



Reunion Set in Music City for July, 2008

The 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association is heading to Nashville, Tennessee for the 2008 reunion! This will be the third annual reunion of the new association and the 51st annual gathering for World War II Deadeyes. The dates are July 30-August 2, 2008 and the location is at Holiday Inn Select: Nashville-Opryland/Airport (see page 9 for details).

What better place to share old memories and enjoy great times together? Nashville is one of the country's favorite tourist destinations with plenty to do and see for all ages. So invite your family and friends to join you and then mark your calendars today!

The Holiday Inn Select is located just minutes from Nashville

International Airport and downtown Nashville. Just off Interstate 40, it is ideally located and easy to find. The hotel has an airport shuttle service that operates continuously throughout the day, along with a shuttle service that can easily transport you to the area's big shopping complex, Opry Mills. The Holiday Inn Select has long been a favorite of Armed Forces Reunions and is considered to be very Military/Veteran friendly. Sales Manager Larry Stephenson pledges to make this reunion one of our best ever.

In addition to the well appointed and spacious guest rooms with all

the amenities you'd expect, The Holiday Inn Select has a heated indoor pool, Ivories Nightclub featuring daily entertainment, Jackson's Veranda Restaurant, fitness center, business center and gift shop. Parking is complimentary and there is an Enterprise Car Rental office in the lobby just in case you'd like convenient access to a rental car during your stay.

**Holiday Inn Select
Opryland/Airport
Nashville, Tn

615-883-9770
Larry Stephenson**

The Rates

Armed Forces Reunions has negotiated a very attractive nightly rate of \$99 for Deadeyes attending the reunion. You'll be able to specify whether you'd like a smoking/non-smoking king or double room and there are

ample rooms with handicapped accessibility for your convenience. Refrigerators will be available should you need them, particularly for medical purposes. All the rooms are first rate, but if you're interested in an Executive Level room, these will be available for an additional \$20 per night.

And if you'd like to extend your stay by arriving early or staying after the reunion ends, the hotel has agreed to offer our discounted rate for the three days prior to the reunion and three days after the reunion. This means you can have an extended vacation in Nashville and take advantage of this great rate for the entire period of Sunday, July 26 to Tuesday, August 6.

(Continued on page 9)



**96th Infantry Division
Deadeye Association Reunion**

July 30 - Aug. 2, 2008

Holiday Inn Select
OPRYLAND
2200 Elm Hill Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
615-883-9770

Bronze Star Medals Awarded at Ceremony in Salt Lake

In an impressive ceremony during the 2007 reunion general membership meeting, eighteen 96th Infantry Division veterans were awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Service during their overseas service on

Leyte, Philippines and/or Okinawa, Japan. This award was based upon the award of the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) or Combat Medical Badge (CMB) while fighting the Japanese during world War II.

The Bronze Star Medal was attached to each individual's chest by the Deadeye Association President, MG (Ret) Jim Collins. He was ably assisted by MG Peter Cooke, Commanding General, U.S. Army 96th Regional Readiness Command.

Those receiving the Bronze Star Medal at this ceremony were:

- James Black**
Co. B, 383rd Infantry
- Clairence "Frank" Bolton**
Co. E, 383rd Infantry
- Peter Bourgeois, Jr.**
Co. L, 382nd Infantry
- Ino DeRoss**
Co. F, 382nd Infantry
- William Draper**
Co. E, 381st Infantry
- William Dryer**
Co. H, 381st Infantry
- John Ernst**
Hq. Co., 3rd Bn., 381st Inf.
- Frederick Hagegans, Jr.**
Co. E, 381st Infantry
- Russell Jones**
Co. G, 383rd Infantry

- Ervin Kots**
Co. F, 382nd Infantry
- Alfon Larson**
Co. K, 381st Infantry
- Marvin Margoshes**
Co. C, 382nd Infantry
- Michael Moroz**
Co. L, 382nd Infantry
- Robert Phillips**
Co. C, 382nd Inf. (KIA Okinawa)
Represented by brother, John Phillips
- Glenn Stewart**
Co. K, 383rd Infantry
- Edward "Jaye" Thompson**
Hq. Co., 381st Infantry
- Russell Watts**
Anti-Tank Co., 382nd Infantry
- James "Dick" Young**
Co. L, 382nd Infantry

Later that day, but not attending the Ceremony, these additional men were awarded the Bronze Star Medal:

- Kenneth Dolan**
Co. M, 383rd Infantry
- Louis Fox**
Anti-Tank Co., 382nd Infantry
- Andrew Garber**
Co. K, 382nd Infantry
- Harold Heindel**
Co. C, 382nd Inf. (KIA Okinawa)
Represented by son, Harold Richard Heindel



96th Infantry Bronze Star Recipients

Twenty-eight additional Bronze Star medals, possibly more, will be awarded to qualified Deadeyes unable to attend the reunion. These awards will be mailed to the recipient.

In addition, a Bronze Star Medal Certificate, signed by our President, Jim Collins, is being mailed to all 96th Infantry Division veterans awarded the Bronze Star this fall.

Any additional eligible Deadeye veterans seeking the Bronze Star Medal should in writing contact:

National Personnel Records

Center, Military Records Section, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

For any Deadeyes writing for the Bronze Star, make certain you include documentation of the award of the CIB or CMB. Verification of the award of a CIB or CMB is usually found on the back of the Honorable Discharge in Item 31 or Item 55, War Department Form AG 53-55.

Association President Jim Collins would like to announce a Bronze Star Medal Award Ceremony will also be held at the 2008 reunion.

MAIN STREET NEWSPAPERS
 PO BOX 908
 JEFFERSON, GA 30548

REUNION
 INFORMATION
 LISTED
 HEREIN IS
 FOR
 THE
 96TH
 INFANTRY
 DIVISION

TAPS.....Honoring Those Who Have Gone Before Us



Grover H. Bailey
Sulphur Springs, Texas
Died Sept 27, 2007
Co. B, 383rd Infantry
by wife Arlie Mae Bailey

Willard G. Bollinger
Ft. Collins, Colorado
Captain- Co. F 381st Inf.
March 5, 2007
By daughter, Judy Bollinger

Floyd Harold Brehmer
Madison, MN
Co. K, 381st Inf.
December 9, 2006
By Peter Pohl

Lawrence H. Brown
Midland, Michigan
381st Amph. Combat Reg.
May 30, 2007
By daughter, Claudia M.
Brown

Carlton William Callison
Burlington, Iowa
96th Inf. Div.
July 3, 2007
By Jack Templeton

Russell Colburn Jr.
Baytown, TX
Cannon Company
July 17, 2007
By son Ron Colburn

Dr. A.A. "Gus" Cuthbertson
Elko, NV
96th Calvary Reconnaissance
Troop Mechanized
March 31, 2007
By Doug Burton

Arthur Creason
Hannibal, MO
Co. B, 321st Medical
Battalion
May 15, 2007
By son George Creason

Howard B. Davis, M.D.
West Lafayette, IN
Co. I, 382nd Regiment
December 15, 2005
By wife Barbara B. Davis

Albert C. Flick
Sioux City, Iowa
Co. A, 382nd Infantry
October 23, 2007
by Jon Hittle

Roy Johnson
Mexia, Texas
Battery C, 362nd Field
Artillery Battalion
April 15, 2007
By grandson, Charles Pipes

Eugene J. Knox
Green Bay, WI
Co. M, 382nd Inf.
June 16, 2007
By wife, Patricia;
Also by Jerry Sheller

Ernest R. Kuebler
Fargo, ND
AntiTank Co., 382nd Inf.
2003
By Renwyn Triplett

Arnold Kuester
Prescott Valley, AZ
Co. I, 383rd Infantry
April 23, 2007
By Keith Cochran

Joseph Lankin
Philadelphia, PA
May 31, 2006
By Micki Lankin

Rodney D. "Rod" Larson
Priest River, ID
Co. B, 382nd Infantry
August 6, 2006
By wife, Winnie Larson

John Larvin
Sugarland, Texas
96th Signal Company
June 29, 2007
By son, Thomas Larvin and
Calvin Clements

Robert E. Meyers
Hazel Crest, IL
Service Company, 383rd Inf.
August 27, 2007
By daughter Tina Swingler

Howard Miles
Princeton, Illinois
381st Infantry
March 21, 2007
By wife, Cordelia Miles

James G. Mills
Calhoun, MO
362nd Field Artillery Bn.
Feb. 20, 2007
By wife, Betty Mills

Paul Leon Newton
Haskell, TX
Co. C, 381st Reg.
November 27, 2006
By wife, Lisa Newton

Chester C. "Pete" Peterson
Medford, OR
Co. I, 381st Infantry
May 25, 2007
By wife, Marjorie
Via Dick Haglund

Gerald E. Peterson
Tower, Minnesota
August 14, 2007
By Peter Pohl

Jerry Regentik
Dearborn, Michigan
Headquarters Co., 381st Inf.
April 11, 2007
By daughter, Karen Regentik

Cleo Richards
Lubbock, Texas
96th Signal Company
April 1, 2006
By Calvin Clements

Charles Ronzio
383rd Infantry
April 15, 2007
By wife, Rose Ronzio

L. B. Stansell
Oklahoma City, OK
Co. B, 321st Engineer Combat
Battalion
Late May 2007
By Arvey Buettner

Gerald W. Stewart
Benson, Arizona
Co. B, 383rd Inf.
Aug. 26, 2007
By son, Steven Stewart

Anna Mae Stinnett
Rock Island, IL
June 26, 2007
By daughter, Bib Wittge

Charles W. Sweetwood
Boise, Idaho
3rd Battalion Hq. Co.,
382nd Inf.
Died June 3, 2007
By son, David Sweetwood

Juan M. Valle
San Antonio, TX
361st Field Artillery Battalion
April 4, 2006
By daughter, Alma Rosa
Beghtol

Fletcher R. Veach, Jr.
San Antonio, Texas
Cannon Co., 382nd Inf..
October 13, 2007
By daughter Sharon

Fredric Byron Welch J. (Maj.)
Cincinnati, OH
383rd Inf.
January 22, 2006
By daughter, Barbara B Welch
and wife, Patricia

Wesley T. Wellander
Turlock, California
July 11, 2007
Co. E, 383rd Inf.
by Richard Haglund



The Deadeye Dispatch

Official Publication of the
**96th Infantry Division
Deadeye Association**
• Fall, 2007 Edition •

Executive Committee

James P. (Jim) Collins, MGR
President

Thomas E. (Tom) Roby
Past President

Harriet Nichols
Secretary

D. Michael (Mike) McCafferty
Treasurer

See Page 10 for complete
contact information for all board
members

Submit info to the Dispatch

For stories, letters, Taps, etc.
Scott Buffington
c/o MainStreet Newspapers
PO Box 908
Jefferson, GA 30549
706-367-5233
scott@mainstreetnews.com

Update your Address

For changing your address
Ms. Cindy Otis
580 Commonwealth Ave.
#105
Boston, MA 02215
801-376-1198
sassy.cindy@gmail.com

Join the
Deadeyes!
See page 10 for
information.

