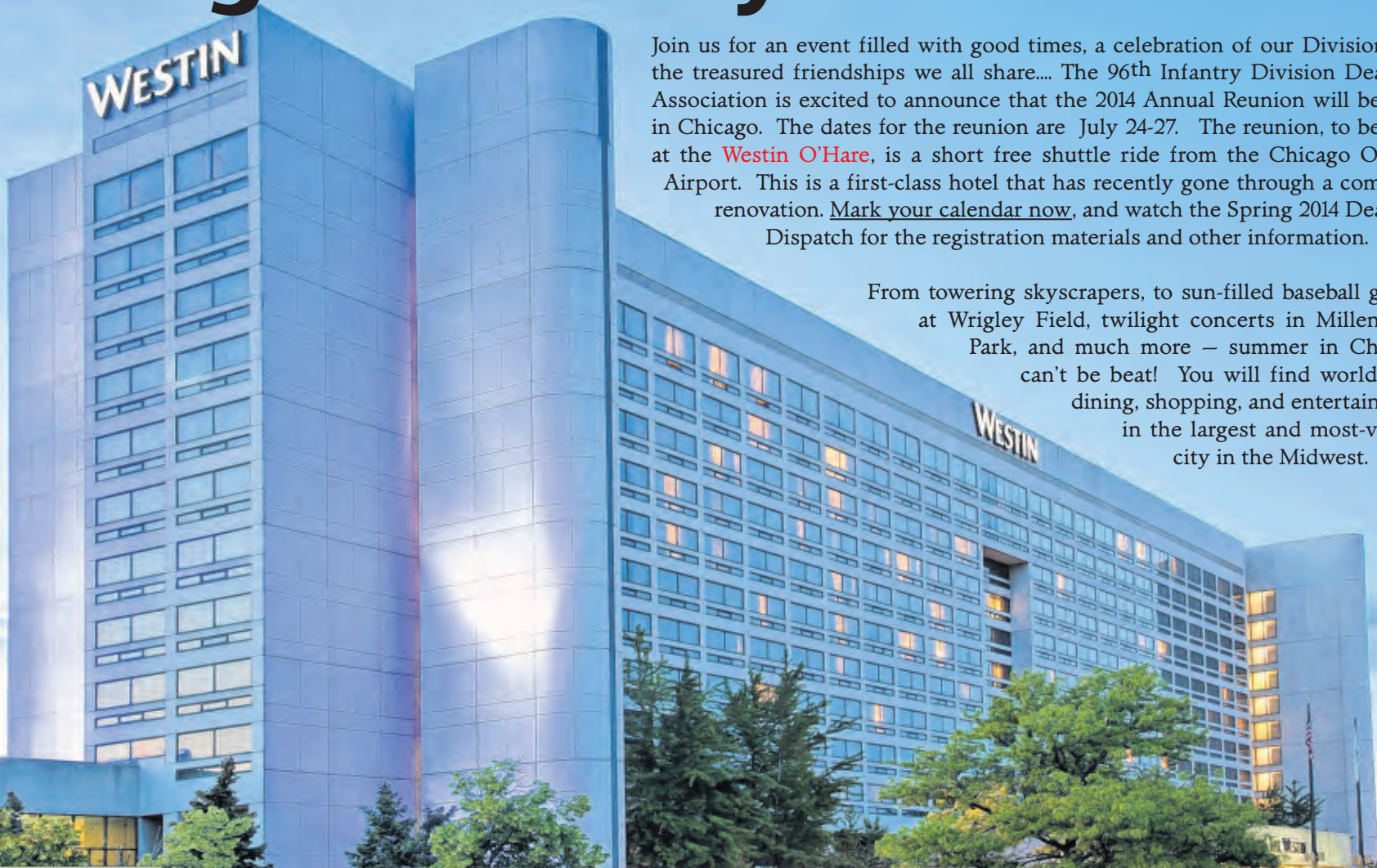


DEADEYE DISPATCH

Official Newsletter of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association

Fall, 2013

Calling all Deadeyes & Families



Join us for an event filled with good times, a celebration of our Division and the treasured friendships we all share.... The 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association is excited to announce that the 2014 Annual Reunion will be held in Chicago. The dates for the reunion are July 24-27. The reunion, to be held at the **Westin O'Hare**, is a short free shuttle ride from the Chicago O'Hare Airport. This is a first-class hotel that has recently gone through a complete renovation. Mark your calendar now, and watch the Spring 2014 Deadeye Dispatch for the registration materials and other information.

