequently reads with an atlas in his lap. He’s 86 years old and bought a computer last year! The lesson: learning is a life-long journey.

And honor... our dad is an honorable man. “You do the right thing.” If you’re going to do something, do it right.” The army didn’t make him that way, but the Army was better because he was part of it and helped instill those beliefs in the men he trained.

This summer when he laid the wreath at the 96th Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery remembering the fallen, we were bursting with pride! But then, we’ve *always* been proud to be his daughters...

We are so grateful that he returned safely from the Pacific! His return allowed us the privilege of being raised by he and our mother in a loving, supportive home, where we were taught by example how to live honorable lives. “Thank you, Daddy! We love you!



BRUCE CALDWELL, MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS

When I read in your last issue that you were giving your readers a chance to honor the men of the 96th Infantry Division with letters or stories, I felt the need to share my thoughts with you...

I am Bruce Caldwell, son of PFC Kelley Caldwell, Anti-tank Company, 381st Infantry. In my youth, my father talked very little about his experiences in the Pacific war. Oh, I knew he was in the Army and served in the Philippines and Okinawa, but he was reluctant to tell about the specifics of combat and the hellish conditions that he and the other men of the 96th faced. It has only been in the last ten years or so that he realized that if he would not tell what happened, who would? He eventually would even present his experiences to students at a local Middle School who were conducting a living history unit on World War II. Sitting in on these presentations, I heard stories of his experiences in combat I had never heard before.

My first experience with the men of the 96th came in the summer of 2001 when I accompanied my father to the Omaha, Nebraska reunion. Kelley now suffers from Parkinson's which has rendered him wheelchair bound, and as we drove up to the Hotel Lobby we saw several members of the 96th with canes, walkers, and wheelchairs being helped into the main doors. My father commented "I know it is hard to believe looking at our condition now, but 55 years ago we were a force to be reckoned with!" It was true. He also commented on how there were not nearly as many of them left as there used to be. I replied, "I'll bet there's a whole lot more of you at the reunion, than at the Japanese 32nd Army reunion." He laughed and agreed with me on that.

As I heard the stories shared by the men at the reunion and the touching speeches and presentations honoring both the living and the fallen, it occurred to me that I was in the presence of a very special group of men. The sacrifices these men made for their country and freedom touched me deeply. As I encountered the men of the 96th, I could envision the young 18, 19 and 20 year olds who in 1944 and 1945 bore the full weight of freedom on their shoulders. Being a father myself, I tried to imagine the tragedy that so many of the fathers of the fallen must have experienced to find out their sons were not coming home. I tried to imagine the agony and sorrow felt by the men themselves to watch their buddies suffer and die on the stinking muddy islands of Leyte and Okinawa.

Fighting and dying on foreign soil for one's country is a lot to ask of someone. But these men did it and did it well. I was touched that after all these years the 96th was awarded a unit citation for the whole division for action on Okinawa. Many of the men received medals for their brave actions. But to a man, when asked about their medals they would say, "I wasn't a hero anymore than anyone else on that island. We were just doing our jobs." I am truly glad to have been exposed to such a great group of men. Thank you for what you did. We hold our freedom today because of your sacrifice.

JEROME E. CONNOLLY, SR. 383 – H Company

Submitted by Dot Connolly, wife, Vero Beach

(Text of remarks made by Jerome Connolly, Nov, 23, 2000, at St. David The King Church, Vero Beach, Florida)

Today over 75% of our population were either not born or too young to recollect the events from Pearl Harbor onward. Consequently it is harder for them to appreciate the torment of those times.

There were 16 million men and women who served in World War II. Out of that number there are approximately six million still with us. Statistics tell us that we are passing on at the rate of 1,000 plus per day. We are fast becoming an endangered species.

My personal odyssey found me in the 96th Infantry Division as a company aid man for a line machine gun platoon. My job was to take care of any one in my vicinity who had become wounded. We made the invasions of Leyte P.I. and Okinawa, a 60 mile long island of the Ryukyu group just south west of Japan. It was my lot to be on the first wave of both. As a medical man, unlike in Europe, we did not wear Red Crosses as that would only make us better targets. Because of this, I carried a carbine and grenades along with my first aid kit.

An infantry battalion, such as the one I was in, has a complement of 800 men at full strength. We suffered 50 KIA on Leyte and 195 KIA in Okinawa. The total wounded came to almost 100% of the original 800.

Where does all this lead to? How did the carnage I was exposed to affect me then? How has it influenced my later life? We had a saying in those trying times there are no atheists in foxholes.

I was raised a Catholic and had one year at Fordham University before I went into the service. Thus I had a background but combat crystallized my approach to God through the tenets of my religion. The fear you experience is omnipresent and at times paralyzing. I can honestly say that without my belief in God, and the hereafter I would not have been able to function and survive. And did we learn to pray!! It was a time of constant petition to our Lord for protection and safety. Just imagine that every time the sun came up you didn't know if you'd last another 24 hours. When the peril of combat passed in later life I would always remember the ability to persevere that my beliefs had given me. These could not be disregarded if I were not to follow that faith now I would feel I had betrayed the protection I enjoyed from the Almighty.

In retrospect, my combat experiences served as a proving ground for the person I hoped to be. You found strength you never thought you had. Life could never be tougher than what you had gone through. Therefore, it became easier to take bumps and come back for more. Disappointments were to be lived with and successes to be tempered – no highs, no lows.

Anyone who has survived this type of army experience feels he has been given a second chance in the game of life. In my case. I wanted to excel in the important things. What were they?

To be an honorable and just person.

To be able to raise a wonderful family.

To see my children grow up in the faith that I cherish.

To meet a wonderful wife who would share this family with me.

To modestly provide for them.

So on this Thanksgiving Day, in this House of God. I have a super abundance to be grateful for. Ridiculous as it sounds, war was the defining point of my life

HERMAN A BUFFINGTON 383 – Company K
Submitted by Brittany Buffington, Granddaughter, Jefferson, Georgia



Herman Buffington, my grandfather, is a 75 year-old World War II veteran who lives in Jefferson, Georgia.

He entered the military at age 18 and served as a front-line infantryman who fought from foxhole to foxhole, attacking and capturing hills on Okinawa. In one attack, he said about 40 soldiers started out to occupy a hill but only 15 actually made it to the top.

One time when he was in a foxhole, the water can had been left outside and no one had any water all day because of a sniper who was nearby. The men would occasionally stick up their guns, with a helmet on the end, to see if the sniper was still there. For a long time, each attempt was answered with a shot. My grandfather and the other soldiers decided to draw straws to see who would risk getting the water. He happened to be the “lucky” one. When he did the little gun-and-helmet trick and the sniper didn’t fire, he decided to take the chance. He was filling up the canteens when a bullet zoomed just under his hand, hitting the can. Eventually, they found the sniper tied in the limbs of a tree, dead.

On another occasion as my grandfather and his fellow soldiers were going down some trenches, they knew the Japanese were ahead and they heard one say, “Here I am, Joe,” apparently trying to get them to stand up and look. My grandfather said he heard that voice in his dreams for some years afterwards.

Before my grandfather left to go overseas, his family gave him a watch. It was lent to and worn by several soldiers but got back to him and is now framed and hanging on a wall at his home.

My grandfather was in a foxhole for his 19th birthday. The men had small phones and they sang “Happy Birthday” to him.

The battle lasted about 82 days and on the 81st day, my grandfather got shot on his right leg.

He said that during the war, Americans were very patriotic. There were no anti-war marches or protest. “You just didn’t see that,” he said. Women worked in plants and mills with pride and tried to reach their production goals.

When asked about which events stood out most in his mind, my grandfather said that “all” the events stood out.

He said World War II was the type of war you really wanted to participate in. “You took pride in it and were very proud to support your country. Being an American and fighting for your country was worthwhile, even if it cost you your life.”

NEIL HOOVER, 796TH ORDNANCE COMPANY

Submitted by: Neil J. Hoover, Taylorville, IL, and C. Diane Hoover Rigsbee, Mendon, Illinois

Our Dad served with the 96th Infantry Division. He was a Tech Sergeant in the 796th Ordnance Company and came ashore during the invasion of Leyte Gulf. The men in the ordnance company were responsible for small weapons repair. After repairing them, they were responsible for taking the weapons back to the troops in the field. Dad worked with five trucks that contained repair shops. Officer's weapons were repaired, as well as those of the Filipino guerilla fighters. Our Dad always treasured a small hand-made machete, which the guerilla chief presented to him for repairing his weapons...

Dad looked forward to attending the 96th Infantry Reunions. He enjoyed rekindling old friendships and most of all talking about the times they shared during the war. Over the years, we have met many of Dad's army buddies.

In 1984 Dad traveled to the Philippines on the "Reunion for Peace Tour". The return trip to the Philippines was a wonderful experience for Dad. Many native Filipinos approached the attendees and thanked them for what they had done to help their country. Dad met and visited with the Filipino lady who had done laundry for the troops during the war. President Ferdinand Marcos personally presented the Medal of Freedom to those in attendance. It was during this tour, that the hotel where the group was staying was attacked and fires were set. The fire escape doors were chained closed, thus blocking the exits. Several of the attendees were injured or died in their attempts to escape the inferno. Dad and a few others escaped with the clothes on their backs and suffered from smoke inhalation. The injured were treated at Clark Air Force Base. At the time, the press blamed communist insurgents for the attack...

During the war, Dad had close contact with: Robert Bartlett, Captain William Carlson, Bill Chernisky, Ben Confer, Sam Elias, Kal Kovach, Joe Mate, George McMahan, and George Swabb. Dad always felt his Army buddies were family. He stayed in close contact with his friends by phone and on family vacations would make side trips to visit with them. One story our Dad told was that just as the war ended he underwent surgery and was told that he could not return home unless he could carry his barracks bag. A great guy named Bill Chernisky offered to carry Dad's bag to the ship so Dad could return home.

We want you all to know that our Dad was proud to serve with you! He was proud of his country, and loved it dearly. May we always remember the sacrifices that our fathers have made for us, and be diligent in keeping our country strong!



Left to right – Neil Hoover, Bill Chernisky, Joe Mate, Robert Bartlett

ALEXANDER R. TRYBULSKI 381ST ANTI-TANK
Submitted by Pamela McCormick, Traverse City, Michigan

"HERO: 1 a: a mythological or legendary figure often of divine descent endowed with great strength or ability b: an illustrious warrior c: a man admired for his achievements and noble qualities d: one that shows great courage".

Hero to me is my 88 year old Grandpa. (Alexander R. Trybulski) "Big Al" an anti-tanker (381st) in the 96th Infantry Division. I am forever changed by the war stories he has shared and how truly honored he was and still is of being a "Deadeye." When I think of how they fought for our freedom, a "thank you" just doesn't seem enough. I just know how proud I am of him. His medals are all framed and hanging on a wall, and pictures of his war buddies from the 30 reunions he has attended are proudly displayed in an album. He first started attending reunions in 1968 right before I was born, and as time went on they got bigger and bigger. At each reunion, I think the war was fought many times over at the "Friday Beer Bust," and as each new anti-tanker came, there was a new version! But the camaraderie remained the same.