How to submit a name for Taps

Our Taps information comes from a variety of sources, including emails, notes from family and friends and returned mail from the U.S. Postal Service. We apologize for any information that may be incorrect or incomplete.

To submit a name for Taps, please contact one of the following:

Scott Buffington
Email: scott@mainstreetnews.com
PO Box 908
Jefferson, GA 30549
Phone: 706-367-2485

Don Dencker
Email: dizzydon@aol.com
128 N. Musket Ridge Dr
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
Phone: 608-837-7479

Glendoris Cole
Email: glen96th@aol.com
1323 Park Avenue #18
Canon City, CO 81212
Phone: 719-269-3822



Reunion 2007... Salt Lake City, Utah

We Missed You in Salt Lake City!

*Dennis & Diane (Knutson)
O'Brien (daughter of Karel
Knutson (361 F.A. Bn. B. Btry)*

There were many smiling faces missing from the 96th Deadeyes reunion this year. We hope that this was caused by other schedule conflicts and not health issues. Mark your calendar now for the 2008 reunion for the last week in July in Nashville, TN. Your Spring Deadeye Dispatch will have details.

We recently had the honor of attending the reunion of the 96th Infantry Division in Salt Lake City. This is the third consecutive year that we have accompanied my parents on this venture (Arlington, Denver, and now Salt Lake City). Each year we have developed a deeper friendship and kinship with the 96th Division.

The camaraderie among these vets is amazing. For us, learning about the past helps keep this memory alive.

In 2004 I was honored to join my father (Karel Knutson-96th Infantry Division Deadeyes) on a trip to Okinawa. The beaches, museums and cemeteries we visited, as well as the battle areas, gave me a most thorough exposure to what happened in the invasions of 1944 and 1945. I really understand so much more of what my father and his fellow soldiers went through. Each year at the reunions I am delighted to hear them telling more stories and memories.

Because so many of the vets are now gone or no longer able to



guide the way, thousands of us are finding other ways to connect. Emotional reunions like the one held here for the 96th Division is one route. Maybe our generation is realizing now what great things this generation did for the world, and we realize there's not a lot of time left to gather up that part of history firsthand. I believe that the offspring of World War II veterans are the caretakers of their parents' memories. When the 96th held its first reunion in 1958, almost all who attended were vets.

Of the vets who attended last month's reunion, several were in wheelchairs or ambling with walkers and canes. The new Deadeye Association is still alive and well and we hope to perpetuate this legacy through the 96th Division RRC. We encourage all vets and their families to join in honoring and supporting the past and present 96th Division.

We hope to see you again in 2008.

Ladies' Luncheon Stirs Memories

By Selma Koontz

The 2007 Ladies Luncheon was attended by family, friends, children and grandchildren of the 96th Infantry Division. We enjoyed the salad buffet - a perfect choice for a group spanning eighty or so years.

Our speaker for this occasion was Flourilee Millsaps. She gave a synopsis with comments about a book of the memories of a young Japanese girl and the hardships the bombing of Pearl Harbor brought to the lives of her family during the war years.

Ms. Millsaps' account stirred memories of the stunning disbelief and fear that surrounded my family. Outside communication in our home was by radio and a weekly newspaper; the news hour was given total attention, listening with absolute silence.

My sister, Betty, and I recall evenings sitting on the steps of our grandmother's house listening to our father and a neighbor discuss the terrible news of invasion after invasion, defeat after defeat, and death.

Newspaper headings and newsreel accounts at the local theatre were splashed across the screen:

Dec. 7 Hawaii.... The burning of ships, the wounded, the dead

Dec. 7 Wake Island attacked, the US Air Station

Dec. 7-8 Thailand, Japan troops invade

Dec. 8 Guam invaded and surrenders

Dec. 8 Singapore attacked; also airfields in northern Malay

Dec. 10 Philippines bombed - US Naval Station in Manila flattened

Dec. 10-17 Japanese forces land on Luzon (Philippines). American B-17 pilot and crew sink a Japanese ship - then plane shot down - six crew members parachute safely.

Dec. 12 Two British Battle Cruisers and four destroyers sunk off Kota Bharu, Malay

Dec. 22 Philippines main invasion by 43,000 Japanese troops

Dec. 23 Wake Island fell following fierce fighting; 122 US forces die

Dec. 23 Gen. MacArthur began pullback of all forces on Luzon into Bataan

Dec. 23 Japan launched Burma campaign by bombing Rangoon, the Capital and port

Dec. 29 This day marked six days of bombing; the population



of Rangoon had fallen from 400,000 to 150,000.

Jan. 6 Most of MacArthur's army had crossed the river into Bataan. The 15,000 American troops and 65,000 Filipino troops began to dig in.

Jan. 8 Today, I am 9 years old - my birthday is on the 32nd day of WWII.

Ms. Millsaps concluded her talk by graciously inviting her audience to make remarks or to ask questions; thank you. Also, appreciation and thanks are extended to the 96th Infantry Deadeye committees for the planning and hard work. Your efforts were visible by the success of all the events of the entire reunion.

Selma Koontz
2204 North Lake Trail
Denton, TX 76207



Ann Moroz, along with her fiance, Andrew Duncan, would like to thank the former members of the ladies auxiliary and friends for the surprise bridal shower held Saturday morning at the reunion in Salt Lake City in 2007. Also known as Marjorie Main, Ann was thoroughly surprised and thankful for all of the gracious gifts, recipes and well wishes. A February wedding is being planned, with her niece Nikki Allen as maid of honor. This was Andy's first reunion, and both Ann and Andy would like to bring Andy's twin girls to next year's reunion.

96th Infantry Division Deadeye Assn. 2007 Reunion Roster

Hank Armstrong
Collene Armstrong
Joseph Becky
Anita Becky
Jim Black
Ruth McKibbin Black
Peter Bourgeois
Betty Bourgeois
John Boyack
Joe Boyack
Herman Buffington
Helen Buffington
Robert Burns

Doug Burton
Thelma Burton
Louis Canedo
Orville Caspers
Bernice Caspers
Susan Caspers Shanks
Bob Shanks
Parker Shanks
Nicholas Shanks
Calvin Clements
Selma Clements Koontz
Betty Clements Thornton
Jim Collins

Bob Cronshey
Terry Daly
Jayne Daly
Don Dencker
Lyn Dencker
Kim Dencker
Ino De Ross
Martha DeRoss
Bill Dryer
Florine Dryer
Carol Dryer Schmidt

(Please turn to page 4)



Reunion 2007... Salt Lake City, Utah

The piping of El Jebel enjoyed again at '07 reunion

The El Jebel Shrine Pipe Band was honored to play at the Memorial Service for the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association in Salt Lake City. The El Jebel Pipe Band (out of Denver, Colorado) has the longest tenure of any pipe band in Colorado. The members of the band traveled to Salt Lake City at their own expense in hopes of letting the men that fought so bravely during WWII know that we will always be in their debt for their sacrifices. The freedoms that we so enjoy today were forged by the courage of those men and women, like yourselves, that answered the call to arms against tyranny and oppression.

Under the leadership of Pipe Major Tom Johnson and Drum Major Kent Burns, the El Jebel Pipe Band remains a military

band. The bagpipes are still considered a "weapon of war" in the United Kingdom and are locked away in the armory with the other weapons when not being played. The bagpipes are the only instrument that can be heard over the sound of battle. During WWI, the Germans referred to the pipers of the famed Black Watch Regiment as the "Ladies from Hell" not only because of the kilts they wore, but also for the fearlessness they possessed. The pipers were the first men out of the trenches. They marched ahead of the other troops with only a set of bagpipes in their hands marching steadfastly into the face of enemy fire. Their courage brought out the best in the men that followed them into battle.

A form of the instrument has a long history dating back . . . as

some historians might argue . . . to 400 BC in Thebes. Today, when the word "bagpipe" is used, most think of the Great Highland Bagpipes such as the ones we played in Salt Lake City. The haunting drone of the pipes, blended with the beat of drums, stirs many a man's soul. A degree of reverence fills the air when the pipes and drums play "Amazing Grace" and "Highland Cathedral" as the band played at your service.

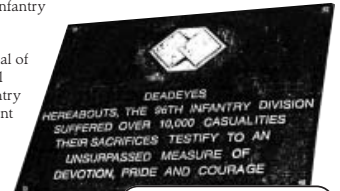
During the latter part of the nineteenth and into the twentieth century, the police forces of New York City and Chicago were largely made up of those of Irish descent. It became the custom for pipers to play at the funerals of those officers who had passed on.



Heritage Fund Monument Appeal

A sincere "Thank You" is given to all who to date have contributed to the Heritage Fund Monument Appeal. You have brought the 96th Infantry

Division Deadeye Association half way to our goal of placing a beautiful Granite 96th Infantry Division Monument adjacent to the Walk of Honor at the new National Infantry Museum located in Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia.



Our Battle Monument on Okinawa

What we need now is Six significant \$500 donors, plus the continued support of those who can only give smaller amounts. We want to have our monument completed by the Columbus Monument Company, installed at our imposing site, and ready for the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association Dedication Ceremony in late summer or early fall 2008.

A significant Donor's contribution of \$500 or more will be honored by the placement near our monument of a memorial brick which recognizes the donor's generosity. The brick will bear the donor's name and hometown or military unit. Should memorial bricks not be available, other recognition of the significant gift will be provided.