From towering skyscrapers, to sun-filled baseball games at Wrigley Field, twilight concerts in Millennium Park, and much more – summer in Chicago can't be beat! You will find world-class dining, shopping, and entertainment in the largest and most-visited city in the Midwest.

Attention All 96th Infantry Deadeye Association Members

We have not heard from many of you for a long time! We currently have over 1,400 members on our list. We spend over \$1,600 per year sending out the Deadeye Dispatch. If you would like to maintain your membership and continue to receive the Dispatch, please contact us at dianeob68@gmail.com or clip this article, mark your preference and mail it to **Diane O'Brien, PO Box 34, Trempealeau, WI 54661-0034**. If we do not hear from you, you may be removed from our membership list.

My name and address is: *(please include email address)*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email: _____ Phone: *(will only be used if we need to contact you)* _____

(The 96th Infantry Division Association is committed to respecting and protecting the privacy of their membership)

Yes – Please maintain my membership and keep sending me the Deadeye Dispatch.

No – Please remove my name from your membership list.

Please accept my donation to help cover the cost of the Dispatch.

\$ _____ Checks should be made payable to the **96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association**, and mailed to **Dennis O'Brien, Treasurer, 96th Division – PO Box 34, Trempealeau, WI 54661**.

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DEADEYE DISPATCH

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

Gladys Boals
Scottsdale, AZ
Widow of Bill Boals
Co. K, 383rd Inf.
July 4, 2013
by daughter, Penny Marrs

Frank Harlen "Doc" Brown
Tallahassee, FL
June 27, 2013
HQ Section, K Co., 382nd
Inf.
by Jeffrey Brooks

James A. Brown
Beaumont, TX
June 28, 2013
by son, Leonard Brown

Frank Bryson
Co. E, 381st Infantry
August 14, 2013
by Doug Burton

William G. Burd
Georgetown, TX
August 14, 2013
Co. I, 383rd Infantry
by son, William M. Burd

Tom Cutting
Santa Cruz, CA
May 20, 2013
96th Infantry Division
by Bruce Oneto

John "Jack" Daley
Lynwood, IL
Company I, 382nd Infantry
December 11, 2012
by grandson, Nick Daley

Herbert Fish
January 1, 2013

Dale Gardetto
Carlsbad, CA
921st FA
June, 2013
by wife, Elsie Gardetto

John P. Graves
Standish, MI
April 7, 2013
Co. F, 382nd Infantry
by son, Josh S. Graves

Frederick W. Heimer
Mahtomedi, Minn
July 8, 2010

Pasquale "Pat" Miele
Hyde Park, NY
September 18, 2013
Co. F, 382nd Inf.
by wife, Louise Miele

E. Glenn Robinson
S. Charleston, WV
Co. A, 383rd Inf.
February 28, 2013
by wife, Emma

Robert Ross Rogers
Portland, OR
Aide to Gen. Bradley
96th Infantry Division
June 3, 2013
by Jim Black

William Bentson
Queensland, Australia
November 7, 2012
by Trevor Barrell

Ray D. Walton, Jr.
Frederick, Maryland
B Battery, 361st Field Artillery
Battalion
April 8, 2013
by son, Rodney Earl Walton

Russell Watts
Columbus, OH
Anti Tank Co., 382nd Inf.
July 27, 2013
by Dick Tobiason



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:

Fran Huff
6320 Woodwind Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46217
Phone: 317 784-5179

Pat McMillan
Email: pml45@yahoo.com
4402 Chapman AV
Springdale, AR 72762
Phone: 479-200-1841