By sharing his stories, I have learned what heroes are, and the true meaning of honor and courage. For without courage we wouldn't have freedom. I think what he and the men of the 96th Infantry Division did for our country was truly honorable. I believe that his experiences helped him become the wonderful man that he is. My Grandpa is a true believer in the meaning of life, because of him I have learned to live life to its fullest and not take anything for granted. I also secretly think that the precision he has in both bowling and golfing has to do with his "Deadeye" division!

And now after attending the final reunion in Arlington, Virginia, I know that he is sad, but the stories and memories will live on in all of us.

*He took part in our history.
He took part in our freedom.
He was a "Deadeye."
He is my hero.*



JOHN ISELI, JR. 382ND COMPANY B

Submitted by Kara Cromwell, granddaughter, Abilene, Kansas

On August 1, 1944, more than 61 years ago, my grandpa was drafted into the United States Army. Although some of the dates and details are becoming fuzzy, 61 years later he can still say with confidence who the other soldiers were that he trained with, worked with and fought with, and even tell you where they were originally from.

From time to time, I've heard Grandpa talk about his time in the Philippines, Okinawa, and in the Saipan hospital after being wounded. However, I had never seen as much respect and pride in his eyes as when I talked to him while he was looking through a photo album full of pictures of him with his Army buddies. He remembered almost everyone in the photos as well as where they were from and what their connection was to him. He recalled making cars using parts from other things, losing all of his gear, and being fired at during the incident in which he was wounded. He doesn't recall what he did in relation to that incident that got him the Bronze Star years later, but he can repeat his serial number as if he had just memorized it.

I recently watched a movie about the Vietnam War and although this was not the same war that my grandpa fought in, it made me realize even more that what he and what every soldier does is incredible. I had always known that war was scary and life changing, but the reality of it became more clear to me than ever before. Even with every horrible thing that my grandpa saw during his time in the Army, it seems that what is most important to him are the soldiers and the camaraderie that these individuals shared. I think this is why Grandpa has so enjoyed reconnecting with the other members of the 96th over the years at the reunions.

As easily as Grandpa recalls people and important things he needed to know during his time in the 96th Infantry Division, I and the rest of this Deadeye's family are equally able to recall the good times we have had with him. We see his creativity both in his war time cars made from scraps as well as when he makes things with wood as Christmas gifts. We see his pride and loyalty to his family as well as it was there in Okinawa and the Philippines in relation to his friends/brothers who fought with him there.

We are very proud of his accomplishments as a member of the 96th Infantry Division and what he has done at home throughout the last 61 years.



John Iseli, Jr.



John Iseli Jr.
with Grand-
Daughter and
Great grandson

BOB C. WOODWORTH 383rd ?

Submitted by Joan Woodworth, wife, Rushville, Illinois

I feel I have good reason to be very proud of this group of men. My husband, Bob C. Woodworth and my brother, Neil E. Hoover, both served in the 96th Division. Bob was in the infantry and Neil in ordnance.

Bob was wounded April 9, 1945 on Okinawa. He received the Purple Heart. Bob talked very little about his experiences, as is the case with most of the servicemen I have come in contact with. He spoke of Letye, the Phillipines, Okinawa etc.

He told our daughters and me on a few occasions about the time he spent aboard the hospital ship when the kamikaze planes were hitting ships and was so grateful for the men who helped get him back to the medics when he was hit first by shrapnel in his shoulder and chest area, then later shot by a sniper in the hip. He recalled hearing a doctor or medic saying he thought he was already dead. I know most of you have been through many of the same experiences he went through and some probably worse.

Bob's date of departure from the US was July 23, 1944 and he return to the US was July 23, 1945. According to his records he served as a radio operator with an infantry company in the Philippines. The carried and set up a radio in combat; carried on direct voice conversation, reporting on progress of forces, and relayed other information of importance.

Bob had five daughters and lived to see only the first one of his eight grandchildren. Four grandsons and four granddaughters. He passed away suddenly on August 5, 1988 at the age of 63 years.

I have made an album of his records, ribbons, letters, the telegram from the war department when he was wounded, newspaper articles about the war and the v-mail letters he sent to his parents during the war. His grandchildren are always eager to hear anything about Grandpa even though they never had the opportunity to know him. They have taken the album to school when studying about World War II and their teachers seem very interested although I doubt most of them remember anything about that time except what they have read. I would be happy to share any information I have with anyone interested. **Our family is very, very proud of the 96th Division.**



Pvt. Bob Woodworth of Ma-comb who was wounded twice on Okinawa April 9, and is in a hospital in that area for treatment of wounds in the left arm, chest and thigh. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Woodworth, 433 South Johnson street.



Bob Woodworth 1988

FRANCIS H. THOMPSON 382ND COMPANY C
Submitted by: Cara Kennemer, Dallas, Texas

Francis H. "Tommy" Thompson was born on May 12, 1914, in Troy, New York. He first enlisted in the Army from 1932-1934 as a green 17-year old adventurer and was sent to Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, where he became the division's boxing champion.

In 1940, Thompson again volunteered for military service. He was eventually transferred to Camp Adair, Oregon, where he was assigned to Company C, 382nd Infantry, 96th Division, which had been reactivated on August 15, 1942.

Thompson, now ranked as First Sergeant, trained with the 96th until they eventually received orders to leave for an invasion landing at Leyte in the Philippine Islands. Thompson fought on Leyte for 43 consecutive days and nights with Company C – the longest record for any company in the Pacific.

Thompson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in the attack on Bloody Ridge near Dagami on November 3, 1944. After heavy fighting, all officers in two companies were either killed or wounded. The units, including Thompson's, were pinned under heavy enemy fire and cut off from the rest of the battalion.

Assuming command, Thompson took a pistol, an automatic rifle, and some grenades and blew open a path through the Japanese lines. Despite his own wounds (he was hit in the chest, knee, both shoulders, leg and head) he carried all the seriously wounded out. He then rushed forward and silenced five enemy machine guns with grenades. Thompson reorganized the companies and blasted the enemy off the ridge in a counterattack. Finally, he fell unconscious, a rifle still clutched in his fist.

After recovering from his wounds, he returned to Fort Worth, Texas in July, 1945. He joined the Reserves in the late 1950's. While in the Reserves, he was promoted to First Lieutenant. He ultimately retired from the service as Major. During his military career, Thompson was awarded the Bronze Star, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Purple Heart, and Combat Infantry Badge.

Major Thompson considered his service to his country to be the highlight of his life. He always looked forward to the annual 96th reunions to visit with his Deadeye brothers.

Thompson married Mary Margaret Mulholland on August 8, 1942. They had 4 children and 9 grandchildren. Thompson passed away on April 2, 1987, and is buried in Fort Sam Houston, Sand Antonio, Texas. This article was submitted with pride by his wife and family in Fort Worth, Texas.



MILO C. THOMPSON, JR. MILITARY POLICE DIVISION

Submitted by Jo Omo, daughter, Hanover, Michigan

The time has come to box up belongings and sell the house. Mom, in extreme loneliness after the death of my Dad, had decided to relocate to an apartment in a senior citizen complex. A closet brimming with scrapbooks and memorabilia was deeded to me. To quote Mom: "You are the family historian, Jo. I know you will treasure these artifacts."

As the cleaning and sorting continued, I was digging, into the bowels of a cluttered storage shed when I discovered a mouse-chewed, pasteboard box that concealed artifacts untouched by the "female organizer". Among the mouse droppings, visages of World War II looked up at me. Photographs of a young "Tommy" Thompson with his buddies, probably had not seen the light of day in forty years, caused tears to form in my eyes. And send me back to the voice of my childhood.

"Don't touch Daddy when he is sleeping. He will come out swinging because he was in the war". But Dad was from the generation that didn't talk about the war. No stories were shared. But his beliefs and loyalties toward his country and his comrades came through in his actions.

Dad joined the Armed Forces in 1942 as an MP (Military police) straight from the State Police Training Academy in Lansing, Michigan. He served in the South Pacific during World War II. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in March of 1945 and a first lieutenant in December of 1945 while in the field. My father never shared this information but among the mouse-chewed sheaves in that uncovered box was his meticulously maintained military record measuring over 1.5 inches thick! Dad remained in the Armed Forces for thirty-six years! After his service in the South Pacific he became a part of the Michigan National Guard. He retired in 1980 at the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was dedicated to preserving the freedom of the citizens of the United States of America...

Dad's dedication to his community never failed. He worked unrelentingly for the Red Cross, Civitan International, Special Olympics, 96th Infantry Division Association, and Knights of Columbus. His dedication to keeping the peace never ended until it was time to pass on his legacy...

And what has become of the contents of that pasteboard box? Some artifacts were forwarded to The National World War II Memorial in Washington, D. C. Others have been shared with family members. Others have been framed, preserved, and given to my adult sons for safekeeping. Three plastic tubs remain to be chronicled into acid-free scrapbooks for posterity. Then our family can say "This is the legacy of your Great Grandfather Milo C. Thompson, Jr.," to the future generation of our family who never had the privilege of knowing him.



RALPH LUCANIO

Submitted by Patricia Lucanio, wife and other family members, Dallas, Oregon

In the summer of 1942 Ralph "Lucky" Lucanio was sent in the first cadre to the Willamette Valley in Oregon where Camp Adair was being built. When he arrived, there was no camp. They had to set up tents while the camp was being built around them. Oregon was noted for the wet weather, and when it rained the camp was called "Swamp Adair". "Lucky" was assigned to the 321st Medical Battalion when the 96th Division was formed. He was proud of the 96th insignia, and after the war he gave one to his grandson and told me that it was the insignia of one of the greatest divisions in the army.

"Lucky" was from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but he married an Oregon girl so Oregon was his home. After the war when he returned to Oregon he didn't talk much about the war but when he got together with his wife's cousins, who were all in the 41st Division (New Guinea) he really talked about the 96th. Soon the "cousins" were asking him about the 96th, the battles they were in and about Camp Adair. They were surprised that four divisions trained in Oregon.

"Lucky" visited with several of his "buddies" from his outfit from time to time and the stories they would tell one another about the outfits they were in. "96th this and 96th that."

When the historical marker was put up by the highway at the former Camp Adair he would always say "Salute the 96th – the best darn division in the U. S. Army."

At one time he drove his grandson through parts of the old camp and to the best of his memory he pointed out where his barracks, the field house, the day room and the theater were. They would walk around and he would tell his grandson about what they would do in training.

He was proud to be in the 96th Division. He made the landings at Leyte and Okinawa and whenever anything about them was on TV or written about those battles he always listened and looked for mention of the 96th Division.

His family was very proud of "Lucky" and his service in the 96th and that he was a member of America's Greatest Generation.

Debra L. and Danielle Chinander, Waconia, Minnesota

Keith Cochran is our father and grandfather. He was drafted into World War II during his senior year of high school in 1944. The story of his nineteenth birthday is one of his favorites to tell. We have heard many stories from his experiences, all with a common thread. He was proud to have been there and been part of the freedom given to us all. We have appreciated in many forms.