The monument will have text honoring the memory of our comrades killed on Leyte, Philippines and Okinawa, Japan and all Deadeyes who fought with valor and distinction to defeat Imperial Japan. The monument will also have in color inscribed in granite our double diamond patch, the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Please make your check payable to: 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association, with the notation: Heritage Fund Monument. Mail to: Jim Black, Treasurer, 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association, P.O. Box 581254, Salt Lake City, UT 84158

Amount: \$500.00 or _____
 Name _____
 Unit _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

2007 Reunion Roster... continued from prior page

Bill Dryer - Nick Schmidt, Grandson
 Bill Dryer - Bill Schmidt, Grandson
 Beverly Emmons
 Jodi Emmons
 Lydia Jo Ayveta - granddaughter of the late Ray Emmons
 Aaron Ayveta - grandson of the late Ray Emmons
 John & Alma Ernst, two guests
 Quinn Eskelsen
 Louis & Mildred Fox, 4 guests
 Joe & Jill Gonzales
 Orrie Gruwell and guest
 Fred Hagelgans
 Henry & Mary Lou Haynes, 2 guests
 Val Heinrich
 Bev Heinrich McAdams
 Ron & Bette Hirst
 Russell & Gretchen Jones, 12 children and grandchildren
 Roman (Don) Klimkowicz, son, Clyde
 Karel & Delores Knutson
 Denise Knutson O'Brien
 Dennis O'Brien, son-in-law of Val Heinrich
 Alfion Larson, guest
 James Madison
 Mike Moroz
 Elsie Moroz
 Ann Moroz
 Andy Duncan-guest of Mike Moroz
 Dee Dee Moroz Allen
 Randy Allen
 Nicole Allen - granddaughter of Mike Moroz
 Matt Allen - grandson of Mike Moroz
 Liz Moroz Harper

Danny Harper - grandson of Mike Moroz
 Mike Harper - Grandson of Mike Moroz
 Jack Phillips - brother of deceased Roy Phillips
 Justin Phillips - grandson of Jack Phillips
 Josh Phillips - grandson of Jack Phillips
 Margaret Rhodes - sister of deceased Charles (Dusty) Rhodes
 Tom Roby
 Earnestine Roby
 Rick Roby
 Ann Roby
 Carla Roby
 Carmen Roby - granddaughter of Tom Roby
 Barb Schmidt - daughter of Bob Schmidt
 Jim Pearson - son-in-law of Bob Schmidt
 Bob Siefert
 Rut Siefert
 Glenn Stewart
 Rita Stewart
 Raymond Strenski
 Pat Strenski
 Mary Van Handel - friend of Ray and Pat Strenski
 Jerry Van Handel - friend of Ray and Pat Strenski
 Jaye Thompson
 Florence Thompson
 Harriet Nichols - neice of Oscar Vickers
 John Wargo
 Carole Wargo
 Russell Watts
 Rachael Watts Mushroft -

daughter of Russell Watts
 Becky Watts Shumaker - daughter of Russell Watts
 Al Weiss
 Kelly Wong
 Sam Wood, Sr.
 Sam Wood, Jr.
 Mary Eleanor Wood Smith
 Helen Partridge - friend of Sam Wood family
 Dick Young
 Mary Young
 Ron Croft - son of deceased Glenn Croft
 B. Croft - son of deceased Glenn Croft
 Whitney Champagne
 Edward DeWitt
 Guest of Edward DeWitt
 William Draper
 James Leeureaux
 Charlotte Morrisey
 Gretchen wall
 Pam Bates
 Andrew Garber
 Ronald Grumell
 Russell Hamm
 Edwin Hamm
 John Kilpatrick
 Gretchen Wall
 Richard Deindell
 Mike McCafferty
 Mrs. McCafferty
 Roger Livingston
 Amelia Bourne - RRC - Family Services
 Specialist Angela Mettler - friend of Margaret Rhodes
 Col. Brock McLean - RRC
 Lt. Tongolea - RRC
 General Peter Cooke



Reunion 2007... Salt Lake City, Utah

2007 Deadeye Memorial Service

Presented on July 28, 2007 at the Deadeyes Reunion in Salt Lake City, UT by Glenn Stewart (383rd – Co. K)



Glenn Stewart

July is famous for three events: First, the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association has its annual reunion the last week of July. Second, the Fourth of July, of course and third, my granddaughter has her birthday on July 4 every year.

My thoughts today will be presented in the form of three vignettes. The first goes all the way back to the first July 4 in 1776 when that bunch of young revolutionaries signed the Declaration of Independence. But do you know "The rest of the story"?

Several of the signers went on to become President of the United States of America. Two of these Presidents, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, had a relationship that spanned over a half-century as political allies and adversaries. They ended as good friends with mutual respect in spite of their philosophical differences. They went many good years with absolutely no communication whatsoever because of their strong differences. But from 1812 to 1826, Adams and Jefferson exchanged 158 letters, mostly recounting the achievements of the revolutionary generation. This appears to be the most impressive dialogue between statesmen in American history.

This extended series of letters during the latter years of their lives should give us hope during these difficult days of fractured political division and divisive opinions.

These two statesmen died hours apart on July 4, 1826, on the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence!

The second vignette was inspired by the one sung so nicely by the Payson Civic Choir – "My Buddy." I would like to tell about "my buddy." I had several really close buddies in the third platoon of K Co., 383rd, only two are here this year: Herm Buffington and Ray (Doc)

Strenski, our medic. But I have in mind a fella I met in basic training, Stevie. Anyone familiar with the military would know that Stevenson and Stewart were bound to spend a lot of time in close proximity. The military does everything alphabetically. Suffice it to say we spent a lot of time together during basic.

When we got back from our delay-in-route at Fort Ord, there was Stevie. We railed up to Seattle to our P.O.E., boarded a Victory ship and headed overseas. We stopped at Hawaii for four days with sightseeing in mind – two days of incoming quarantine and two days of outgoing quarantine took care of that! Diamond Head was beautiful from the ship.

On to Saipan where we bivouacked for six to eight weeks, waiting for the army's timetable to roll into place. Stevie and I shared a two-man tent, shared those great helmet-full-of-water showers, and when things got dull, wandered into the sugar cane field and whacked off a piece with our bayonets. Back on board ship and heading east. We had a beautiful sunrise service Easter morning on the bow of the ship on April 1, totally unaware that some of you were already doing a beach landing on Okinawa. On April 12, we arrived off the coast of Okinawa. As we waited for breakfast, we heard the strains of "Home on the Range," announcing the

death of our Commander-in-Chief, President Franklin D. Roosevelt. After breakfast, we locked up our duffle bags and down the rope ladders we went. There may have been more than one shipfull of replacements for the four army divisions on Okinawa. When the dust settled and our 90 that joined K Co., 383rd, 96th Inf., here were Stevie and Stewart. Then the specific assignments were made and Stevie and Stewart ended up in the 3rd squad of the 3rd platoon of K Co. Stevie got the BAR and I became second scout behind Herm Buffington. In a few weeks, Herm got wounded and I got "promoted" to first scout. Early in June, Stevie took a mean hit. A shot tore through his right thigh and took a chunk of his femur with it. Four of us got him out of the line of fire, put him on a stretcher and loaded him on a tank. We said a prayer and wished him a speedy recovery. It actually took 13 surgeries and 18 months before he could be discharged and secure employment with California's Department of Veteran Affairs. But the story of recovery is an important part of Stevie being "My Buddy." He went back to Guam for initial hospitalization and flew out of Guam in late August to California to Dibble Army Hospital in Menlo Park, CA. I got a note from him while we were on Mindoro and found out where he was. This hospital was just 6-7 miles from my home. Of course, I wrote my Mom and Dad and they were able to visit Stevie on my behalf.

Come February, 1946, my sister was ready to get married and I was 6,000 miles away. I couldn't really expect her to wait. After all, her fiancée had landed at Nichols Air Force base, just outside of Manila in late November, 1941. Poor timing. He was on Corregidor, the Bataan Death March and 3 years as a POW at Cabanatuan. By the time he got liberated and restored to health, it was time they got married. So my parents asked Stevie to sit in my place at my sister's wedding – that's my buddy.

Stevie spent his career working for The State of California, just 120 miles from my home. He and his wife, Margaret, have only been able to attend one reunion, in 1999 in Denver. Their health just won't let them travel. We stay in touch by phone, visits to Sacramento, letters and Christmas cards. I love to address mail to Stevie because his full name is Robert Louis Stevenson. But no, he's not the author of "Treasure Island," Stevie is my buddy!!

In this vignette, I will skip through my own military career like a flat rock on a smooth lake.

While a senior in high school, I passed the exam that qualified me for ASTP or V12 (Navy). I responded by having my Enlisted Reserve card in my pocket with Army serial number when I received my high school diploma. June 30, 1943, I received travel orders to proceed to Bozeman, Montana to attend Montana State College. When semester grades came out in late October, I had two 68's in physics and analytical geometry. I had to have 70s or better in all classes to stay in school. There was a silver lining to this – I was dumb enough to flunk out, but smart enough to still be 17. They could not send me to basic but had to send me home and send my records to Washington, D.C. This saved me nine months of Army time because my next set of orders were dated July 20, 1944 to report to the Presidio of Monterey for duty July 31, 1944. I reviewed each of these orders to active duty and found they originated with "Headquarters, Ninth Service Command, Fort Douglas, Utah! Sixty-three years later, I completed the circle and am speaking at Fort Douglas, Utah.

Basic training was at Camp Roberts, California, about a three hour train ride from home and I managed to be home about 14 of 17 weekends. Let's skip through basic to the 10-day delay-in-route that enabled us to be home for Christmas, 1944. Our training Captain delayed issuing the DIR

as he said "for some of you, this may be your last Christmas at home." He was right.

December 27 was departure day and time for father and son to say goodbye. Dad knew better what was ahead than I did. He had served in the 148th Field Artillery Battery F, 3rd Army in WWI and participated in five of the twelve major battles involving U.S. troops in WWI and spent one year in the occupation of Germany. Dad did not have a speech about the do's and don'ts of Army life, he just went to his handkerchief box, pulled out a New Testament and said "Glenn, this Testament, with Psalms, brought me through WWI. Read it every day – emphasize reading the 91st Psalm and bring it home to me. End of speech.

I followed Dad's advice. I developed a habit to read the testament or psalms each evening after our team finished digging the foxhole. This worked for several weeks during combat. One evening, however, I reached into the pocket and found nothing! I eventually discovered all the stitches in the bottom of the left breast pocket had been ripped out. I recalled that day had been an unusual day. Our platoon had been ordered to approach the enemy as silently as possible – no twig snaps, no leaves rustling, so we got into a nearby stream filled almost waist high and proceeded. You will recall it rained occasionally out there and the streams did not lack for water. Somehow in the course of the day's events, I cut all the stitching out of that pocket. A request for a replacement was placed through the supply section and in a very short time, the Red Cross sent me a New Testament with Psalms and I resumed my regular reading.

(Please turn to page 7 to see the conclusion of Glenn Stewart's Memorial Service presentation.)



Reunion 2007... Salt Lake City, Utah

Deadeyes in "Pioneers Day" Parade

**One Wonderful Parade.
Two Wonderful Stories.**

Story 1...

By Mary Eleanor Wood Smith

The registration forms for the 2007 reunion in Salt Lake City included the option to sign up to be in a parade the day before the reunion started. I've enjoyed being at many Parades, but I was never in one. I thought it would be fun, so I signed up. It turned out to be an exciting, delightful experience.