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

56 Years of Deadeye Reunion Cities

| <u>YEAR</u> | <u>CITY</u> | <u>ST</u> | <u>YEAR</u> | <u>CITY</u> | <u>ST</u> | <u>YEAR</u> | <u>CITY</u> | <u>ST</u> |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|------------------|-----------|
| 1958 | St Louis | MO | 1977 | Cincinnati | OH | 1996 | Des Moines | IA |
| 1959 | Chicago | IL | 1978 | New Orleans | LA | 1997 | St Louis | MO |
| 1960 | Kansas City | MO | 1979 | Denver | CO | 1998 | Ft Mitchell | KY |
| 1961 | Detroit | MI | 1980 | Springfield | IL | 1999 | Denver | CO |
| 1962 | Dallas | TX | 1981 | Milwaukee | WI | 2000 | Salt Lake City | UT |
| 1963 | Little Rock | AR | 1982 | Dearborn | MI | 2001 | Omaha | NE |
| 1964 | Portland | OR | 1983 | Houston | TX | 2002 | Kansas City | MO |
| 1965 | Minneapolis | MN | 1984 | St Paul | MN | 2003 | Tulsa | OK |
| 1966 | Indianapolis | IN | 1985 | Oklahoma City | OK | 2004 | Salt Lake City | UT |
| 1967 | Omaha | NE | 1986 | Fresno | CA | 2005 | Washington | DC |
| 1968 | Chicago | IL | 1987 | Memphis | TN | 2006 | Denver | CO |
| 1969 | Des Moines | IA | 1988 | Peoria | IL | 2007 | Salt Lake City | UT |
| 1970 | Detroit | MI | 1989 | Rapid City | SD | 2008 | Nashville | TN |
| 1971 | Denver | CO | 1990 | Omaha | NE | 2009 | Branson | MO |
| 1972 | New Orleans | LA | 1991 | Spokane | WA | 2010 | Milwaukee | WI |
| 1973 | Peoria | IL | 1992 | Louisville | KY | 2011 | Columbus | GA |
| 1974 | Indianapolis | IN | 1993 | Sparks | NV | 2012 | Colorado Springs | CO |
| 1975 | Kansas City | KS | 1994 | Hot Springs | AR | 2013 | San Diego | CA |
| 1976 | Fort Worth | TX | 1995 | Lubbock | TX | 2014 | Chicago | IL |



Deadeye Mailbag... Letters from across the nation



Requesting help in returning found ring

Dear Editor:

My name is Mimi Wilson. I live in Castle Rock, Colorado but I am originally from Okinawa, Japan. I'm sending you this email to see if you could help me solve this mystery.

Last summer, I went back to Okinawa to visit my family. One day, my mother and I were looking through some boxes and found a men's ring that has an initial "R". I asked my mother whose ring this was and she said she remembered that my grandmother found this ring by the Futenma River right after WWII was ended. My mother and I talked about it and decided to bring it back to the states and try to find its owner or his family.

Since my grandmother passed away almost 50 years ago, we don't know much about the details of the finding besides it was

found by the Futenma River around 1945-46. It has a small number "113" stamped inside the ring.

I researched about WWII "Battle of Okinawa" and found out that the 96th Infantry Division (382nd Infantry Regiment, 383rd Infantry Regiment) was in the area during the war. And found this 96th Infantry Division Association's website.

I understand that it will be a very difficult task with such small information but I thought I should give it a try.

Attached you will find the images of the ring. I would greatly appreciate it if you kindly give me any information.

Sincerely,
Mimi Wilson
mimi@mimiwilson.com



Dear Editor:

This is my commemorative plaque recently installed at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredricksburg, Texas. The plaque was purchased as my 88th birthday present by my four daughters, Nancy, Kim, Lynn and Ann, and their husbands, Glenn, Jim, Mike and Gary.

Sincerely, Don Dencker

HAWAII German woman who lost arm to shark dies

JENNIFER SIMCO WELLS
Associated Press

HONOLULU — A German woman who lost her arm in a shark attack died Wednesday, one week after she was bitten while snorkeling off Maui.

Jana Laiteropp, 20, who was on his support, died at Maui Memorial Medical Center, hospital spokeswoman Cami Clark said.