First, we appreciate the mercy and protection our God gave to his life. So many were not as fortunate. He not only survived, but he survived unharmed.

Second, we appreciate Keith's desire to serve. When one is drafted, the desire may not be there. Through his stories one can hear and see that he was proud to be there to help his fellow men and his country. This desire to serve followed him through his life as he served his wife, children, and others whenever he could.

Last, we appreciate the constant ways that people are allowed to express their gratitude for the service of people like Keith who graciously served our country and deserve our appreciation everyday, as it is everyday that we enjoy the freedoms that they gave us.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our appreciation with you and others.

ALBERT RALPH BODINE RIVER OAKS, TEXAS

Submitted by family

For Ralph Bodine – born in Eldorado, Oklahoma, February 13, 1920, and who died in Fort Worth, Texas March 12, 2004 - World War II was much more than just a memory. As a member of Company D of the famed 96th Infantry Division's Deadeyes during the deadliest fighting on Okinawa, Ralph was hit by the explosion of a Japanese hand grenade after helping to rescue four comrades; and he would always carry shrapnel painfully along his spine as he lived the rest of his life dedicated to serving God and family.

Ralph was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his heroism on Okinawa. As a member of the famed 96th Division he later received the long-delayed Presidential Unit Citation Heroic Service Award. He was a devoted Baptist, member of the Masonic Lodge, Moslah Shrine, and lifetime member of the Purple Heart Club. Leaving to mourn his departure are Gladys, his wife of 33 years, four children- Albert Daniel and Marshal Bodine, Claudia Campbell, Kay Laboda and one step-daughter, Donah Stricklin.



ORRIE H. GRUWELL, JR., SUTTER CREEK, CALIFORNIA

Now that the curtain has fallen for the last time on the 96th Infantry Division Reunions of World War II Veterans that existed for forty-eight years, I would like to share a couple of memories. To start with, I would like to commend the following buddies that were so faithful in attending as many reunions as possible and representing Company "F", 383rd Infantry, 2nd Battalion. Robert Hachen, Henry Haynes and Vernon Corbin. The most important memory that remains with me is the battle of Conical Hill on Okinawa. It was the most treacherous, brutal, dangerous, bloody, hard fought battle that I encountered. The capture of the hill turned out to be the turning point of the war that led to the downfall of Japan. I have many memories of other encounters that took place both in the Philippines and Okinawa. The most important memory is that I am one of the very fortunate to have gone through both campaigns every day and coming through practically unscathed other than a little shrapnel. To me the Memorial Services at the reunions mean so much as they honor our fallen comrades and also the ones still living. We were always family and will be that way forever.

General Peter Cooke with a group from F Company at our Washington D.C. Reunion.



SHOULD WE HAVE DROPPED THE A-BOMB? ASK A FOOT SOLDIER

Submitted by Charles E. Slaughter, 382, Company A., Lebanon, Indiana

I was an 18-year-old LHS senior when I was inducted into the army. March 1, 1944. I was filled with patriotism and eager to do my part in a war that was affecting our entire nation. I visualized the medals and accolades I would receive for knocking out a Japanese machine gun nest... or maybe capturing a whole company of "Nips."

I didn't have long to wait. By July 1944, I was overseas and on October 20th I was part of the assault wave on Leyte. Paving the way for McArthur's triumphant "return to the Philippines"... He came in 5 hours after I hit the beach.

Glory be damned!
From October to mid January we fought 170,000 Japanese soldiers stationed on Leyte. We waded through swamps, rice paddies, and jungle fighting the war every day. At night we would dig fox holes only to have them fill up with swamp water. Even surrounded by muddy water, we would sleep because we were so tired. On three occasions we experienced the infamous Japanese "Banzai

attacks". We always suffered some casualties, but we also succeeded in turning back the Japanese. The fighting was only part of the problem. During the Leyte campaign, I, as well as many others, contracted hook worms, yellow jaundice and the miseries of dysentery. We rarely got clean clothing and at one time I went 17 days without taking off my boots and socks. My feet were so shriveled and black, they hardly looked human.

At times our food and water rations would not get to us and we ate coconuts and drank their milk. Many times we would fill our canteens with swamp water even though we were warned of the danger. Even before Leyte was declared secure, we started training for the invasion of Okinawa. Again I was part of the first wave at 6 a.m., April 1, 1945. Okinawa became the bloodiest battle of the war. On Leyte we advanced by miles. On Okinawa we advanced by yards.

At the crown of ridges, with the Japanese on one side and us on the other, we threw grenades back and forth for hours.

I saw a PFC earn the Congressional Medal of Honor for killing 33 Japanese during an early morning battle. I saw a young, clean-cut 2nd Lt. only two weeks after having graduated from Ft. Benning OCS killed in his first hours of combat. My outfit suffered some 130 percent casualties, wounded or killed. I was wounded May 12, 1945. A buddy 10 feet in front of me was killed at the same time I was hit.

That night as I lay on a stretcher on the beach of Okinawa, the Japs were bombing and Kamikazing the hospital ships in the harbor. Those who were able were in bomb shelters, but those of us on stretchers had to just watch and pray. As I lay there I was so relieved because I knew that I didn't have to fight the next day no matter what happened. The A-bomb ended the war, saved thousands of lives and a whole lot of misery.

Ask any combat foot soldier.



THE BUGLER (The rest of the story)

Submitted by Glenn A. Stewart, San Carlos, CA

Purchased in the early 1980's in Capitola, California (a seaside resort town) to act as my regular everyday alarm clock as long as I continued working. It served me well, still goes off one day a week.

In 1992 one of my closest 96th Div. Buddies, Ray (Doc) Stremski, our platoon medic of 3rd Platoon K Co 383rd was traveling on the Pacific Coast. He and wife Pat stayed with us for a week. This "face to face" after 40 years of Christmas Cards stirred our 96th Division blood into action. I then put together a mini reunion with Doc Stremski and Herman Buffington and wives with the Stewarts (Glenn & Rita) at Squaw Valley and Lake Tahoe before the 1993 reunion in Sparks, Nevada. I brought this now famous alarm clock to awaken my guests in a truly military manner. I had the clock near each of their bedrooms. It succeeded beyond expectations!

I brought it to Sparks. On the first morning I brought it to the coffee shop for breakfast where we joined Sgt Byron (Bill) Boals and several other K Co. buddies. I again hid the alarm Bugler behind something and let it go off during breakfast. Boals left his seat and thought he was having a flash back!

I then brought it to the business meeting and upon the conclusion of the business I rose to a "point of order" for the good of the cause. The President did not know what was coming or what to expect. Since then, this interruption has become a tradition. Each year I arrive at the reunion many people ask, "Did you bring the Bugler?" Yes, the Bugler did arrive at Washington C. D. at the close of the business meeting. It will probably become a member of the new association.

ARNOLD R. CLEMENS – 362nd FIELD ARTILLARY , Adams, North Dakota

Submitted by: David Clemens, LouAnn Clemens Thorvilson, Roger Clemens, Jackie Clemens Lindsay & Marilyn Clemens Wentzel.

A soldier. A husband. A farmer. A father. A grandpa! So many roles. So much responsibility. So much pride. All of this describes our dad, **Arnold Clemens**, who was one of the "Deadeyes". He was truly dedicated to God, his family and his country. His strong work ethic and integrity were evident in his service to the United States Army, in caring for the land, and in providing for his family. Dad was very humble and never considered himself a hero but rather thought of it as doing his job.

As we reflect on his ninety years of life, we believe that he was part of the greatest generation – an unselfish and giving generation. Dad's "army buddies" became family friends to three generations. They have left us a legacy that is incomparable. We have accompanied Dad and Mom to many *DEADEYE REUNIONS* over the years. The 96th Division – what a close-knit and wonderful group this was! Mom has gained many long-lasting memories. They have become part of who we are.

The United States of America is a wonderful nation, a nation worth fighting for. Dad believed in this country, fought for this country and supported this country. His purchases were carefully selected and had to bear the words "Made in the USA". He remained loyal to his God, his family and his country.

A soldier, A husband. A farmer. A father. A grandpa! So many roles. So much responsibility. So much pride. *Thanks for a job well done, Dad!*

MY DEADEYE DAD: DON DENCKER

Submitted by Don's daughters: Nancy Pusch, Kim Richardson, Lynn Wahl and Ann Dencker

Donald O. Dencker was a gunner in the Mortar Section of Company L (Love Company), 382nd Infantry Regiment, 96th Infantry Division during World War II. He received the Bronze Star for "meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy on Okinawa."

Don was seventeen when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis in June 1942 and received his draft board call in May of 1943. That June he was inducted into the United States Army, and reported for active duty in July.

After becoming a part of the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP), Don was assigned to the 96th Infantry Division in March of 1944. This division was composed largely of "draftees", the so-called "citizen soldiers." Don chose to serve in a Mortar Section, and spent 533 days overseas, most in the heat of the Pacific War battles. He states, "by the grace of God, I escaped death, wounding, or serious illness..."

Don Dencker was recently featured in Newsweek magazine (August 15, 2005 edition) on the 60th anniversary of the Pacific War. He recalled some of the gruesomeness of the times in Okinawa in the article. He also summarized the mood of the times and the absolute hatred of the Japanese.

In 2002, Don published a book entitled "Love Company", in which he recounts his experiences in WWII. He used notes he kept during his time in the service as well as Morning Reports of Company L and other books and sources. To obtain a copy of this book, please contact Don at DizzyDon@aol.com.

Since 1980, Don has been actively involved with the 96th Infantry Division Association in efforts to preserve its legacy, serving as President, and most recently, as Historian. Don has attended 24 reunions of the Deadeye Division. Don has also led eight battlefield tours to Okinawa and three to Leyte.

His daughters have been so proud of Don's involvement with the reunion committees. They have enjoyed attending the annual reunions, when possible. They are very proud of his work with the website, helping many soldiers' families connect or find out about lost loved ones. Without a doubt, Don has done much to preserve the heritage of the 96th Infantry Division.

One highlighted memory was the dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington D. C. in May of 2004. Finally, these brave men were honored and remembered for a hard job well done and for unyielding patriotism. It was an absolute honor to accompany our father to this memorable event.

Another memory, which we all hold dear, is the recent final reunion of the 96th in Washington this past summer. Who could imagine the thrill of so many "old timers" getting together to remember and reminisce and to catch up with each other's lives and families. Who could imagine the thrill of a hug after sixty years. Who could imagine the collective laughter in reliving the times of our youth. Who could imagine the power of stopping to remember the fallen soldiers who never had the chance to fulfill their life's dreams. Who could imagine the sorrow that this would be the last reunion of the old 96th Infantry Division. And lastly, who could begin to imagine the pride in being a part of this great organization.