Pioneers Day is an annual holiday in Utah, celebrating the July 24, 1847 arrival of the Mormon party led by Joseph Smith. There are many parades in Utah that day, including one in Salt Lake City. I had no idea of what to expect until I woke up that morning. From the local news on TV, I learned that it is the third largest parade in the U.S., and that many folks camp out overnight along the route to get good locations. The 96th Reserve sent vans to pick us up at the hotel.

We arrived at the staging area, amid floats and marchers, ... and stopped next to two Army trucks, with banners on the sides.

We were given the choice to stay in the air-conditioned vans for the parade, or climb a ladder into a truck. Several of us, with some families, decided on the truck. The Army provided bottled water to help stave off the heat, and being on a truck turned out to be a good choice.

For a while, we had little to do but get to know the soldiers in the truck, and to look around at others who were also waiting their turn to step off.

Horses pulling, and horses ridden ... and marchers from the 96th RRC. Even time for a photo of someone in the other truck taking a photo of us. Floats.

Finally, it was time to move out behind the soldiers of the 96th RRC.

Look at the size of the crowd! And it seemed like the street led on forever. We finally reached a turn, and the next street went on and on. As did the crowds.

My guess is that the route was at least three miles, maybe more.



Along the whole route, there were loudspeakers to tell them that we were WW II vets from the 96th, who fought in the Philippines and on Okinawa. People stood up, cheered, and applauded.

We waved back till our arms got tired, then switched arms and waved some more.

There were others waving as well.

Story 2...

By Helen Partridge

It was with great anticipation and excitement that I looked forward to the Pioneers' Day parade on Tuesday at the 96th Infantry Division Reunion. I might get to ride on a truck. Visions of military parades of the past floated in my mind. They were always exciting to me and I could pick out my Dad as he marched in front of his unit. My heart

would swell with pride.

I opted to sit with some of the Deadeyes on the sidelines and watch the parade. We all found seats as best as we could. I sat on the road and a man behind me hollered, "You can't sit there. I have been here since early morning." I was a little hot and tired of trying to find a seat.

(Continued on page 7)



Reunion 2007... Salt Lake City, Utah

Grandchildren provide fun at Beer Bust

A typical 16-year-old girl doesn't spend her free time downloading show tunes in preparation for performing for a WWII veterans' reunion; likewise, a typical 15-year-old boy doesn't usually pack a bikini top and grass skirt for his summer vacation. However, that's just what Nikki Allen and her first cousin Mike Harper did.

The dynamic duo performed two numbers during the beer bust - the first a sultry song called "Steam" from "The Pajama Game", a popular musical from 1957. Nikki, who loves to sing, loves to bring a smile to the faces of her Pop-Pop, Mike Moroz (382nd, Company L) and his friends. Her song showcased a beautiful voice and then finished with an energetic swing dance with cousin, Mike Harper.



Next came 12-year-old Dan Harper and cousin Matt Allen, who just turned 13, reenacting Abbott & Costello's famous skit, "Who's on First?" This truly was a crowd pleaser with everyone joining in by the end of the skit. "I don't know - THIRD BASE!" The final selection was "Honey Bun" from "South Pacific". Nikki sang to Mike who played up his part in

a hot pink bikini top and grass skirt - to the delight of the audience who enjoyed a hearty laugh. Just in case you are wondering how these kids lost their stage fright, all four of these grandchildren have performed for years in an amateur Ukrainian folk dancing group in Dallas, Texas. Their involvement in a dance group came from their mothers, Liz Harper and DeeDee Allen (for-

merly part of the "Andrew Sisters" act also enjoyed at recent Deadeye reunions). Nikki, Mike, Matt and Dan have also studied music in school, and Nikki is part of a dance team in her middle school as well as a separate co-ed dance team. They are thrilled to have the opportunity to get to know many WWII veterans and to add to the festivities of the Deadeye reunions.



Parade... Continued from page 6

I slid over just a bit. A lady with her grandson sat in chairs behind me. "Don't pay him no mind. He has been hollering all morning. You stay where you are." I explained that I was going to be in the parade, but had decided to watch with some others. I was here with the veterans of the 96th Infantry Division. So was she!! There in the middle of the heat, noise, and crowd we hugged each other like old friends. A military bond that stretched over the generations. The floats and marching bands were wonderful. I played the clarinet in my high school band. Those children looked as hot, tired, and as proud as I remember feeling, BUT the greatest things were yet to come..... The parade commentator near us announced that the 96th Infantry Division was next. Rows and rows of soldiers,

male and female, young and old passed by. As if we all had the same thought at the same time, the crowd rose together and cheered the soldiers; some waved American flags, others saluted, others stood in respect. The crowd was going wild. I thought my heart would burst. I cried for the soldiers who had fallen long ago and those more recently. I prayed for safety for those who were serving. I thanked those who were near. An Army vehicle followed the soldiers. I waved and waved for my friend, Mary Eleanor Wood Smith, "Sis" to see me. Our eyes met and Army pride traveled between two "Army Brats" who had been friends for 35 years. As I laid my head down that night I again prayed for those who guard my safety throughout the world. I was very thankful.

Message Board Request

I am still trying to qualify for the Combat Infantry Badge and Bronze Star award. I was with the 96th throughout my Army career, 1943-1946 and took part in the invasions of Leyte and Okinawa, winning the assault arrowhead for my landing on Okinawa. My problem is that I was assigned to the G3 section of Division Headquarters. They were overstaffed and couldn't keep me on their roster so I was periodically assigned to Co.A, 382nd Infantry and shifted back to G3. I have lost all of my World War II papers. The records center in Virginia suggests that I ask you to place a notice on the message board at the reunion asking if anyone remembers my being in the unit. It is a long shot since that was 64 years ago but they said it is worth a try. Could you possibly have such a notice posted and ask anyone who might remember me to send me an e-mail with their phone number.

I was a private for ages and then PFC and then I got battlefield promotions to three stripes and then to Staff Sergeant. Thanks for any help you can provide.

William J. (Bill) Olcheski, 6711 Moly Dr., Falls Church, VA 22046
olcheskibill@hotmail.com, 703-532-4588

Memorial Thoughts... Continued from page 5

PSALM 91

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and

buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of thy wicked

Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt tread upon the lion and

shalt thou trample under feet.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

This is why I consider myself a 91st Psalm Christian. It brought Dad

home from WWI and brought me home from WWII. I had to tell Dad I didn't bring his testament home, but the Lord brought me home. He accepted that.

The Lord is faithful and has been during these sixty-one years since my discharge. This day I am typing this is the 61st anniversary of my discharge on August 17, 1946.

Reunion 2007... Salt Lake City, Utah

Scenes from the July, 2007 Reunion in SLC



President's Notes

Major General Jim Collins (Ret.),
President
96th Infantry Division
Deadeye Association



The 2007 Reunion in Salt Lake City was another successful event and all the attendees had a great time. I would like to give a special thanks to Harriet Nichols, Scott Quimby, Mary Eleanor Wood Smith, Sam Wood Jr and Don Dencker for their extra efforts in planning, organizing, coordinating and carrying out the reunion. This particular reunion had two extra days of activities and so there was a lot to do. This team did a great job!

Many highlights from the reunion are featured here in the Dispatch. I would like to share with you some of my thoughts from the Bronze Star Award ceremony we conducted. The idea for doing this came from a discussion with Don Dencker and Tom Roby at the previous year's reunion. It was clear then that many of our fellow Deadeyes had never received the awards they were due and more specifically a Bronze Star medal. Don organized a campaign to identify those that had not been awarded the Bronze Star and offer them an opportunity to come to the 2007 reunion where it would be presented to them. Scott Quimby arranged to get over 50 medal sets and most were presented at the reunion while some were mailed to the recipient. The ceremony was inspiring and the family members were very pleased. MG Peter Cooke, Commanding General of the 96th Regional Readiness Command, and I presented the awards. It was an honor for both General Cooke and I to do it. It is also a ceremony I will long remember as one where soldiers once again stood together amid memories of their service to our country.

Two new members of the board of Directors were added at the annual meeting: Scott Quimby and Scott Buffington. Congratulations and thank you for your service to the Association! Mike McCafferty has been replaced by Jim Black as the Treasurer and Mike has taken on the task of Membership Committee Chair. Thank you, Mike, for your service as our Treasurer and your continued support to the association in the vital role as membership chair. Thanks to you, Jim Black, and I look forward to working with you too.

The 2008 reunion planning is underway and I am excited about holding the next reunion in Nashville. There are many great entertainment opportunities and I know we will have a lot jammed in to just 4 days. Harriet Nichols has once again taken on the responsibility of working out a program with the hotel and the tour operators. Thank you, Harriet!

I would like to extend a special welcome to our new members and I do hope you will join us at the next reunion. I look forward to meeting you or perhaps renewing an old friendship.

See you in Nashville!

Reunion 2008... Nashville, Tennessee

2008 Reunion Information *(continued from front page)*

Keep in mind that this year's rate at the Holiday Inn Select also provides every adult in your room with a daily breakfast buffet featuring extensive entrée selections and made-to-order omelets. (Kids under 12 always eat free!)

The Schedule:

There's so much to do in Nashville! The details are being finalized now, but it's already clear that Deadeyes will have plenty of choices. Between the optional tours and the official reunion events, you can be as busy as you'd like to be. Or you can simply relax and get caught up with old friends. Whatever your choice, good times await in Nashville.

Optional tours will include a day long excursion to Franklin, Tennessee where you'll visit one of the great historic battlefields of the Civil War. Here there is plenty of fascinating history to excite the most dedicated history buff, not to mention the quaint town of Franklin where you'll be able to eat, shop and view other historic sites.

Or you might want to experience the high life of the General Jackson riverboat luncheon cruise. And what visit to Nashville would be complete without tours to acquaint you with Music City? Optional tours will give you an introduction to everything you need to know and see in Nashville—The Country Music Hall of Fame, homes of country music



stars, the Tennessee State Museum, the Capitol, Honky Tonk Row, the famous Ryman Auditorium and, of course, the Grand Ol Opry where you can attend a performance and catch the down-home excitement of this truly American music tradition. Nashville was also home to Andrew Jackson, the seventh President of the United States. So a visit to his home—the Hermitage—will also be available for you.

The 2008 reunion will be one to remember.

Of course there will be the annual receptions and luncheons. The Memorial Service and reunion banquet are traditions that will continue in Nashville. And what Deadeye reunion would be complete without the annual Beer Bust?

Here's What to do Now:

Reunion registration won't begin until the spring of 2008. That's when you'll get the Dispatch that will include the final reunion program and the registration form to

complete and return.