"Jana fought hard to stay afloat," said a statement from her mother and sister, which was released by Clark. "However, we are sad to say that she lost her fight today."

Clark said the family was requesting privacy.

Laiteropp was snorkeling up to 100 yards off Palaua Beach at the resort community of Maunaloa when the shark bit off her right arm.

It's not known what type of shark bit Laiteropp. State officials investigating the attack said witnesses didn't see the animal.



1944 Landing Beach on Maui, Hawaii

Submitted by Don Dencker

The photo above shows Palaua Beach in the Makena area of Maui Island, Hawaii where the Army 96th Infantry Division made a combat loaded practice amphibious landing on September 5, 1944. This beach is now a park. A little ways inland is a deluxe golf course. Our next amphibious landing was on October 20, 1944 on Leyte Island, Philippines. This photo was taken on June 10, 2013.

(Note related sad story to left on same beach)



Deadeye Dispatch

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96TH Infantry Division Deadeye Association
• Fall 2013 Edition •

Submit info to the Dispatch
Scott Buffington
c/o MainStreet Newspapers
PO Box 908
Jefferson, GA 30549
706-367-2485
scott@mainstreetnews.com

Update your Address
For changing your address
Diane O'Brien
PO Box 34
Trempealeau, WI 54661-0034
608-317-2496
ddbrien@trivest.net

Deadeyes Online at 96thdeadeyes.org/



Deadeye Reunion 2013

56th Annual Reunion a Success

- Submitted by Diane O'Brien, 2013 Reunion Coordinator -

The Sunny San Diego 96th Infantry Deadeye Association reunion is behind us and we hope that a good time was had by the 130 individuals who attended. The Town & Country Resort Hotel is a gorgeous facility encompassing over 32 acres and has a reputation of catering to military reunions and they continued their tradition of excellent service and accommodations. The entire ninth floor of the Town & Country was dedicated to the 96th for the 4 days which was very handy for our Deadeyes and their families. The resort/hotel provided an ideal setting with 4 restaurants on the property, three swimming pools, and other opportunities to enjoy entertainment on the premises.

The History Room was once again organized by historian Don Dencker assisted by many others. This room is always a popular gathering spot to reminisce. Thanks Don for your expertise. An addition to the reunion this year was a photo exchange opportunity coordinated by Joe Boyack. We scanned photographs for six Deadeye families and are in the process of copying two full albums. The copying was done in the History Room and CD's with copies of the pictures were given to the owners. The albums will be returned to the owners along with a CD when finished. Thanks to Glenn Stewart and Marvin Reames for the loan of your albums. Once everything is completed and the photos cataloged, they will be posted on the Association web site. With the help of the members of the group we hope to create an on-line historical archive of life in the 96th that everyone will be able to share. This will not be limited to photos but can also contain documents appropriate to the era such as menus, bus and train tickets, newspaper clippings, and anything else that had importance to you and your fellow Deadeyes. Start looking through your closets

and trunks for anything that you would like to share at next year's reunion. Thanks Joe for your expertise in organizing this photo exchange opportunity.

For those who arrived a day early for the reunion, a special tour was arranged by Roland Champagne, son of Deadeye Roland Champagne. At first glance, the building of Only Yesterday Classic Autos and Hall of Heroes looks like any other industrial office building found in San Diego's suburbs. Once inside you feel as if you have entered a time capsule containing some of America's most beloved autos and history. Only Yesterday Classic Autos and Hall of Heroes is more of a showroom and museum for Chuck Spielman's private collection of classic autos spanning from the 1930s to the present, along with a priceless collection of military memorabilia from throughout the last century. Spielman, a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran and retired commercial real estate executive, opened his collection for private viewing in 1998 in New York, then moved it to San Diego in 2001 after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Having the privilege to tour Spielman's venue is limited to ages 16 years and older who have requested and been granted an appointment. This provides a small group of 20 people the opportunity to gain a greater appreciation for America's past. Spielman's time, resources and personal effort into this facility is really an honor to our veterans, active duty service members and military supporters who do so much for our country. A special thanks to Chuck and Amy Spielman for providing this memorable tour. Our heroes deserve having their place in history preserved.