JACOB LOUIS MERKER

Submitted by: Harry Merker, Los Vegas, Nevada

The photo was taken in Parksville, New York, population of less than 1,000. However, its share of those serving in WWII was beyond the average. Thanks to the efforts of two local residents, Bill and Betty Higgins, this hamlet proudly displays the names of those who served. Among those names is my brother Jacob Louis Merker, 96th Infantry Division, Company G, 382nd Regiment. August 4th, 1922 thru April 19, 1945.

(A good example of how “small town” America remembers its home-town heroes.)



DOUGLAS & THELMA BURTON

Thanks to Doug and Thelma Burton (E. Co 381st) individual boxes of raisins have become traditional banquet table favors. Doug & Thelma grow raisins in Selma, California (near Fresno) and have been furnishing the raisins for the past 30 reunions. Doug is a Past President of the Association and Thelma a Past President of the Auxiliary. Both have been active in reunion planning over the years, Doug serving as Chairman of the Memorial Service arrangements in recent years.





John Checks out the History Room!



Beer Bust Band



Ladies Luncheon



USO ROOM





Auxiliaries First 25 Years
Compiled by Thelma Burton!



Yes, were having a good time!



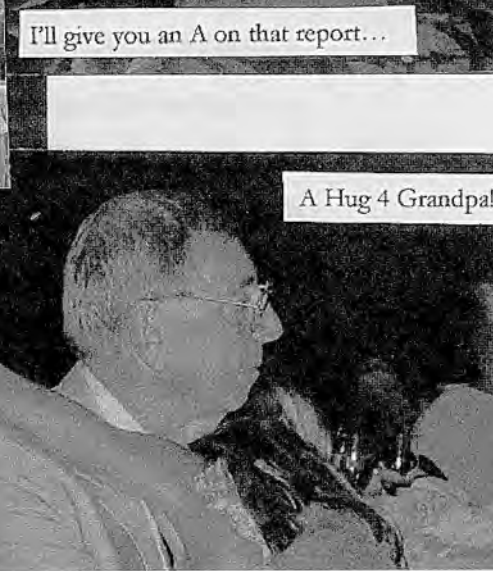
Reunion had all ages!



I'll give you an A on that report...



Editors at Work!



A Hug 4 Grandpa!

“Just Mingling – A Providential Encounter”

“Just mingling, they run into Jim Causey, Company C, 381st, from Liberty, Mississippi.” from The Deadeye Dispatch, Spring Issue, 2005, “This is a ugly, ugly war ...” by Ed Dakan.

The day was May 4, 2005, the Spring Issue, 2005, of The Deadeye Dispatch came that day. This is the twice-annual publication of the 96th Infantry Division Association established in 1958. The Dispatch predates the association and has been an incredibly interesting and popular publication for all of us who served with the division in WWII and the years since.

After lunch I picked up my copy from my mailbox on the Old Meadville Road. Later that afternoon when I was returning home from a short trip, I glanced over at the Dispatch that I had placed in the passenger seat. The moment I turned into my driveway near my mailbox, a powerful wave of sorrow washed over me. I couldn't imagine what had caused such a terrible feeling. It lingered. About an hour later I read Ed Dakan's “This is a ugly – ugly War.” I knew immediately that his account was what I was feeling because the “sorrow” dissipated as suddenly as it had descended.

And now here is the “mingling account” of how Betty, Shelli and I made contact. At each reunion, I'm an invited guest for the noon luncheon of Co “E”, 381st Regiment. At the 2004 reunion in the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City my young grandson, Morgan Causey, born 16 Nov 1999, was with me. We arrived at the room for the luncheon. We were early. We went inside and visited with Jim Knight who directed us to a table. I had a feeling that I should be closer to the door. We stepped outside into the hall for a short time and then we went back in. There was then some sort of sensation pulling me back into the hall. So we went into the hall again, stopped, and stood there. Suddenly, two ladies walking down the hall toward us paused and asked “What company is this? Jim Knight told them it was Co. “E”; then one of them said “We're looking for someone from Co ”B”. I told them I was in “C” Company and knew a good many people in “B” Co. Then they told me of their search. I could hardly believe what I was hearing and I just said “You are looking for one of the men who was with the Case twins!” When I said “Case” there was a gasp and then we lost it. We huddled closely to each other and after

the tears let up, I told them the story as I recalled the events around the escarpment on those days in June 1945. It was Charlie who was with Vaughn when he was killed. Bill, Charlie's twin brother, now deceased, had been separated from the group that was trapped behind the lines. Ed's account of what happened validated what we experienced during that assault. That battle came one year to the day after the Normandy Invasion.

Jim Knight and I both told them about Ed and after lunch I checked to see if they had made contact. They had and I was pleased. Meanwhile I had called Charlie and he agreed to share his account with them. There were so many thoughts conjured during that brief encounter that I needed to tell them but we didn't have time then. So this is why I'm writing this account now to provide additional information about our wartime friendships and what happened to us 60 years ago.

I can still see that small draw and the cut we went through to scale the cliff. The smoke that Major Thompson called in saved us but it was 1st magnitude chaos. It took several hours for us to sort everything out in the darkness and account for everyone. We dug in and stayed in place for eight days – until the morning of June 14. That was a terrible day for me as we again tried to take the high ground. Three men in my squad were killed. They were Howard Baird, George Bergman, and Roy Edmonson.

During the eight days we held fast, the escarpment was bombed, strafed, and blasted so often and intensely that it was hard to believe that anyone could have survived. But later when we gained the ground we understood because the Japanese soldiers were well placed deep inside the cliff:

On the evening of 13 June we got word we would shove off the next morning. To most of us replacements it was almost like a second baptism of fire our first having been from Conical Hill around 10 May. As darkness fell our squad BAR man Bergman, from Council Bluff, Iowa, and I were talking. The longer we talked the more I realized that he really needed to share some innermost thoughts. Time passed quickly and he told me about his family and many other details of his life – really his life history. And then I knew that he was dealing with his own death – his own mortality. He had a premonition that he would be killed the next day. We then talked about being prepared when our time comes. We talked almost to daylight when he finally said, "I'm uneasy about tomorrow." I said to him "I just hope most of us will make it." I couldn't go to sleep and neither

could he because I heard him quietly sobbing as he lay there in the foxhole. Before noon the next day he was gone. Little did I know then, that in just 6 days, on June 20, my war would end when I became a battle casualty near Medeera

A sniper had hit another member of our Squad and Bergman crawled over to drag him out of the line of fire, but before he could complete the move, the sniper had shot him. They were ahead of me and when I moved up and saw his body I said a prayer for him and his family. I moved on. Someone had killed the sniper. Sometime in mid afternoon we got on the cliff and were literally on top of the enemy soldiers as they came out of the caves and tunnels. In just a matter of minutes gun fire killed our squad leader S/Sgt Howard Baird from Philbrook, MN. When I joined the company he had welcomed me and made me feel as if I had known him a long time. He treated me like I was a little brother. I didn't even have a chance to say goodbye before he was gone. When I went back to Okinawa in 2000 I touched his name on the wall at the Corner Stone of Peace Museum like I did the other men I knew that didn't make it.

And then there was Roy Edmonson from Clinton, Missouri, our assistant squad leader. Machine gun fire literally cut him down. He took rounds in both arms and across his chest. We lost both our Squad Leader and Assistant in the first few minutes of the fire fight. All we could do was try to stay alive.

When we first moved through Yonabaru up toward Conical Hill, we were shelled every morning and late afternoon across Buckner Bay from Chinen Peninsula. The shelling was precisely the same time each day. We would lie in the foxholes and count out loud the rounds, One, Two, etc. When there was a dud we would all collectively with a great sigh of relief in unison, call "DUD". I remember Edmonson's voice.

We had to do something to retain our sanity so I was Edmonson's tormentor. Sometime in high school I developed an "ape act". I'd hump over, swing my arms, pull my ears and push my tongue up under my upper lip and grunt and chatter and lope along like a big chimp. "PoKoMoCo" was a call in an Abbott and Costello movie and when a not too bright old man heard that he'd go loco. In my ape mode I'd slip up behind Edmonson, but not too close, and loudly yell "PoKoMoCo" and he'd go into low orbit. I would always leave enough space to get away from him when he came after me as he

always did. He never could catch me when I ran. It's a wonder he didn't clobber me good, but he was always my buddy.

I'll never forget how his body looked as we put him in the poncho to take him down off the cliff. It seemed for a few minutes that the war stopped so we could get them both back to a safer area, but they were already in a better place. We were the ones left to suffer and struggle.

Several weeks later in the Philippines on Mindoro my friend Billy Lindsay from Tuscola, MS told me he remembered seeing me for the first time that afternoon as we were bringing Baird and Edmonson down from the escarpment. Billy was in "D" Company, was later wounded, evacuated to Siapan, recuperated there and rejoined us on Mindoro. Men in his company gave us water from time to time but I didn't remember seeing him then.

The Case Twins were from Detroit and they had roots in Lincoln County, Mississippi and Hammond, Louisiana. After the war the Case, Causey, and Lindsay families spent many happy hours together in my parents home in Liberty, Mississippi. That account will be included in a future chapter.

By: James A. Causey

Company C, 381st Infantry

96th Infantry Division

THE RAILROADS IN WORLD WAR II

by: Jim Causey

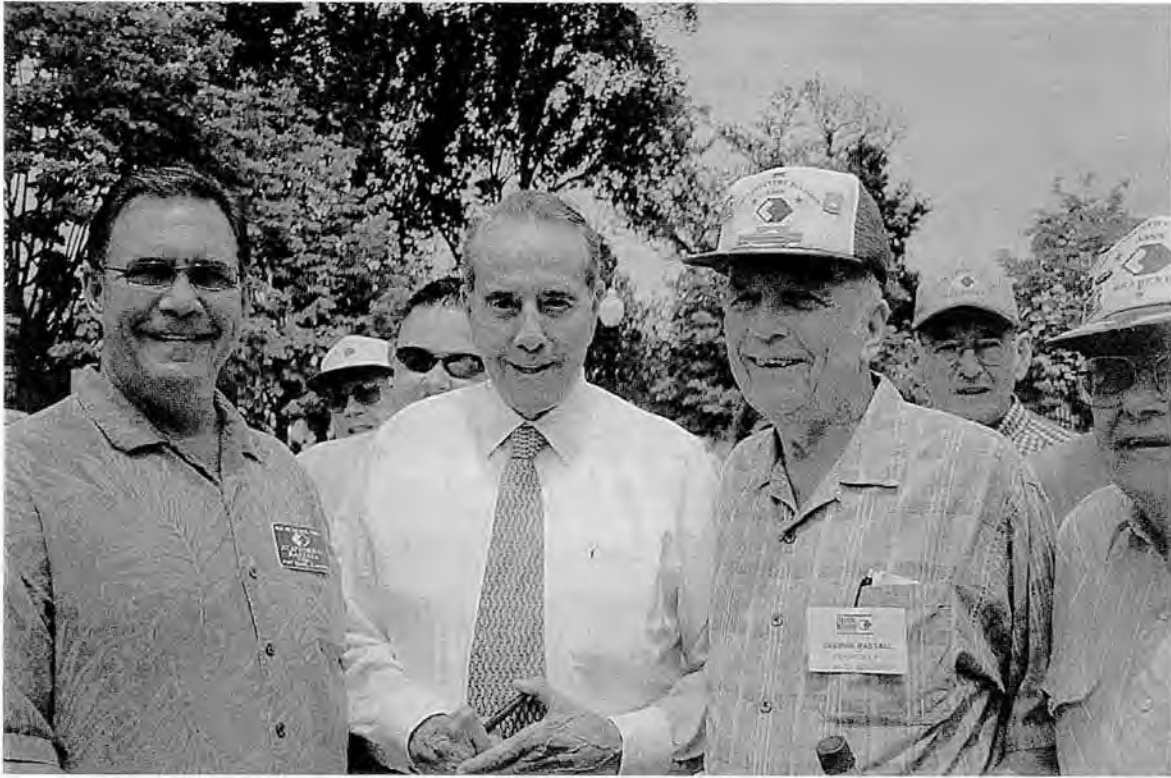
The trains took the soldiers away, live
And brought many, many back, dead
My God, My God, why haven't we learned?