But here's what you can do now to get started:

1. Invite your family friends and decide now how many rooms you will need at the Holiday Inn Select.

2. Make your reservation by contacting the Holiday Inn Select at their Group Reservations Number: 615-883-9770 or 1-800-633-4427. Identify yourself as a member of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association. You will need to provide a credit card number or one night advance deposit to secure a room at the rate of \$99 per night. Should you have any difficulties or special requirements, Sales Manager Larry Stephenson has indicated that you can contact him directly at 615-316-1056 or larry.stephenson@ihg.com.

**Deadeyes Ready!
See you in Nashville!**

NASHVILLE FACT SHEET

The 2008 reunion will be held
Wednesday, July 30th - August 2
at the

Holiday Inn Select

2200 Elm Hill Pike
Nashville, TN 37214

Room rate: \$99/night

Registrations can be made by calling
Larry Stephenson at 615 883 9770
or filling out the form below

Refrigerators will be furnished for those that are needed for medical purposes

Just a few don't miss attractions in Nashville - Grand Ole Opry, Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum, Ryman Auditorium, Tennessee State Museum, The State Capitol, Adventure Science Center, Homes of the Stars, free Nashville Trolley Tour, Honky Tonk Row, and Historic Tennessee - civil war history, legendary horse racing, plantation life, shopping till you drop, and much, much more. You can sit and see til your butt gets sore or walk and see til your legs fall off!! The Holiday Inn/Select has arranged it so that you can come early or stay late. Just let Larry know!

.....CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL.....
96TH INFANTRY DIVISION DEADEYE ASSOCIATION HOTEL REGISTRATION

HOLIDAY INN SELECT OPRYLAND/AIRPORT in NASHVILLE, TN
Reunion Dates: JULY 30 - AUGUST 2, 2008

ROOM RATE: \$99/night (Rate includes 2 Full Breakfasts per room per morning)

NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ APPROX. TIME _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

OF ROOMS _____ # OF ADULTS IN RM _____ HANDICAP ACCESS _____ SMOKING _____ NONSMOKING _____

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

RATE: \$99 + tax (15.25% + \$2 city tour tax). Rate will be honored 3 days before and after reunion dates, based on availability but check with Larry Stephenson at the hotel (615-883-9770) if you want to extend your vacation days.

CUT OFF DATE: July 21, 2008. All reservations after that date will be subject to availability. CANCELLATION POLICY: 24 hours prior to arrival or 1 night room and tax will be assessed.

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: HOLIDAY INN SELECT OPRYLAND/AIRPORT, 2200 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN 37214
OR

FAX TO: 615-874-1268 OR CALL: 615-883-9770 (LARRY STEPHENSON)

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Deadeye Dispatch Change of Address Form

Clip and mail to:
Cindy Otis, 580 Commonwealth Ave. #105, Boston, MA 02215. Email: sassy.cindy@gmail.com

OLD ADDRESS

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

NEW ADDRESS

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Now is the time to... Join the Deadeyes!

96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association Membership Application

Membership is open to 96th Infantry Division "Deadeyes", 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 from its beginning in World War I up to the present day 96th Regional Readiness Command.

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Those that previously served in the 96th DIV/ARCOM/RSC/RRC and are not currently assigned to a unit:
1 year -- \$18.00
2 years -- \$34.00
3 years -- \$48.00

Those currently assigned to a unit in the 96th RRC or those assigned to another command that previously served in the 96th RRC:
1 year -- \$8.00 (yearly renewals are the same amount)

Family members or friends of former 96th Soldiers (WWII or Desert Storm):
1 year -- \$10.00 (yearly renewals are the same amount)

----- Detach and Return with Payment -----

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: () _____

EMAIL: _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THAT REPRESENTS YOUR STATUS:

- 96th Veteran - Previously served in the 96th Inf Div/ARCOM/RSC/RRC
- Current member of a 96th RRC unit
- Prior service in a 96th unit and still on duty
- Family/Friend of the 96th

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: _____ \$ _____

DONATION: _____ \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ \$ _____

Make checks payable to: 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association

Mail application to:

96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association
P.O. Box 581254
Salt Lake City, UT 84158

Deadeye News... *Items about the Association*

Texas World War II Memorial Dedicated Long overdue tribute becoming a reality on State Capitol Grounds

James S. Duncan and Larry R. Soward, Co-chairs, Texas World War II Memorial Committee

On August 15, 2007, the State of Texas paid official tribute to the many Texans who served with unquestionable distinction and valor in the most devastating conflict mankind has ever experienced — World War II. Over 830,000 Texas men and women proudly served our nation in World War II, and over 22,000 of those Texans gave their lives in ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Millions more supported the war effort here at home.

As noted newscaster and author Tom Brokaw describes them, these Americans — these Texans — were “The Greatest

Generation.” When the United States was forced to war, we turned to “these ordinary Americans and asked of them extraordinary service, sacrifice and heroics.” Then, after meeting those high expectations, they simply returned home to lead ordinary lives. They gave immeasurably, but asked for little in return.

Regrettably, for almost 62 years now, the State of Texas had not officially paid tribute to all the Texans and Texas families who unselfishly and heroically gave their service, sacrifice and support in World War II. But now, through the generous support of

numerous Texas corporations, associations, foundations and individual Texans, our “greatest generation” of Texans finally got the long overdue tribute, esteem and appreciation for their commitment, bravery, perseverance and sacrifice they so richly — and rightfully — deserved.

A fitting memorial has been constructed on the State Capitol grounds honoring all the Texans who fought or otherwise served, and in many cases gave their lives, in World War II. Located on the north-west quadrant of the Capitol grounds, the Texas World War II Memorial fittingly joins current

monuments paying tribute to Texas’ Soldiers of World War I, Pearl Harbor Survivors and Korean War Veterans.

The formal dedication ceremony for the Memorial was Wednesday, August 15, 2007, on the State Capitol grounds, immediately outside the East entrance of the Texas Supreme Court Building, August 15th, generally celebrated as Victory over Japan Day (“V-J Day”) and the official end of World War II, was appropriately chosen to dedicate the Memorial in honor of our Texas World War II Veterans.



New York Highway 96 Dedicated to Deadeyes No missing the Deadeyes’ tribute

(The following article is reprinted with permission from the Daily Messenger, Canandaigua, NY, Sunday September 30, 2007)

By Billie Owens, staff writer

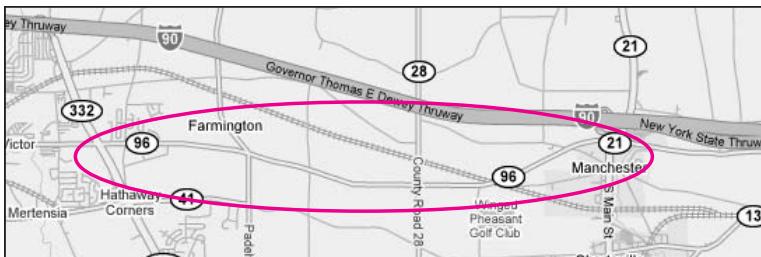
Farmington, N.Y.... A portion of Route 96 in Farmington was dedicated Saturday morning to the Army’s 96th Infantry Division. Nicknamed the Deadeye Division in World War II, the unit saw 8,812 of its

Grounds on Hook Road, near the corner of Route 96. The sign is larger than many of its kind, at about 3 feet high and 9 feet long. It had to be assembled in three sections, but no one seems to know exactly where it will be put in the ground on the state Department of Transportation’s right of way.

The formal name of the roadway is the “World War II Veterans — 96th Infantry Division of the

Conesus, and Sen. Michael Nozzolio, R-Fayette, attended the ceremony along with Town Supervisor Ted Fafinski, veterans and other dignitaries.

“It looks good,” Fafinski said of the memorial. “I’m glad they are honoring the veterans of World War II, particularly this division in the Pacific theater of operations. It’s good that we keep the spirit alive in units like



soldiers either killed, wounded, captured or missing.

The unveiling ceremony for the road sign was held at the Farmington Fire Department

United States Army Memorial Highway.” It runs from the Route 96 junction with Route 332, east to Route 21 in Manchester.

Assemblyman Joe Errigo, R-

this.”

Manchester Town Supervisor Bill Eddinger welcomes the new memorial, too, but was caught a little off guard. He only learned

of the event Friday after Fafinski contacted him via e-mail.

A spokeswoman for Errigo’s office said the information she received from the state Department of Transportation only mentioned Hook Road in Farmington, so only Fafinski was contacted. A map sent by the DOT later showed the complete memorial route eastward to Manchester.

“It’s a great time to dedicate the highway to the service of those vets,” said Eddinger, a Vietnam veteran and the son of a World War II vet. “Unfortunately, so

many are gone now and not around to appreciate it.”

Those sentiments are shared by South Bristol resident Debbie Minute. She has heard war stories from her father-in-law, Canandaigua’s Anthony Minute, an Army veteran of World War II.

“All of us are becoming aware that there’s hardly any of them left to tell us what it was like firsthand,” she said.

(Please see “Hwy. 96” continued on page 12)

Deadeye News... Items about the Association

2007 Okinawa Battle Tour... battlefield revisited

By Don Dencker
Historian,

96th Inf. Division Deadeye Assn.

A small group, including our Deadeye Association President, Jim Collins, took the 2007 Okinawa Battle Tour led by Don Dencker. For those men who took part in the 1945 Battle of Okinawa, the changes on the Island of Okinawa are almost unbelievable. Okinawa has progressed from a rather primitive agriculture-based island to a place where almost everything is modern. On Okinawa there are now major highways and paved roads everywhere, and as a consequence, traffic jams. There is an elevated monorail from Naha International Airport to downtown Naha and Shuri. Modern tall buildings are numerous.

One highlight of the tour was a visit to Kakazu Ridge, which has been preserved as a battlefield park. On top of Kakazu Ridge is an observation tower from which one can look out as far as the invasion beaches and our route of approach to Kakazu from April 1 to April 8, 1945. Seen on Kakazu Ridge were a shell smashed Japanese concrete pillbox and a blocked off cave that ran through the ridge. Nearby Cactus Hill, now also a park, heavily defended by the Japanese during the period April 5-7, 1945 was also visited.

Another battlefield visited was Hacksaw Ridge, which still stands menacingly against the skyline as it did in 1945. Hacksaw Ridge and Needle Rock at its eastern end, heavily covered with trees, vines and bushes, are now Urasoe Castle Park. However, development, including numerous new Okinawan tombs, has started encroaching on the north base of Hacksaw.

Conical Hill still stands out as the



Cornerstone of Peace Monument

distinctive hill it did in 1945. The top half of Conical Hill is heavily covered with trees and vegetation. Wrapped around the bottom half of Conical on three sides are green fairways of the Okinawa Country Club golf course. Universally, battlefield areas which were denuded by shell fire in 1945 are heavily overgrown with trees and other vegetation, unless developed by urbanization.