On Saturday morning, July 27th, sixty people participated in a tour of the USS Midway. The Midway has been restored

and had many planes and helicopters. Volunteers were stationed at various locations and gave talks explaining how the ship worked and how planes took off and landed on the carrier's deck. We were given headsets for an audio tour and free reign on the ship. To see everything could have easily taken a full day. A reporter from the Union Tribune paper took pictures of our Deadeyes and interviewed them for the Sunday edition.

This was followed by the Harbor portion of the tour which was even more interesting. It started with a box lunch and then began the cruise. We saw how ships were repaired in dry dock. There were many cruisers in dock. One of the most impressive sights was the aircraft carriers Carl Vincent and Ronald Reagan. Both were in port and both are huge. The island on each carrier extends 240 feet above the water. The sky was beautiful blue as we finished the harbor tour and pulled into our port to return home on the bus.

Saturday evening was our infamous beer bust with a Mexican Fiesta theme. A special thanks to Louis Canedo who arranged for a mariachi group from Southwest High School in San Diego. This group was outstanding in entertaining our group for nearly an hour. Arnold Gonzales arranged for some beer donated by a local microbrewery and the hotel graciously let us bring our own snacks as well. Thanks to Arnold and other members of his family who assisted with many aspects of the reunion.

Sunday morning began with another great breakfast buffet with a slight rush to finish breakfast to get the room reset for the Memorial Service as arranged by Glenn Stewart. The Memorial Service was dedicated to Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Sidney Wood,

Sr. who died on July 6, 2013. Color guard was provided by the 82nd Airborne Division Association, and music was provided by local musicians Monita and Marty Murphy who have been entertaining together since 1962. Drummers were Jerry Marshall and Lindsay Miller (grandniece of Glenn Stewart). Keynote speaker Paul "Rusty" Johnston spoke about his journey to the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association. Thanks to Glenn for arranging for the memorial service. This is always a highlight of the reunion remembering our "Buddies".

Nineteen women attended the Ladies Luncheon hosted at the beautiful Trellises Restaurant, which is one of four restaurants on the Town & Country property. Likewise nineteen men attended the ASTP luncheon also held at the Trellises. A delicious lunch was served followed by more socializing.

Monday morning, July 29th, provided another tour opportunity. The City Tour started with a trip to Soledad which is 902 feet above sea level. We had a beautiful view of the Pacific coast. On the hill is a monument to enlisted men and women in the armed forces. Plaques of soldiers gave information about their careers in the military along with their pictures. Most were American and many served in WWII. The monument was built in 1954 and the only person shown who was not a soldier was Bob Hope who was awarded honorary military status by one of our presidents for his many trips to entertain our troops in places of conflict.

We then were bused through La Jolla and on to Coronado where we saw the famous Hotel Del Coronado. The 'Del' was the backdrop for the film 'Some Like It Hot' starring Tony Curtis, Marilyn Monroe and Oscar winner Jack Lemmon.

From there we went to Ft. Rosecrans which is a national military cemetery. The views were beautiful. We finally finished with a great lunch at the Bali Hai restaurant which overlooked San Diego Bay and the beautiful city of San Diego. On our way back to the hotel we drove through Old Town. A fun ending to a fact filled tour.

We began our farewell banquet on Monday evening with a group photo of WWII Deadeyes as well as the widows of our beloved deceased Deadeyes. Thanks to Joe Boyack for his never-ending photos throughout the reunion. Roland Champagne generously provided a poster-size photo to all Deadeyes who had submitted a picture from their time of service in the 1940s. The Deadeyes then held that photo for another group shot. Don Dencker presented a very interesting and informative summary of the monuments and memorials to the 96th Infantry Division. Thanks to Don and his family for helping with this presentation. This was followed by a presentation about the 96th Heritage Fund by Jim Collins with an appeal to those attending to support the Heritage Fund. Several individuals committed to donations that evening. Music was provided during the social hour and following the speakers by Geary Thompson on guitar, Bob Daniels on drums, and Dan Coulson on bass. There is a connection with the band to all of the Deadeyes in that Geary teaches music theory at UC San Diego. Camp Callan, where the amphibious training was completed prior to shipping out for Hawaii, is now the site of UC San Diego. This trio is also part of a larger swing band, which plays at the Spirit of 45 celebrations at the Veterans Museum of San Diego, of which you all became members courtesy of fellow Deadeye Roland Champagne.