Now, many of the railroads are dead
They can be rebuilt
And come alive again
But the dead soldiers are gone forever.

They are with us, only in spirit
We will never forget them, ever.

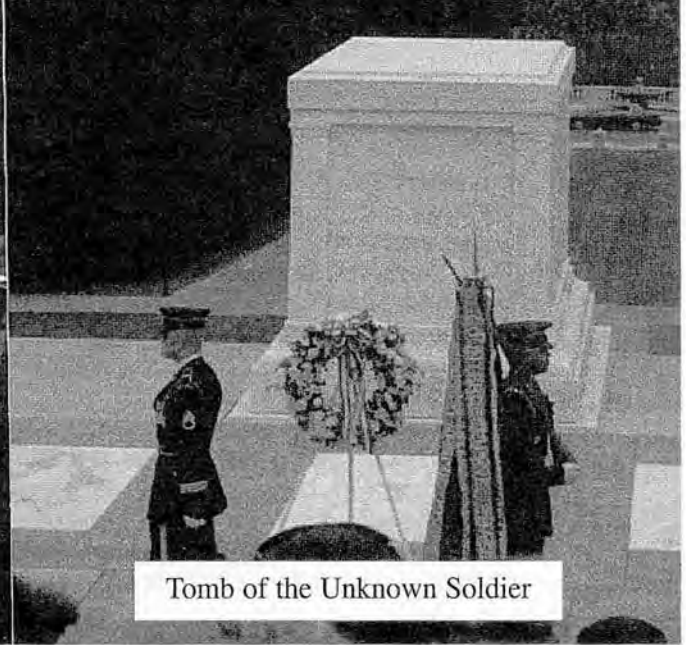
Senator Dole visits with the 96th at the WWII Memorial

Senator Bob Dole accepted the Association's invitation to make an appearance during our tour of the WWII Memorial. In spite of a busy schedule he took the time to mingle with the crowd, individually greet Deadeyes and their families and pose with them for pictures. A combat veteran of WWII himself it was very evident that he identified well with the veterans of the 96th.





Arlington National Cemetery Memorial Service



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

48TH ANNUAL REUNION MEMORIAL SERVICE ADDRESS – JULY 30, 2005
JOYCE CONFER, PAST PRESIDENT 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION AUXILIARY,
MEDFORD, OREGON

Good morning. My name is Joyce Confer, wife of Ben Confer, 796 Ordnance Company, 96th Infantry Division. It is my pleasure to share this Memorial Service with you...

This morning we are gathered to pay respect to the veterans of the 96th Infantry Division; those who are no longer with us, as well as those who struggle to keep marching until that final bugle sounds retreat. It is a poignant time now as we move from these reunions, as we have known them over the past 48 years, into a new era, where the 96th Infantry Division Reserves will assume this responsibility.

Many of you here today are sons and daughters and grandchildren of these veterans; you have heard the stories of the heroics and glory of this time; however, like all wars, it is a horrible, terrible thing.

Try to imagine the conditions these veterans of the Pacific War lived in while in combat, sleeping in the foxholes they dug, often full of water when it rained, eating rations, or if the cooks could prepare a meal, trying to eat it in the rain. In the stifling heat and humidity of the Philippines uniforms became stiff with perspiration after many days of wear. All this in addition to fighting the enemy, and, at times, fighting disease and illness such as malaria. If the men stayed in an area long enough, laundry was sometimes done by Filipino women, who washed the clothes in the rivers, dried them in the sun, and somehow pressed them. If the company moved in the meantime, it was often several days before the laundress found them to deliver the clothes. One soldier was told that his pants would be delivered a bit later, as her husband had a possible job to see about, and he wore the same size pants. There are many stories which I hope your veteran has shared with you.

The 96th did have its heroes, one of whom was Beauford "Snuffy" Anderson of the mortar section. As a forward observer, he was in front of his men that day at Okinawa on Kakazu Ridge as they came upon the enemy. He told his men to take cover while he faced the enemy alone, in a tomb's narrow entranceway. His men tried to provide coverage fire, as wave after wave of the enemy tried to get up the hill. Snuffy held them off by emptying his carbine and lobbing hand grenades. When he ran out, he turned to the mortars but had no way of firing them from the conventional tubes. He told his men to pass the shells and he put his hand over the safety screw that would cause the shell to explode, hit the rear of the shell on the concrete wall of the cave to start the power train, and threw it underhanded like a football pass. When daylight came the next morning, the men ventured out to find 25 of the enemy dead and their guns destroyed. Ironically, Snuffy was wounded later that day as he went off to an observation post to report. In 1949 he was medically discharged due to continual problems caused by this wound. He did receive the Medal of Honor for his actions that day. He died in California in 1996.

Another Medal of Honor recipient was PFC Clarence Craft, whom you heard about previously from Sgt. Major Kenneth Preston, in his address Thursday evening. It was unbelievable as PFC Craft, a 23 year old new recruit to battle combat could so accurately throw those hand grenades, destroying so many of the enemy. Later his mother said, "He's the most accurate thrower I ever saw. Why I've seen him kill fish in a stream throwing rocks at them." The New York Times wrote "Great must be the rejoicing among all the Clarence's of the world." Clarence Kraft died in 2002. Both these men are buried at Arlington Cemetery. These two men were recognized heroes, and there were many others, equally brave, who did not live through their battles. Of course, we all feel our veteran of the 96th was our special hero.

As heirs of the 96th Infantry Division, you may be interested in what was happening on the home front during these years of preparation for the battles to come. As a young bride in 1943, I felt I also had joined the 96th as I became a 'camp follower'. Each time the Division moved to a new location on the west coast, wives were told not to follow, as there was no housing available. However, this fell on deaf ears and off I went, sometimes with another wife or alone. We moved many times in the 13 months I traveled up and down the west coast. In April, 1943, we were at Camp Adair near Corvallis, Oregon; in May, at Fort Lewis, Washington. In August of 1943, maneuvers were held in the desert area of central Oregon; then I traveled to Camp White located at Medford, Oregon, where the Division remained for six months. The last move I made was to Camp San Luis Obispo, California, from where I eventually went home as the Division prepared for shipment to the Pacific.

The men of the Division had to travel with their company, so after a move it was difficult locating each other, but somehow we always got together. In each town, the USO always had a list of available housing, but the waiting line was much too long so I usually found a place on my own. In Medford I was shopping in a shoe store. The manager of the store asked if I was new in town, and if my husband was at Camp White. I told him yes, and he asked if we had found a place to live, which we had not. He invited us to dinner at his home. He said his wife would pick him

and me up at the store at 5p.m. and that I should get in touch with my husband at the camp. I dared not call the camp, so I sent a telegram giving the details. A cab driver helped him locate the address, although the telegram had scrambled the street name.

During dinner, this couple said they knew a doctor's widow who rented rooms, but she was in San Francisco visiting family and should be back shortly. In the meantime we could live in their son and daughter-in-law's home; they were at Great Lakes where he was in the Navy. Of course, we could not afford to rent a house, but they said, "oh no, who said anything about rent? You just stay there until you find a place to live", which we did in a week, when the doctor's widow returned. It was a lovely home and an experience we never forgot. Such were many of the wonderful people of that era.

During the six months we lived in Medford, I worked at the Camp White bank. We had no car, so I walked to work at a downtown bank where I met two other girls and the manager of the camp bank. We loaded a large canvas bag of money into an old Plymouth, which had a pistol in the glove department in case of a holdup. Thank goodness we never had to use it. We opened the bank for business from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., then went back to town to turn in the money and balance out. Only day we had a sobering experience when Army officers brought in some damaged currency that was on soldiers killed in an explosion during a training mission at the Camp. There was a question of whether the torn bills could be redeemed and reimbursement sent to the families of the deceased. The sight of human tissue still on pieces of the bills brought home the reality of what was ahead.

As the Division moved and the wives followed, we usually traveled by train or bus. The rules were that servicemen boarded first, then handicapped, and then women with children. The rest of us could have any seats that were left or sit on our luggage. At the beginning of the war, trains were pulled out of mothballs and pressed into service to accommodate all the personnel moving around the nation. We traveled from the mid-west to the west coast on trains with the old kerosene lanterns swinging from the ceiling and hard plush seats that were hot and itchy in the summertime. The open windows invited coal smoke to enter and there was no air-conditioning in those days. At mealtime you stood in a line reaching through several cars, as you endeavored to reach the dining cars. When you were finally seated, the waiter came to offer you the one meal they were serving: no choices, take it or leave it! Usually just two meals a day were served. In May of 1944, we made our last train trip back to Illinois, where I remained as the Division prepared to ship out to the Pacific.

It was strange when I arrived back in my hometown to find that there were so few young men on the street and in the work areas. Women would go to the movies or other events in a group. Many sporting events were cancelled because the participants had been drafted into service or the public did not have the gas to travel to the stadiums.

On the home front the country was fully engaged in support of our troops, and the nation went all out to supply the armament for our defense. Factories turned from making pleasure cars, tractors, other types of equipment, to production of military tanks, jeeps, trucks, guns and ammunition. Women who had never worked outside the home took jobs in airplane factories. The assembly lines in factories were staffed with women taking the place of men who were called into the military. You have all heard the story of 'Rosie the Riveter' who was introduced by Norman Rockwell in the Saturday Evening Post magazine. 1942 saw the war time rationing of sugar by the Office of Price Administration (OPA) with coupons from coupon books being issued: no coupon, no sugar. There was a flood tide of shortages; lawn mowers, tea, bronze caskets, electric toasters, waffle irons, dishwashers, even bicycles were rationed and there were no bicycle tires; even automobile tires were rationed.

There was a shortage of butter, which led to the invention of margarine – does anyone remember how we colored the margarine with a dye so it would look like butter? The military was eating 200 million lbs a year in 1943 and this would increase as the armed forces grew. Meat supplies were often short as the meat was shipped to the troops. There was a shortage of bread and other foods made with flour.