On the morning of June 21st the group visited the General Buckner site which is owned by an Okinawan group, the War Dead Association. The site is the location where Lt. General Buckner was killed on June 18, 1945. This site is also the location of our Brig. General Eastley and Col. May Monuments. The U.S. Army provided support for our ceremony adjacent to our monuments by furnishing a Color Guard and Chaplain. As part of the ceremony, we also placed flowers at the foot of the Gen. Buckner Monument.

During the afternoon of June 20th the group visited the main Army Post on Okinawa, Torii Station, as guests of the Commander, Col. Kenneth Lundgren. Events at Torii

Station started with the dedication of the Desmond Doss Medical Center. Our President, Jim Collins gave a fine dedication talk. (Doss was a Medical Aid Man in the 77th Infantry Division who won the Congressional Medal of Honor).

Later that afternoon, the group participated in an Okinawa Battle Commemoration program and Retreat Ceremony held at the Army Okinawa Battle Monument in Torii Station. Tour member, Bill Cooper, 7th Infantry Division, placed flowers at the Army Okinawa Battle Monument.

Other events at Torii Station included a Special Forces demonstration of current Army personnel and crew servicing weapons, a chance at simulated M-16 rifle firing, a visit to the Grieving Soldier stained glass window in the Post Chapel, and a reception after the Retreat Ceremony. We departed Torii Station via the 1945 Red Beach landing area.

Another highlight of the tour was visiting the Cornerstone of Peace Monument. This massive



Shuri Castle

Monument, consisting of several hundred standing black marble slabs on which is the carved names of those who died during the battle of Okinawa. It is very sobering and impressive. The Okinawans were gracious enough to provide a United States section which has the names of 14,005 U.S. Soldiers, Sailors and Marines who were battle fatalities. Every one of the 1,622 names of 96th Infantry Division Okinawa battle casualty dead from our Division History are carved onto black marble memorial slabs.

Adjacent to the Cornerstone of Peace Monument area is Mabuni Hill, site of the last Japanese Army underground Headquarters. On Mabuni Hill as we went to the top we passed dozens of Japanese Prefecture monuments to their battle dead. Each was quite impressive. Near the top was the cave where the Japanese 32nd Army Commanding General and the second in Command General committed suicide. The view from the top of Mabuni Hill was beautiful.

All told, everyone found the contrast on Okinawa in 2007 vs. 1945 was amazing.

(Hwy. 96 - cont. from page 11)

Although its proper name numerically echoes the local route, the 96th Infantry Division was nicknamed the Deadeye Division by its commanding officer, Maj. Gen. James Bradley. Under his leadership, individual rifle marksmanship was emphasized.

Two veterans from the 96th Infantry - Myron Kolko of Rochester, who brought a book with the division's history, and Harold Stryker of Victor - were at the event. One of Kolko's most vivid memories from the roughly six months he spent on the front is from Leyte, a province of the Philippines. As Kolko and other troops walked through the town, an entire school of children sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee" from the side of the road.

Kolko said that the 96th Infantry Division's successes came from working as a team.

"All the men did our best to maintain liberty and freedom to this United States and for the world," he said.

The Deadeyes were one of only four divisions in U.S. military history to have earned the Presidential Unit Citation, normally only awarded to battalion-size units. It was earned because of the division's exemplary actions in the Battle of Okinawa in the Philippines.

Today, the 96th is known as the 96th Regional Readiness Command, based in Ft. Douglas, Salt Lake City, Utah. It has deployed soldiers to Iraq, Afghanistan and Djibouti.

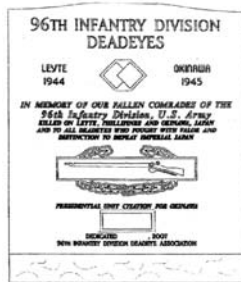
96th Infantry Division Monument At National Infantry Museum

By Don Dencker, Historian

The Deadeye Association has received permission from The National Infantry Foundation to place a 96th Infantry Division Monument at the Walk of Honor at the National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, Georgia. Since the new National Infantry Museum is under construction, our monument placement will not take place until late summer or fall 2008.

We have just ordered the monument from the Columbus Monument Company of Columbus, Georgia. The monument will be of light grey Georgia Granite. In addition to appropriate wording, our monument will include the 96th Division Patch, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon. The preliminary design of our monument is shown on the drawing.

To date we have received the amount needed to purchase and place the monument through contributions to the Heritage Fund. Urgently needed are contributions to the Heritage Fund to complete this project. The money contributed will be used for monument site work, plus a small amount for the Dedication Ceremony. We hope that many Deadeyes, family and friends will attend the 2008 dedication.



Deadeye History... *Our Heritage is our Strength*

1945: Letter home from a Deadeye

147th Hospital, Oahu, Hawaii
August 14, 1945

Darling Mother:

Thank God it's over! The day that we have awaited is at last here. Peace has fallen on this old war-torn world. The true feeling that is mine on this day could never be put down here on paper. To say I am overjoyed would be mild indeed. Altho' it has been four hours since the first official word was broadcast, I still have not fully realized how really wonderful it all is. It's just too much to soak in at one time. But it's all over - Thank God!
Thank God!

I know that when we are all together again we'll all have stories to tell about where we were when the news broke. For myself, I can really give a report on the news in Hawaii, for at 1:30 pm, when the news broke here, I was in the center of downtown Honolulu - about the same situation as if I were standing in Sun Square on such an occasion there at home.

I was in the Victory Club U.S.O. when one of the ladies there came down the steps that I was going up and told me that it was over. I did a snappy "about face" and went out on the street. The news had not reached the man in the street, but it took only a matter of seconds. The first thing that set it off was a Hawaiian on the street corner who started beating two huge symbols together. About this time, I was walking down the street when I saw two news reel men get out of a car and go into a building. I went in behind them and followed them to the roof where I really had a ringside seat to see the celebration get under way.

Believe me, it didn't take long to get under way either. The sirens that were used to herald air raids started to scream the news of victory. The ships that crammed the busy port of Honolulu and Pearl Harbor let go with their whistles, car horns blaring, people beating pots and pans and the gas alarms that have hung from each phone pole since Dec. '41 were sounding. Office windows began to open, and as they opened they became filled with smiling faces of the workers inside. It looked like a pan of corn popping. Ticker tape and newspapers started flutter-

ing down, a little at first, then in a storm. Parades of Service Men and civilians alike began to take shape. Cars, trucks and buses were soon crowded with as many people as could get a toe-hold. Many vehicles looked like floats of humanity, for very little of the car could be seen.

The din became greater and greater. The parades became bigger and bigger. People were everywhere. The streets were packed and jammed. It looked as if the ground had given way to people - the way new corn springs up after the first

a bronco!

Several people stopped me while I was making my way to the bus stop to shake my hand and say "Thanks!" One kind old lady, of about 20, was so overjoyed that she saw fit to bestow a kiss on my starboard cheek. By this time, I was feeling pretty good about the whole situation. Ha! (If my grandchildren read the above statement and wonder, let it be known that she got away in the crowd!)

After a two-hour wait, I managed to get aboard a trackless trolley. It wasn't the right one, but I could transfer. Oh yes, I boarded the bus via the center door - but it was ok for no one was paying fare today. And so I came back to the "hill-top-hide-away" - the 147th Naval Hospital. All is quiet here, as it should be. It was good to get out of the crowd so easily.

So, that's how it was here at Pearl Harbor on this Victory Day. I can well remember that fateful day when we first heard about Pearl Harbor while at Uncle Charles'. A lot has happened since that Sunday.

It is now evening and we can still hear the far-away noise and excitement of the city. Giant searchlights are crisscrossing in the sky and fireworks can be seen shooting skyward almost everywhere. Even the ships lying offshore about twelve miles are adding their powerful lights to the sky pattern.

The radio is full of broadcasts from different points in the States and how the folks back there are taking the news. I guess it's pretty much the same everywhere for we have all waited, worked and fought for this day. We're all glad that this job is over. We're all glad that this ball game has been called.

When I returned, I found your letter of August 9 and one from Elaine of the 10th. More than glad to hear from home again and learn everything is ok. Hope you and Dad enjoyed the vacation. Will answer later.

Am feeling ok, so don't worry. Expect to be in the States before too long.

All my love, Your son, Bruce

Dear Mary Eleanor Wood Smith.

From reading the spring issue of the Deadeye Dispatch, I learned of your interest in receiving copies of letters written during WWII. Please accept the enclosed in answer to your request. This is a copy of a letter I had written my mother when I was on a day's leave from the hospital in Hawaii while I was en route from Guam to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. At the time, I was a Sgt., Squad Leader, 81 mm Mortar, 3rd Bat., Co. M, 381st Reg., 96th Infantry Division during the Okinawa campaign. I thought it interesting that the "then" and the "now" involved the U.S.O.
Thank you for considering my letter.

Best Regards,

Bruce Hamilton Chibicote
Baltimore, Maryland

warm rain
-people had sprung up in
the city of Honolulu.

A giant C54 transport plane circled overhead. He probably was carrying our wounded here from one of the bases "down under." He circled the city for almost thirty minutes. The view he had from such a vantage point must have been really great. I was only up eight stories, but I could see a great deal from there.

When I went down to the street again, I found that I was "whirled" along with the happy crowd. Thanks to my above-average height, I was able to see where the calm and eddy currents were in this human stream. So, I got on the side-line and watched. Never in my short life have I seen such a crowd of people - happy people.

Cars were dragging huge tin cans to add to the noise. Behind one such car, which was filled with Service Men and girls, there was a large oil drum, and perched on top of it was a Gob - he was riding the drum like



"How I spent my summer vacation..."

This is our very own John Reed, one of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association directors. He is shown at Fort Riley, Kansas this past summer, prior to his deployment overseas. He sends his regrets for missing the 2007 reunion and assures us he will be back for the '08 reunion in Nashville.

Deadeye Memoirs Online

It has been my good fortune to be able to post my Deadeye memoirs on a reliable internet site. They welcome WWII stories. Joe was generously allowed space on his site for this worthy project when the Tripod people offered it to him without charge. So I am

suggesting that you make a notice about Deadeyes contacting Joseph Richard on this site to put their stories in. With a few clicks you can see how good this is.

Best regards to all.
Bill Hill, 317 244 9007

To view Bill's memoir, go to:

http://carol_fus.tripod.com/army.html

Looking for information...

Did you know Bob Phillips?