(Continued on Page 5)

Deadeye Reunion 2013

President's Report

DON KLIMKOWICZ, PRESIDENT
96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association

Many of you were unable to attend this year's reunion. At the general membership meeting I report on state of the Association. For those of you who couldn't make it, here is the update I gave.

Board membership status: The board nominating committee members are Don Dencker, Mike McCafferty, and Dennis O'Brien. This year expiring terms were John Reed, Don Dencker, Mary Eleanor Wood Smith, Ann Moroz Duncan, and Barb Schmidt. All expiring term board members were nominated for another 3 years, all accepted, and the board approved the nomination.

Treasurer's Report: Dennis O'Brien. 96th Infantry Deadeye Association. Change in total assets as of 7-26-13 was a positive \$285.00. Current total assets are positive and healthy. Reunion activities were a net zero while raffles and merchandise sales added roughly \$400.

Website Report: David Ellis is working with Marvin Margoshes to maintain our website. MG Collins put forth the concept of a 96th Infantry virtual museum to display our artifacts. Barb Schmidt will contact other museums to gain an understanding on how we can do this effectively. Remember to check the website for the latest postings on items of interest like next year's reunion.

Dispatch Report: Scott Buffington continues to edit and publish the Dispatch and is doing a fantastic job! The deadline for articles for the next Dispatch was September 27.

History Committee Update: Given by Don Dencker. Multiple projects were proposed. The Ft. Snelling memorial monument is the next one to be erected. MG Collins will provide an update with the Heritage Fund report. Don Dencker was this year's reunion banquet speaker and provided an update on the 96th Infantry Division Monuments

and Memorials titled "Preserving the Heritage of the 96th Infantry Division: Monuments and Memorials".

Membership Committee Update: Diane O'Brien is actively managing this and is doing a great job! Activities include keeping our membership data base up to date and keep our membership list current with letters for renewal reminders. This year we collected \$804 in dues.

Communications and Public Relations Update: Barb Schmidt is actively managing this and is doing a great job! This year we bought 96th Infantry logo stationery and supplies for the first time since 2005 which should last us into the foreseeable future. Special projects like the 96th virtual museum investigation and helping Joe Boyack with the setting up the photo scan concept are example activities in progress and complete.

2013 Reunion Update: There were lots of people helping this year to make the reunion what it was. Diane O'Brien provided overall management of the reunion as well as registration, single point of contact with the hotel, Ladies and ASTP luncheons, tours and T-shirts (designed by Ann Moros Duncan's husband, Andy). Arnold Gonzales found our hotel, organized the beer bust, found our color guard, and helped with numerous other items as they came up. Thanks go to Louis Canedo for organizing our beer bust entertainment and special thanks to Joe Gonzales for providing the entertainment transportation. Roland Champaign organized the tour of 'Only Yesterday Classic Autos and Hall of Heroes', arranging and helping pay for the Banquet entertainment, and arranging and paying for the special Deadeye posters. Glenn Stewart organized the Memorial Service, Don Dencker organized the History Room, and Joe Boyack