As a young girl I remember the elimination of silk stockings. Nylon had not been discovered at that time. In the office work force, you wore dresses, stockings, and appropriate shoes. The stockings were now rayon and they bagged and sagged the minute you put them on. Shoes were also rationed during this time. Everyone was in the same circumstance so you did not dwell on negatives. Gasoline was rationed according to need; farmers were allowed a bit extra for their farm equipment. My father had a gas station, and he would sometimes juggle coupons to help someone with a special need. There would be drives for recycling rubber, such as floor mats from the car, rubber toys, anything made of rubber.

A Sioux City, Iowa, citizen put his views into verse to present to his ration board:

And when I die, please bury me
'Neath a ton of sugar, by a rubber tree.
Lay me to rest in an auto machine
And water my grave with gasoline.

The Country tried to raise money for the war effort through sales of War Bonds. Movie stars traveled throughout the Country, putting on special shows to sell War Bonds. Many employees had money withheld each payday for purchase of the \$25.00 E-Bonds. It was a time when the nation pulled together, instead of like today when the nation is split over politics and the situation in Iraq. Cities along the coast were on blackout or brownout conditions. Shades were pulled at night and cars were on very low beam lights. There were wardens who checked on this – air raid wardens in case of an attack by the enemy. The air raid wardens walked the streets to look for anything suspicious or unusual. From time to time they held practice drills to keep the residents on the alert. When we were stationed in Oregon, we saw this condition when we went to the Oregon coast over a weekend. The town was dark at night, and all you could hear was the roar of the ocean waves breaking on the beach.

In many of the homes, families displayed flags in their windows. The number of men in service was denoted by a blue star, a gold star designated a serviceman killed in action. Even today I notice in a house near where we live that a flag with a blue star is displayed in their window; they must have someone in service.

I recently received a poem, which I would like to share with you. It is titled “Unsung Heroines”, for the women who are left behind on the home front.

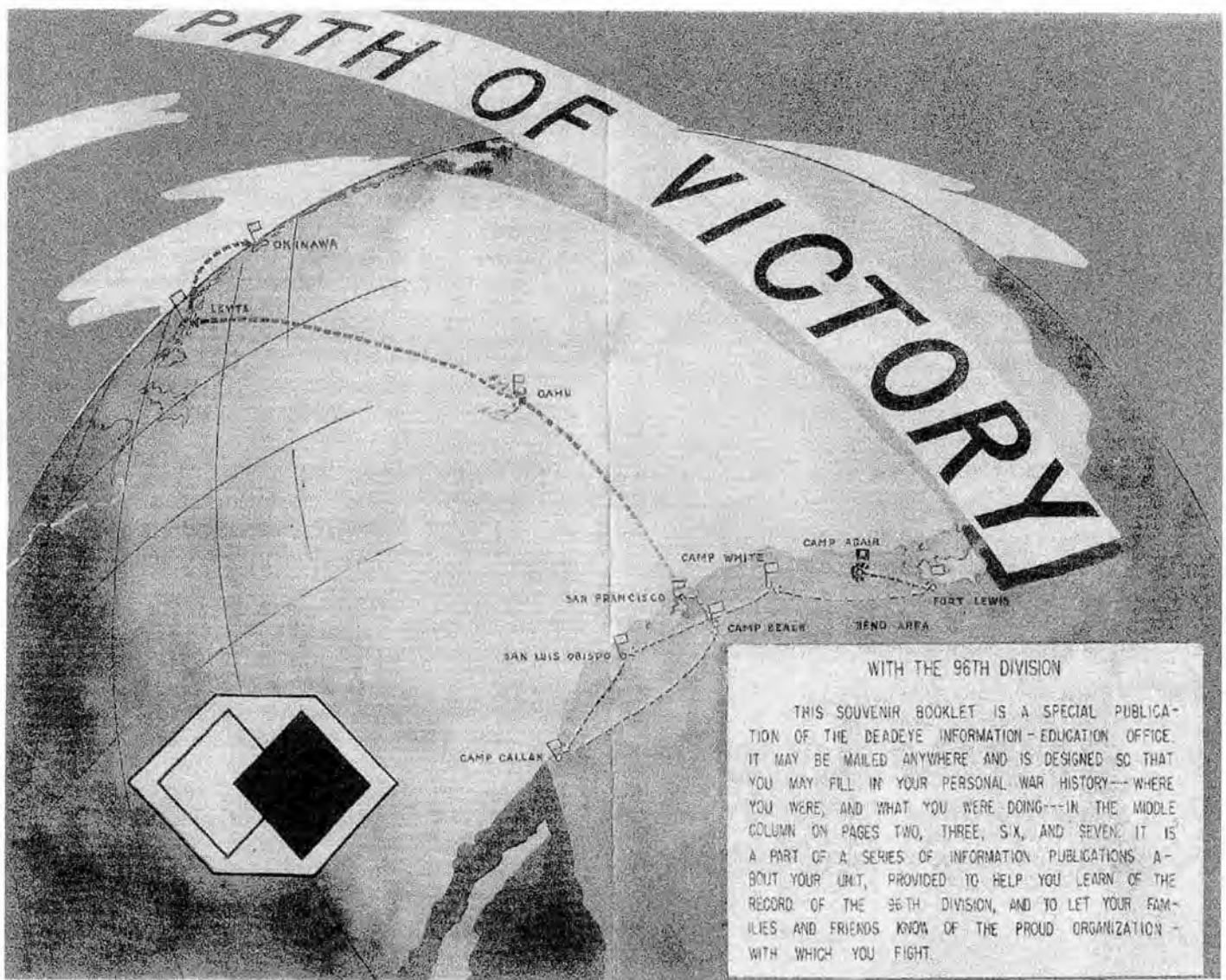
*Heroes are made, not born they say
It was true in the past, and still is today.
For the soldiers and pilots, who fight in the war
We bedeck them with medals, by the score.
But what of the women, who wait at home
Fighting hours of boredom, long nights alone
Being both Father and Mother, to all of their brood
Managing the home, the budget, preparing the food.
Are they not Heroines in every sense of the word?
They suffer in silence, their laments unheard.
Are not these women, of the men gone to war
The unsung heroines, today as before?*

Now as age closes the history book on our veterans of the 96th Infantry Division, we'll no longer hear them visiting at the reunions, retelling the episodes they lived through in the Army, and the battles they fought. Somehow, no matter how rough the circumstances, how sad the losses, they attempt to find a spark of humor somewhere to “lighten the load”. There truly is a bond between them that no one can replace or understand. I urge the families to talk to your veteran now; ask him about his time in service and find out what he went through. There is a space in your family history that you may never be able to fill when he is no longer here. A recent newspaper reported that we are now losing 1,200 World War II men a day; 36,000 a month. The ranks are thinning.

We must always stress Honor, Duty and Country for our veterans and remember to tell them “Thank you for your service”.

As this time of our 48th reunion fades, may memories of our 96th Infantry Division friends and family, always remain in our hearts.....Remember the “Family of the 96th” “Family of the 96th” The 96th.
Thank you and God Bless.





Why Deadeyes

The name of your division-Deadeyes-is a personal tribute to a leader who trained with and lived with and fought with the 96th from its activation until his death by Japanese machine gun fire on Okinawa. His name was Claudius M. Easley, Brigadier General. General Easley's famous method of teaching marksmanship has marked the men of the 96th ever since they began dry firing on the ranges of camp Adair. And the tradition of excellence in firing to kill will remain as a tribute to this leader of men.

General Easley was the Assistant Division Commander from August 1942 until June 19, 1945, the day he was killed. In all the months of soldiering with the division, his vast fund of information and help was given the Deadeyes wherever he found them in his daily trips to the mud-soaked or sun-drenched spots where the doughboys were working or fighting. The memory of this man will forever spur each Deadeye to uphold that nickname by performance worthy of it.

"There is but one thing to come for the Deadeyes: total victory, with unconditional surrender of Japan." - General Easley.





1942

DEADEYES

- Aug 15th Activation ceremonies for the 96th Division at Camp Adair, Oregon.
- Dec Second thirteen-week training period begins.
- 1943
- Feb Col. Macey Dill replaces Col. Paul R. Goode as commanding officer of the 382nd Infantry Regiment.
- Apr Cadre for the 69th Division is selected from the 96th.
- May Division moves from Camp Adair, Ore. to Fort Lewis, Wash.
- to Brig. Gen. Robert Gard replaces Brig. Gen. Paul V. Kane as Division Artillery Commander.
- June Col. Hammond M. Monroe leaves Dead-eyes; Lieut. Col. Charles H. White becomes Chief of Staff.
- July 5th First echelons of 96th arrive in Central Oregon Manuever Area.
- Aug 15th First anniversary of activation celebrated. Ballgame between Deadeyes and Fort Lewis Warriors. Dance at field house with movie stars as entertainers.
- Aug Lieut. Gen. Leslie J. McNair, Army Ground Forces Commander, visits 96th at Camp Adair, where Division rests after "D Series" maneuvers.
- Sep 12th For following seven weeks 75,000 men under Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Patch of IV Corps, practice on Oregon plantcaus.
- Oct Manuevers close.

1942

THE WORLD

- Aug German advance in Russia continues after capture of Sevastapol.
- Nov 7th U. S. and British forces land at many points in French North Africa.
- Nov 13th British Libyan offensive reaches Tobruk, after advance of 320 miles in 23 days.
- 1943
- Jan 23rd Tripoli occupied by British Eighth Army, exactly three months after battle of El Alamein.
- Jan 27th Wilhelmshaven and Emden combed in first raid on Germany by U. S. Air Force.
- Feb Six month battle of Stalingrad, high tide of the Nazi advance into the Soviet Union, ends in Russian victory.
- Mar 17th Gafsa taken by U. S. troops which move on El Guettar and occupy it March 18.
- Apr British and American forces join in Tunisia.
- May Mopping-up operations in Tunisian campaign completed with capture of 150,000 prisoners and large quantities of enemy materiel.
- June Island of Pantelleria, off Sicily, surrenders after intense, two-week air bombardment.
- July 9th U.S., British, and Canadian forces invade Sicily, last stepping stone to Italy.
- July 25th Mussolini is ousted as Italian Premier. Badoglio is appointed to office and declares that "the war goes on".
- Aug Red Army summer offensive nears Orel.
- Aug 15th Allied raids on Milan, Turin, and Naples reach new intensity.
- Sep Six days after initial landings on her soil, Italy surrenders to the Allies. German forces in Italy continue to resist. Allied armies, under command of U. S. Gen Mark Clark, open new drive northward.
- Oct Naples captured.