PFC Robert (Bob) Phillips
Co. C, 382nd Inf., 96th Inf. Div.
KIA 5/21/45
On OBOE near Shuri
(Pg. 147 the Deadeyes, Feb., '47)
Served on Leyte and Okinawa.
Received the Bronze Star Medal
Posthumous 19 April, 1945. At base
of Tomahawk Ridge near Kaniku,
helped save a seriously wounded
scout.

Any information would be appreciated.

Contact John A. Phillips
6304 N. Grand
Gladstone, MO 64118
816 452 5225

"Definition of a Veteran"

A Veteran, (whether active duty, retired, National Guard or Reserve) is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America", for an amount of "up to and including my life."

That is Honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

~ Author Unknown ~

Deadeye History... *Our Heritage is our Strength*

96th Infantry Division On Mindoro Island, Philippines

By Don Dencker, Historian

From late July until mid August 1945 Landing Ship Tank (LST) convoys carried the 96th Infantry Division from Okinawa to Mindoro Island, Philippines. The Division was positioned near the City of San Jose on Mindoro where there was an abandoned Navy airfield and Seabee Camp. This was the location where the battered 96th Infantry Division was to rest, be rehabilitated and train for the planned Invasion of Japan, Operation Downfall.

Mindoro had been seized on December 15, 1944 against meager Japanese resistance as a prelude to the January 9, 1945 landing on Luzon, the main Island of the Philippines. Due to success on Luzon, Mindoro was already in the backwater of the Pacific War, thus providing a good rest and training area for the 96th Division.

Immediately after Japan's offer to surrender on August 14, 1945 the Division expected to get occupational duties with the XXIV Corps in Korea with the 7th Infantry Division. However, this quickly changed to preparing for occupational duty in Japan. However, after our 381st Infantry Regiment prepared to board ships for Japan, our Japan assignment was cancelled on October 6, 1945, because of the acquiescent attitude displayed by the Japanese to the occupation.

Because the rainy season had passed and the climate was not too hot, Mindoro turned out to be a

pleasant location for the 96th Infantry Division. However, the thoughts of most Deadeyes centered on when they would be sent to their home in the United States.

The Army had established a point system based upon service time and accomplishments to determine when a soldier would be eligible for shipment home to be discharged. At first, in August 1945, a high point requirement was set at 70 for enlisted men and 85 for officers. Little action followed until on October 25, 1945, when 2,300 high point Deadeyes were sent to the 31st Infantry Division on Mindanao Island for the early shipment home of this Division.

Then came a lag in shipments home and Division leaders tried to counter boredom with educational, athletic and entertainment programs. One highlight was a USO troop which presented the new musical comedy *Oklahoma* before many thousands of appreciative Deadeyes. Other favorites were the enlisted men's Club called Fatigue Junction run by the Red Cross and a freshwater swimming pool, both in San Jose, Mindoro.

In another morale-boosting attempt, a contest was started to name the Division "Occupation Girl," changed to Sweetheart when occupation plans were cancelled. In a ho-hum contest the usual Hollywood pinup girls were entered. Then some irreverent GIs entered the name of mature actress Marjorie Main, seen as the sweetheart of Wallace Berry,



Fatigue Junction—the Division's most popular club during its sojourn outside the continental limits of the United States. Miss Alberta Vander Kooi, one of the Red Cross girls attached to the Division on Mindoro, may be seen on the veranda.

viewed on Okinawa in a movie called *Jackass Mail*. Marjorie, as a rough tough girl, for a rough tough outfit swept to a resounding victory as "Sweetheart" of the 96th Infantry Division. This unusual and eccentric selection caught the fancy of newspapers in the United States.

Additional, but direct shipment home of Deadeyes, via Leyte Island, did it restart until December 1945. Over 6,600 Deadeyes, down through 55 points, were shipped

home from the 96th Infantry Division in the first half of December. This reduced the Division to a strength of about 5,000 men, the majority of whom were Okinawa replacements or new arrivals on Mindoro.

On December 31, 1945 the 96th Infantry Division was relieved of its Mindoro Area command. Next commenced shipment of thousands of low point men, many Okinawa Battle replacements to other commands,

with most going to the 86th Infantry Division on Luzon. Finally, virtually all of the two-battle veterans, 1,714 men with 48 to 54 points and 104 officers, boarded the transport ship General Langfitt at Mindoro on January 17, 1946. The remnants of the 96th Infantry Division left the tranquil island of Mindoro for home at 2 PM that memorable day.



Random Memories of Army Life... By Ken Staley (383rd - Co. K)

• Army life... By invitation from Uncle Sam.

• Working on the final assembly line of state of the art P61 night fighters at Northrop Aircraft in Hawthorn, CA.

• Spokane, WA., then to Fort Lewis, WA, then to Camp Roberts in northern California for 17 weeks of infantry training. Went via army troop train.

• I thought it was a very well thought-out and tough training program. I became acquainted with three young men whom became my best buddies because we had a lot of fun talking and doing things together. Byrom Stearly and Floyd Tolleason and I ended up in the same squad on Okinawa. Jack Swanson became a mortar man, and I only saw him once during the battle. I think Tolleason was injured during the battle. Stearly was badly injured by friendly fire on top of the Uza Dake escarpment. Swanson and I escaped injury and were together in the post-war Philippines and eventually returned to the U.S. on the same ship - the Seabarb. Stearly and I are still in touch and he came to the Denver reunion in 1999.

• During training, I wrote a letter or postcard to my parents

once a week and was glad to get their letters. I have one letter I sent home at the end of the battle. Dad took it to the local weekly paper where it was published along with a foxhole sketch. Also have one letter I sent to my best hometown buddy during the battle.

• Basic training taught me to be very observant - an important activity during battle. For instance, my first fall back home after the war, I went deer hunting with my Dad in northern Washington State. Dad was a very experienced hunter, but I was constantly pointing out other hunters nearby in the woods who he was clueless about. No wonder there are so many hunting "accidents."

• Basic training ended around the middle of December, 1944 and I took a train to my hometown, Kennewick, WA - for a two-week vacation. That was around the time the "Battle of the Bulge" was raging and my Dad, a WWI veteran, was also raging! He thought the war should be being run by Pershing!

• I took a train to Portland, OR (standing room only) then to Fort Ord in Northern California. Most of my Camp

Roberts buddies were there. Two weeks later, we went by troop train to Fort Lawton near Seattle, WA. In the middle of January, 1945, we shipped out for Seattle bound for Hawaii.

• We had additional training in Hawaii, but it was easy compared to Camp Roberts. We were quarantined for four days, on alert for three days, then back to the docks. Sigh! We sailed to Saipan (it was after the battle) and stayed there for six weeks with some additional training - still easy by Camp Roberts standards. Then we sailed to some of the South Pacific islands, but never debarked - except for a beer bust on a sandy beach one afternoon. Enjoyed the company of some American women also - the last we would see for a long time. Finally, we sailed away in a convoy and arrived off Okinawa about April 12, 1945. The day Roosevelt died - not a good start.

• What "CARE" packages??

• On Okinawa, my most prized possession was my trusty Garand M-1 rifle. On peacetime Luzon, it was the Swiss watch I won as first prize in the Arts Contest Army Forces Pacific contest.

Deadeye History... Our Heritage is our Strength

Just exactly what was ASTP?

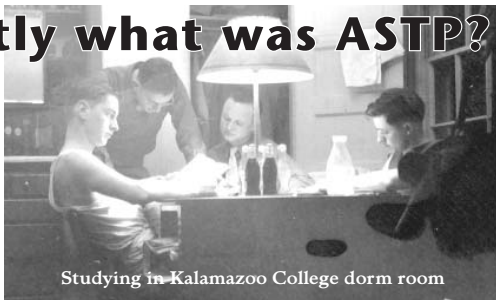
By Marvin Margosbes, Co. C., 382nd

ASTP stood for Army Specialized Training Program. It began in the autumn of 1942, in order to meet the anticipated

need for soldiers with technical and professional training, should the war last long. The expected need was for more than 52,000 men as early as 1944, with one third having completed four years of college and the rest having completed two years.

There was resistance to the program from its inception, because the soldiers who were assigned to it were not available for more immediate needs. Still, the program got underway. By mid-July 1943, there were 44,000 soldiers in ASTP at college campuses across the country, and almost 19,000 more in reassignment status, waiting to enter college. Allied activities in Europe were picking up. With the invasion of Sicily in 1943, there was an increased need for replacements. Late in 1943, the shortage of replacements was threatening to impede operations, while the number of soldiers in ASTP reached 150,000. In February 1944, General Marshall told the Secretary of War that unless ASTP was reduced to 30,000 soldiers, he would have to disband 10 divisions, 3 tank battalions, and 26 antiaircraft battalions. ASTP was cut immediately, and most of its trainees became infantry privates.

My own story is typical. I graduated in January 1943 from Brooklyn Tech High School in New York, with a concentration in chemistry. The diploma, and the wartime shortage of skilled workers, landed me a job in a laboratory at the NYU Medical School. As my 18th birthday approached in late May, I enlisted in advance in the Army, in the process making known my interest in ASTP. I reported for duty in early June, and was sent to Keesler Field, in Biloxi, Mississippi for basic training in the Air Force. Basic training was physically demanding, in part because of the summertime heat along the Gulf coast, but we learned few of the military skills I would need later on. We spent more time singing in the weekly parade formations than on the rifle range. The Air Force slotted me for further training as an instrument mechanic (I was exempted from assignment as an aerial gunner because I wore eyeglasses), but I was accepted for ASTP, and that seemed to me like a better way to spend the war. When basic training ended in August, I was



Studying in Kalamazoo College dorm room

sent to a reassignment unit at the University of Mississippi, and then to Kalamazoo College in Michigan in time for the start of the academic year.

Kalamazoo College was close to heaven for me. I recognized that Prof. Smith was a great chemistry teacher, and later I learned that he was nationally known. We lived in college dorms and ate in the college dining room. Our status as soldiers mainly meant that we wore uniforms, turned out for roll call formations, and took weekly five-mile runs. And we got \$21 a month pay. At the Christmas break, we didn't get to go home, but we did have a weekend leave. With some friends, I took a train to Chicago, where the USO provided us with housing, meals, and entertainment. We spent Christmas Eve in free front-row box seats at the Sonja Heine Ice Show. When it was time to go back to Kalamazoo, the USO gave us a large box of sandwiches, cakes, and drinks, so we wouldn't go hungry on the three-hour train ride.

The second semester started in January, but in a few weeks the word came down that we would soon leave for assignment in the infantry. One of the ASTP soldiers at Kalamazoo College had a different path than the rest of us from Keesler Field. He grew up among small boats in the South, which earned him an assignment as skipper of a crash boat. Like me, he jumped at the chance to go to college. Unlike me, he could make a few phone calls and get reassigned to crash boat duty, while the rest of us boarded a train to Chicago.