DEADEYES

Nov 1 st	96 th Division moves by motor convoy to Camp White, Oregon and goes under jurisdiction of the commander of the Fourth Army, Lieut. Gen. W. Simpson.
1944 Feb 15 th	Division transferred from Fourth Army to III Corps.
Mar	Two thousand ASTP's and former air Corps men join the 96 th , as well as 500 inductees.
Apr	Two Infantry regiments move from Camp White to Camp San Luis Obispo, California, for amphibious training. other regiment and Division Artillery move to Camp Callan, California
June	Amphibious training for entire Division is completed.
June 21 st to July 3 rd	Division moves to Camp Beale, California, for final packing and water proofing of equipment.
July 18 th	All elements of 96 th are set up at Camp Stoneman, California, for staging.
July 22 nd -25 th	96 th sails from San Francisco, California.
July 20 th	Arrives in Oahu, Hawaii.
Aug	Extensive jungle training is given.
Sep 2 nd -9 th	Dry run for first operation is held. Practice landings are made on nearby Maui Island.
Sep 15 th	Division sails for Jap-held Yap Island.
Sep 27 th	Yap operation is cancelled, and target is switched to Leyte, P.I.
Oct 5 th - 6 th	Gen. Bradley confers with Lieut. Gen. Walter Krueger, Commanding General of Sixth Army. Receives final orders.
Oct 10 th	Assault troops transfer from transports to LST's.
Oct 11 th	96 th and 7 th Infantry Division of XXIV Corps, with 24 th Infantry Division and 1 st Cavalry Division of the X Corps sail for Leyte Island, in the Phillipines.

THE WORLD

Nov	Red Army liberates German-held Kiev in midst of great winter offensive in Ukraine.
1944 Feb	German attacks on Anzio beachhead repelled by American defenders.
Mar	U.S. Fortresses and British Liberators intensify air war over German. 1100 bombers escorted by 800 fighters burn Berlin.
Apr	Russians push into Czechoslovakia and Rumania.
May 20 th	Cassino falls to Allies.
June 4 th	United States Fifth Army liberates Rome.
June 6 th	D-Day. Allied troops land in Normandy from armada of 4,000 ships, protected by 11,000 aircraft. Operation termed "completely successful" by Supreme Headquarters.
June 15 th	First German robot bombs strike England.
June 19 th	Allied seal off Cherbourg peninsula.
July 27 th	U.S. forces in Normandy break German defense line at Avranches, and begin pursuit of Germans across France.
July 28 th	Plot on Hitler's life foiled.
Aug 8 th	Americans reach Brest after 140 miles dash in five days.
Aug 10 th	Allies in Italy enter Florence.
Aug 16 th	Americans, British, and French troops launch new landings on southern coast of France.
Sep 12 th	Battle of Germany begins as United States First Army penetrates German border near Aachen.
Sep 20 th	Allied First Airborne Army lands in Netherlands.
Sep 23 rd	Red Army enters Sofia, capital of Bulgaria.
Sep 29 th	Finland signs armistice with Russia.
Oct	Red troops cross Danube and near Belgrade, Capital of Yugoslavia.

LEYTE, P. I.

DEADEYES

- Oct. 20th 96th Division lands on Leyte. Attack preceded by overwhelming air and naval bombardment. Initial resistance relatively light.
- Oct 21st to 29th 96th Division breaks resistance in Leyte Valley. Annihilates enemy on Catmon Hill, at San Vicente, Tabontabon, Dagami, and Kiling.
- Nov The Deadeye Dispatch, 96th Division Newspaper, first published. Hits front lines on November 5th for continuous run until present time.
- Nov 2nd Battle of Dagami Heights is begun. Deadeyes attack crack Japanese 16th Division positions in mountains west of town of Dagami.
- Nov 4th Jap counterattack repelled. 250 attackers killed.
- Nov 3rd to 7th Jap 16th Division retreats in disorder before Deadeye guns. Over 2500 of enemy slaughtered. Japs had been ordered to hold positions so that a counteroffensive could be launched in mid-November.
- Nov 27th 96th has "preview of things to come" when it advanced up ridge in hills northwest of Dagami, using flamethrowers, tanks, and artillery to aid infantry in push.
- Dec 3rd Deadeyes advance 1000 yards over difficult terrain and destroy 300 Japanese.
- Dec 6th Enemy paratroops land at airfield near Burauen. 96th assists 11th Airborne Division in extermination of enemy in this locale.
- Dec 25th Island of Leyte declared "secure".
- Beer arrives for all troops!
- Jan Patrolling of hills continues throughout month of January and into mid-February.
- Total Japanese killed on Leyte by 96th Division stands at 7341.

THE WORLD

- Oct 25th First Army takes Aachen.
- Nov 7th Germans driven from Schelde Estuary, last stronghold in Belgium.
- Dec 16th Counterattack through Ardennes Forest by Germans stops month-old Allied Drive.
- Dec 28th Allies halt German advance, and begin great counteroffensive.
- 1945
- Jan 14th Warsaw liberated as Red Army offensive clears Germans from Poland.
- Jan 16th German forces in Ardennes bulge in full retreat before American drive.
- Feb 4th President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and Marshal Stalin meet at Yalta to plan final defeat of Germany and the peace to come.
- Mar 4th U.S. Ninth Army drives to Rhine, lays shellfire on Cologno and Duesseldorf.
- Mar 10th Elements of U. S. First Army capture Ludendorff Bridge, cross Rhine, and enter Remagen.
- Mar 16th Industrially rich Searland cut off by American Third and Seventh Armies. First Army breaks out of Remagen Bridgehead and streaks for Ruhr.
- Mar 25th From seven beachheads across Rhine, six U. S. and British armies plunge through collapsing German defense in final battle for Reich.
- Mar 29th At Lippstadt, 75 miles beyond Rhine, American First and Ninth Armies Join forces to seal off Germany's industrially important Ruhr. Montgomery 100 miles beyond Rhine. Patton 25 miles farther still.
- Soviets spring surprise offensive out of Hungary, sprint toward Vienna.



BATTLE OF OKINAWA

DEADEYES

- April 1st 96th lands on Okinawa.
- Apr 11th Attack on Kakazu Ridge begun.
- April 20th Deadeyes reach top of Tombstone Ridge.
- Apr 28th Nip line broken by 96th. Highest ground on island taken.
- May 16th Conical Hill ascended.
- May 17th Deadeyes take Dick Hill.
- May 18th 96th battles for Yonabaru.
- May 22nd Shuri defense line cracked by 96th! 800 yard advance made and record 1029 Japs killed by Division.
- June 5th Col. May, 383rd Inf. Commander, killed.
- June Yuza-Dake, Yaeju-Dake Hill Masses taken.
- June 21st Brig. Gen. Cladius M. Easley, Assistant Division Commander, killed on front lines.
- June 24th Victory on Okinawa Day. Mopping-up continues.
- Total Japs killed by 96th on Okinawa as of July 4 reaches 31,780.

One of the big guns of Deadeye Artillery sends the Okinawa Japs a noisy present...



Medica and doughfect of a front line company, take a break on the Island of Okinawa.

THE WORLD

- Apr 1st Patton's tanks race toward Berlin.
- Apr 4th 110,000 Germans sealed off in Ruhr.
- Apr 11th 9th U. S. Army takes Hanover.
- Apr 12th President Roosevelt died.
- Apr 19th Gen. Patton's 3rd Army reaches border of Czechoslovakia.
- Apr 24th Soviet Army enters heart of Berlin.
- Apr 25th 3rd and 7th Armies reach Danube River.
- Apr 27th U.S. and Russian Armies make juncture in Czechoslovakia.
- May 1st Allies in Italy capture Venice, Turin, and Milan.
- May 2nd Germans report Hitler dead. Admiral Karl Doenitz takes over.
- May 3rd German forces in Italy surrender to Allies.
- May 4th Hamburg occupied by British troops.
- May 6th Nazi forces in Holland, Denmark, N.W. Germany give up.
- May 8th V-E Day. Germany surrenders to United States, Britain, and Russia.

In Memorium...



“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.

Abbott, Jack – 382 AT
Per R. Triplett – 5/7/04

Adkins, Lawrence –
363 Field Artillery Bn
Per Don Dencker 3/21/05

Baricev, Vojko – 381 Co H
Per Al Weiss – 8/05

Bartlett, Robert – 796 Ord Co
Per Joyce Confer -3/28/05

Batson, Herman - Medic
Per Daughter – 8/04

Bookman, Leroy – per
daughter– Pamela Labinski

Braaten, Milo – 381 Co.H
Per Wife – 10/3/04

Cole, Charles – 381 AT
Per Glendoris – 6/23/05

Conner, Alcee – 382 Co K
Per Joanne Villejoin –
6/25/05

Crabtree, Estel –321st Co C
Per A. Harrell – 4/05

DeLuca, Louis -
381 Cannon
Per D. Haglund 4/4/05

Dowell, Frank – 381 Co I
Per Ed DeWitt 5/1/05

Franklin, William Jr.-383 Co
G Per Son David -6/25/05

Fuhrman, Howard –
Signal Co.
Per G. Lisle – 12/24/04

Hawkins, Arthur –
Per J. Hawkins – 3/28/05

Jack, Charles Jr. –
381 Co. M
Per K. Noble – 11/6/04

Jones, Kenneth –
321st Co. C/Med Btn.
Per A.Harrell – 4/26/05

Jones, Richard –
Per Wife – 1/05

Koretke, Robert – 796 Ord
Per Joyce Confer - 4/12/05

Langlo, Norman– 381 Co F

Massura, John –
383 3rd Bn. Hdq.
Per Howard Bentley – 5/05

McAnally, Howard –
381 Hdq Co. 3rd Btn.
Per Daughter – 10/27/03

Pullen, Carl – 382 Co. F.
Per Brandon Neal – 7/3/05

Rabine, Harold – 361 ART
Per S. Melnyk – 3/05

Roods, Williams –
Per E. Katerberg – 4/3/05

Shinkle, Raymond –
382 Co I – Per PO

Sweeter, Elmer – 383 Co B
Per K. Sinning – 5/9/05

Thorson, Herbert –
362 Field Artillery Btn B
Per Wife – 7/29/04



My former neighbor, **Clarence E. Craft**, was a member of your proud division. He toiled for years as a volunteer in our local VA hospital, and was always there when needed – a true hero to every man who sought treatment in that facility. I first met Mr. Craft while undergoing minor surgery in 1990. When in 1995 I asked him why he didn't at least retire from his long and distinguished career of volunteerism, and take life easier, he said; "How can I retire now? These boys need me now more than ever!" Pretty big words from a man who was accorded our nation's highest military award.

God bless the men of the 96th. My deceased father was a member of First Marine Division at Okinawa, and I spent time on the island as a Navy Corpsman just after the end of the Vietnam War. I spent a little time on Mindoro, as well. Mindoro natives, as I recall, were remarkably friendly. Perhaps they remembered their wartime liberation and lasting friendships with the Deadeyes. God bless all of you. Thanks for the fine webpage.