There was no USO stay in Chicago this time. In the train yard, we walked to another train that we would share with ASTP soldiers from other colleges. Some friends and I grabbed the last car, and managed to lock the doors to keep others out. It was a Pullman-observation car. Off we went, through some of the most beautiful scenery in the U.S., including a long stretch along the Columbia River. When the train reached Portland, Oregon, we got off to march a few blocks to a dining hall for lunch. We had to wait

outside for lunch to be ready, so we did what we had learned in Air Force training - we started singing. Traffic stopped in downtown Portland. After lunch we continued on to southern Oregon, where we returned to the real Army and the 96th Division in particular.

The training immediately became intensive, especially on the rifle range. I certainly needed more rifle training than what was in Air Force basic training. I needed much more that I didn't get, having missed learning important skills that an infantryman should have. When we made a practice landing on San Clemente Island, I got a cushy assignment to stay in the landing craft all day, pretending to fire a machine gun at "enemy aircraft". When we had jungle warfare training on Oahu, I was assigned to the stock room, and spent the days swimming while others were mucking through the jungle. I didn't complain then, but I had to learn more "on the job" later.

Was my special training ever useful in my Army Service? As we moved south in the first days on Okinawa, we came across some canvas bags lying in the fields, containing a granular yellow material. Some soldiers decided to use the bags to sandbag the edges of foxholes. With my training in chemistry, I recognized the contents as picric acid, an explosive, but I couldn't convince anyone that I knew what I was talking about. Happily, nothing bad happened.

In the last few years of the 96th Infantry Division Association, those of us who came to the 96th from ASTP took leading roles in the Association. We are younger, on average, than most who went overseas with the Division in 1944, and many of us had experience later working in professional and business associations. It has been our pleasure to use those skills for the benefit of our buddies in arms.

For more about ASTP,
see
www.astpww2.org/

The Life And Times Of A Gentleman Of The Theater

Just Who Is Stocker Fontelieu Anyway?

By Michael P. Cahill

Charles Stocker Fontelieu was born in New Orleans in 1923. In 1941, he graduated from New Orleans Academy and entered Tulane University to study architecture. Within a year of the United States' entry into World War II, he joined the Army, attended the ASTP in Chicago, and became a rifleman in Company I, 383rd Regiment, of the 96th Infantry Division. He was in the first wave of invasions of Leyte and Okinawa, where he was wounded in action at Kakazu Hill.

While recuperating in Hawaii, he saw his first real play - a USO production of Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*. It changed his life. Upon his return to Tulane in 1946, Stocker changed his major to drama



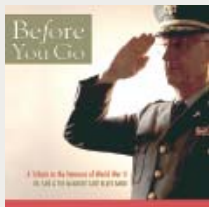
and made his acting debut in *Night Must Fall*. An actor of promise, his mentor Dr. Monroe Lippman steered him toward directing. Upon his graduation in 1949, he accepted the position of Artistic Director of the Little Theater Of Monroe, where he remained for four seasons until 1953, when he returned to Tulane as a member of the first MFA class. In 1955, he became Director of Gallery Circle Theater in the French Quarter, where he remained until 1961, shortly after the tragic 1960 fire which destroyed GCT's new facility, which had been made possible by his success. When Gallery went inactive, Stocker moved across Jackson Square to Le Petit Théâtre Du Vieux Carré, where he served as Executive Director for a quarter century until 1985, presiding over LPT's Golden Age. He returned as Executive Director of the Bayou Dinner Theater in 1986, remaining until its demise in 1993. He also headed the Theater Wing of the Jefferson Performing Arts Society, 1991-92.

In his 60 years in theater, Stocker has been involved in 491 stage productions (or 648 including all productions at theaters he has managed). His 148 acting roles included leading parts in *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial*, *The Taming Of The Shrew*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Play's The Thing*, *Inherit The Wind*, *Long Days Journey Into Night*. The 340 plays he has directed include the local premiere of *A Streetcar Named Desire* starring Ed Nelson, *West Side Story*, *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?*, *The Miracle Worker*, *The Elephant Man*, *Rumors*, *The Dining Room*, and he took a leading role in introducing musical theater to New Orleans stages. A member of SAG and AFTRA, he has appeared in 22 feature films and at least 28 television productions, including *Obsession*, *The Big Easy*, *Angel Heart*, *A Gathering Of Old Men*, and *Pretty Baby*. Hundreds of commercials and voiceovers have made him familiar to generations of New Orleanians. A member of the Southwest Theater & Film Association since 1952, when it was the Southwest Theater Conference, he served as the organization's Treasurer (1959-62), Vice President (1967-68), President (1968-69), and received the Distinguished Service Award in 1994. His other honors include Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Big Easy Entertainment Awards and the Storer Boone Theater Awards. At 84 and despite the total loss of his Lakeview home to Katrina, he remains in good health and - when not directing or acting - has kept active as a Special Theater Talent Evaluator for the Louisiana Department Of Education since 1994.

For the past three years, he has worked with Michael P. Cahill, who has written his biography and history of his six decades in Louisiana theater - and then some - told in 20 chapters and 278,979 words. Information on "Charlie Fontelieu's 96th Division experience were culled largely from his memories, those of Sgt. George Curry, also of Company I, and such sources as *The Deadeyes*, *The War In The Pacific: Okinawa, Okinawa: The Last Battle Of World War II*, and *Operation Iceberg*.

Just Who Is Stocker Fontelieu Anyway? *The Life And Times Of A Gentleman Of The Theater* is a limited edition illustrated volume. The price is \$30 plus \$5 for shipping & handling. Information may be obtained at: leenane8@aol.com or Beefeld Productions, 201 Rio Vista Avenue, Jefferson, Louisiana 70121-3925

96TH INFANTRY DEADEYE ASSN. ITEMS



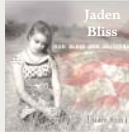
"Before You Go"

A Tribute to WWII Veterans

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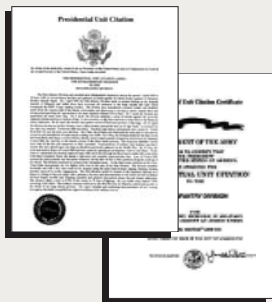
Check out this touching tribute to the veterans of World War II. The song can be purchased from the web site or by calling Managed Music toll-free at 1-888-426-7529. Their address is Managed Music, 6 NE Fisher Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33483.

Bless Our Soldiers



Jaden's CD, God Bless Our Soldiers Tonight, can be ordered online (blessoursoldiers.com) through PayPal for \$10 plus shipping and handling. Or call toll-free 1-888-893-7193.

Jaden sang at the Dining Out in Salt Lake City



96TH Infantry Division Presidential Unit Citation Documents Available

Two color photo copies: Presidential Unit Citation Certificate and Presidential Unit Citation Text Cost is \$5.00 per set of two, postage paid

Also available: Philippines Presidential Unit Citation. One page, black & white. Cost is \$1.50, postage paid.

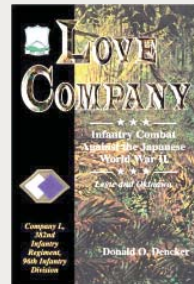
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Deadeye Caps

(above art not an exact depiction)
Cost: \$10

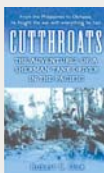
To obtain a new 96th Infantry cap, please send your mailing information, along with your check for \$10 payable to Douglas Burton, 11279 S. Fowler Ave., Selma, CA 93682-9619



Love Company Book

Author Don Dencker has sale copies of Love Company for \$14.00, 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 Assn.

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Cutthroats

The Adventures of a Sherman Tank Driver in the Pacific

By Robert C. Dick, Co. C.
763rd Tank Battalion,
96th Infantry Division

Available at
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Preorder 96th Deadeye Polo/Golf Shirts



Shirts will have 96th Deadeye Assn. logo. Men's or ladies' shirts available. You can pick up shirts at USO room at the reunion or we can mail them to you. Indicate size (S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL), color (white, blue, grey), men's or ladies' and number needed. The prices are \$20 for small-XL and \$25 for XXL and XXXL. Please add \$6/shirt postage if mailed. Please send check made out to "96th Deadeye Association." Mail check to Mary Eleanor Wood-Smith, 2104 Slash Court, North Augusta, SC 29841. Phone: 803/278-2109. Email is newsmith@yahoo.com. (Shirt art not an exact depiction)



New WWII Book

A WWII book that will feature Deadeye stories is being compiled by Ed Phillips. He can be reached at 14111 Capital Blvd. Wake Forest, NC 27587. He can be reached by phone at 919 554 7870 or by internet: mailto:ephillips3@hotmail.com



96TH Infantry Division CD's

Cost is \$10 each
All visual - no audio.
All income above CD cost and mailing to go to the Deadeye Association Monument Fund

- CD #1:
Battle of Leyte (73 screens)
- CD #2:
Battle of Okinawa (91 screens)
- CD #3:
Training in the US and Hawaii, Mindoro Island and return to the US and disbandment (86 screens)

CD #4: NEW!!

96th Infantry Division Monument and Memorials (78 screens)

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(Revised-April, 2007)

GET THE DISPATCH CD BY MAIL



With this CD and any Windows or Mac computer, you can search, read, and print every issue of the Deadeye Dispatch that was published by the 96th Infantry Division Association, from the first issue in 1964 to the last in 2005. The index helps you to find stories of special interest, or you can just browse.

In addition, the CD contains three issues of the original Deadeye Dispatch, that were published on Leyte. And an article from the 1947 Saturday Evening Post, "The Alley Fighters of the 96th" is also included.

Order the record of the division's history from Marvin Margoshes, 25 Maple Ave., #3B, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706. The cost is \$10 for each CD, plus handling and shipping of \$3 for the first CD and \$1 for each additional one sent to the same address. Include your e-mail address or phone number. Make checks or money orders to 96th Infantry Deadeye Association. All profits go to the Association.



Words of Wartime Memories America and Abroad

Just off the press is a hard back 384 page anthology, Words of Wartime Memories America and Abroad (Volume 3), published by Park Tudor School, a distinguished college prep school in Indianapolis. Included are twenty three pages of narratives taken from video interviews of Deadeyes from central Indiana. The anthology also includes stories from the Civil War, The Philippine American War, The Mexican Border War, WWI and WWII. These stories were extracted from diaries, journals and unpublished letters from men and women. Order by check to: Park Tudor School, Kathryn W. Lerch 7200 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46240. Single copy is \$22.00 plus \$6.00 Shipping. Mention Volume 3.