Robert Leibold of Boston Mountains, Arkansas

Just wanted know about the upcoming Deadeye Reunion in Washington D.C., July 26 – 31. Is it open to the public? I want to meet some of the Deadeyes. My uncle 1st LT Oliver J. Thompson was a forward observer in the 362nd FA, landed on Leyte and Okinawa. He will not be attending due to health reason. Please contact me at bstoline@worldnet.att.net. Thanks. **Ben Stoline from Virginia**

I found the following names marked in my dad's (**Vaughn C. Luebbe**) copy of the history of Deadeyes. He was in M Co. of the 382nd. Apparently these men were some of his buddies who were killed in action. Should any of their descendants see this, hopefully they can take some comfort in the fact that my dad thought a lot of their ancestors. I'd like to hear from anyone knowing these men. **David Autry from Weatherford, OK e-mail: dautry428@sbcglobal.net.**

Medical Detachment on Okinawa;
Vaughn C. Luebbe & R. V. Spiva

MAIL CALL - CONTINUED

Company M on Okinawa:

Raymond C. Dedrick, Ernest E. Johnson, Kenneth C. Reasrick, Lewis D. Smith, Jr., Louis Urrabozo, Jr.

James S. Martin, 383rd Regiment, 1st Battalion Company C. I am unable to attend the 2005 Reunion but would be interested in making contact with other veterans. **James Martin, 2003 Wismer, Oveland Missouri 63114, telephone #1-314-428-1634. e-mail: sandiparsons@charter.net.**

My dad posted the following information regarding his brother about 5 years ago. I just thought I'd see if I could find any new information. I will forward any information. My Brother was **Pfc. Joseph Phillip Cagney**, a member of Company K, 381st, Regiment, 96th Infantry Div. He did his basic training at Camp Fannin, TX. Prior to being assigned to the 96th Division he was an ASTP student at the University of Wisconsin.

On October 29, 1944, he was wounded in the action near Catamon Hill, Leyte. The next day he died of his wounds. He was 20 years old.

On March 25, 1953, my father received a letter from Colonel H.H. Newman, Chief-Demobilized Personnel Records Branch, in which he stated that my brother had been posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He also listed 12 other decorations which Phil had earned. All were forwarded to my family within a matter of days.

I would be most appreciative if anyone with additional information regarding my brother and his combat role. Regards, **Jim Cagney**, e-mail: cshapleigh@madison.k12.wi.us.

Photograph received from the Office of Sgt Major Preston in the Pentagon following the presentation of a plaque to Glendoris Cole. The plaque honored the late MSgt. Charles Cole and Sgt. Andrew Hall as a legacy of Army Service from Grandfather to Grandson serving in Okinawa to Iraq. A proud moment for all who attended the presentation.

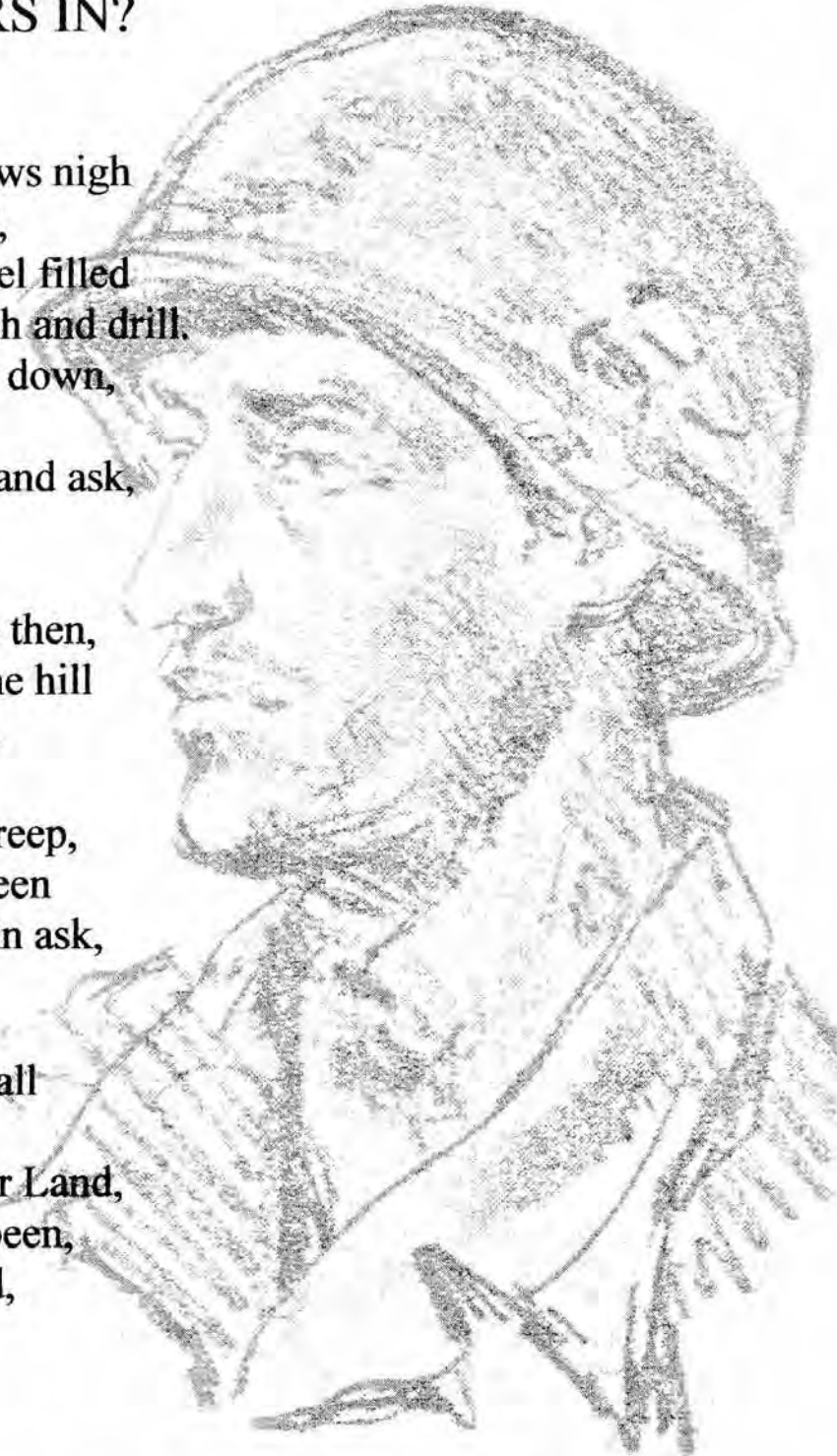


ARE ALL MY SOLDIERS IN?

I think oft times as the night draws nigh
Of a small old camp up on a hill,
Of a drill yard all wide and gravel filled
Where the soldiers went to march and drill,
And when the night at last came down,
Hushing the tiresome dim,
My Captain would look around and ask,
"Are all my soldiers in?"

Tis' many and many a year since then,
And the small old camp up on the hill
No longer echoes to soldier feet,
And the yard is oh, so still
But I see it all, as the shadows creep,
And tho' many the years have been
Since then, I can hear my Captain ask,
"Are all my soldiers in?"

I wonder if, when the shadows fall
On the last short earthly day,
When we step out into that Other Land,
Where my Captain so long has been,
Will we hear him ask, just as old,
"Are all my soldiers in?"

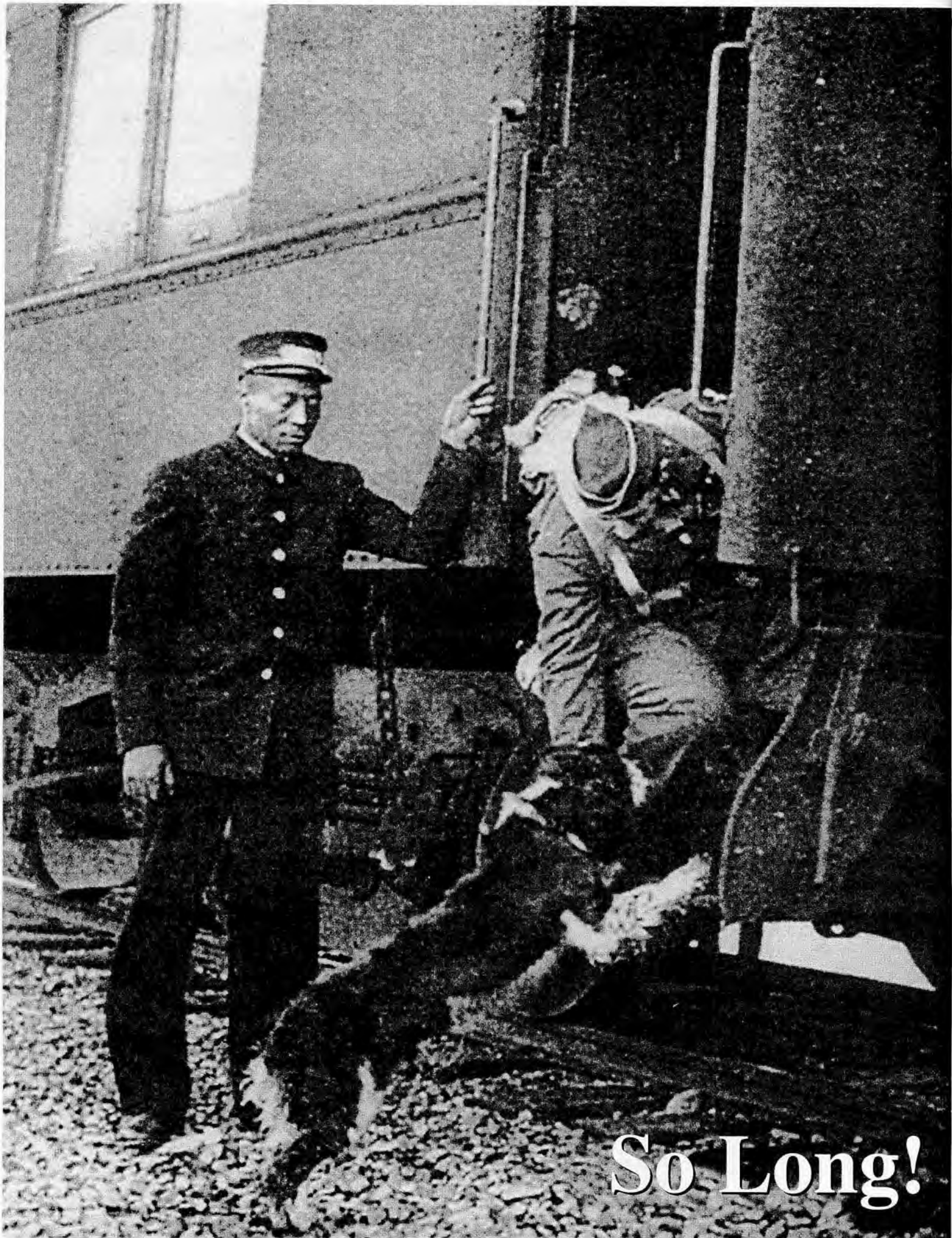


Dedicated to all Company Commanders, past, present and future and especially to Captain Phillip D. Newell,
my company commander on Okinawa in WWII.

Adapted from "Are All The Children IN?"

Adapted by James A. Causey, Company C, 381st Inf. Reg.

96th Infantry Division "The Deadeyes"



So Long!