2013 Reunion Attendees

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|----|------------------------|----------------------------|----|-------------------|
| Val Heinrich | FL | 361st FA | Paul B Johnston | PA | 382nd CO F |
| Roman Klimkowicz | OH | 361st Artillery | Irwin C (Rick) Ricker, Jr. | PA | 382nd CO F 2nd Bn |
| Karel Knutson | MN | 361st FA Batt B | Donald "Don" Dencker | WI | 382nd CO L Inf |
| Al Altig | CA | 381st 2nd Bn Hdqtrs | Les Dozmati | CA | 382nd CO L Inf |
| Harold E. Stryker | NY | 381st CO C Inf | Jim Foster | OH | 382nd CO L |
| Louis J Canedo | CA | 381st Co E | Jim Black | OR | 383rd CO B |
| Bob Cronshey | NV | 381st CO E | Ken Shill | CA | 383rd CO B |
| Paul S Sather | CA | 381st CO E | Orville Caspers | IA | 383rd CO G |
| Bob Siefert | MN | 381st CO E Inf | Marvin Reames | OK | 383rd CO K |
| Richard Hageboeck | AZ | 381st CO L | Glenn Stewart | CA | 383rd CO K |
| Joe Gonzales | CA | 381st CO M Inf | Jim Collins | CA | 96th RRC |
| Virgil (Bub) Simmons | OR | 381st 1st Bn, Hdqtr Co | Calvin Clements | TX | Signal Co |
| Kent Kellegrew | CA | 382nd CO H Reg 2nd Bn | | | |

organized the photo exchange and provided the reunion photography.

2014 and 2015 Reunion Locations: The mid-west was

picked for 2014 last year. We are designating the Chicago area for ease of transportation. As we looked at the regions and items of interest, the board decided on New Orleans area

for 2015. WWII Museum is available in that area. We are again looking for volunteers to help.

I hope this report is helpful by keeping you up to date.

(Reunion Report... continued from Page 4)

Thanks again to Roland for his support of this musical entertainment.

We were pleased to have about 25 first-time attendees at the reunion. Alysia Austin traveled solo from North Carolina to honor her father Claude Edwin High who died in 1999. The Joe Gonzales family was represented at various functions throughout the reunion with 15 members present. The Don Dencker family included 10 members who traveled from around the country to join him. Elsie Gardetto's family included 8 members who joined us for the banquet in memory of their husband/father (Dale) who passed away after he had signed up

for the reunion.

We were also saddened to learn of the passing of two Deadeyes during the time the reunion was taking place. Russell Watts and Harold "Hal" Sletten will be greatly missed at our future reunions.

A tasty farewell breakfast was served again on Tuesday morning with lots of hugs and handshakes until we meet again in Chicago in 2014.

This truly was a reunion of memories of our beloved Deadeyes.

Keeping the Spirit of '45 Alive!

Below is an invitation to attend the Spirit of '45 on the USS Iowa in Los Angeles on Saturday, August 10. This invitation is being sent to all of our 96th Infantry Division members, family and friends on file as information about an event as a national day of remembrance honoring the men and women of the WWII generation.

I would very much like to assure that the 96th is well represented in this year's Spirit of '45 Day observances that will be taking place throughout the country on the second weekend in August. As we discussed when we met briefly on Sunday, Spirit of '45 Day was established by unanimous vote of Congress in 2010 as a national day of remembrance honoring the men and women who were the "ordinary heroes" of the WWII generation.

The invitation to attend the LA Spirit of '45 Day weekend events are, of course, open to all the Deadeyes and any other WWII veterans whom they would like to bring with them.

The rest of the day is devoted to interacting with the public, visiting the ship (admission to our WWII veterans is free of course, discounts to family members and friends), participating in a living history activity where Kent can share some of his memories, if he would like, with Chris McIntyre and Jay Wertz. (Chris is 3-tour Marine Vietnam War vet, who has written, produced and directed several feature length films and Jay is a noted author of a series of books on WWII.)

Here's the web site for Spirit of '45 Day www.Spiritof45.org.

Note that the Queen Mary is partnering with the USS Iowa, with a Spirit of '45 Day of their own on Sunday, August 11, which concludes with a wreath laying ceremony at 5 p.m. This wreath laying will conclude the cross country "Tribute to the Legacy of Service of America's

Greatest Generation" that will have begun earlier in the weekend, which will include a special ceremony at the National WWII Memorial in Washington, DC earlier that morning.

Please feel free to contact Warren Hegg at the email or phone number listed below if you would like additional information.

Warren Hegg
National Supervisor
"Keep the Spirit of '45 Alive"
www.Spiritof45.org
408.857.5252

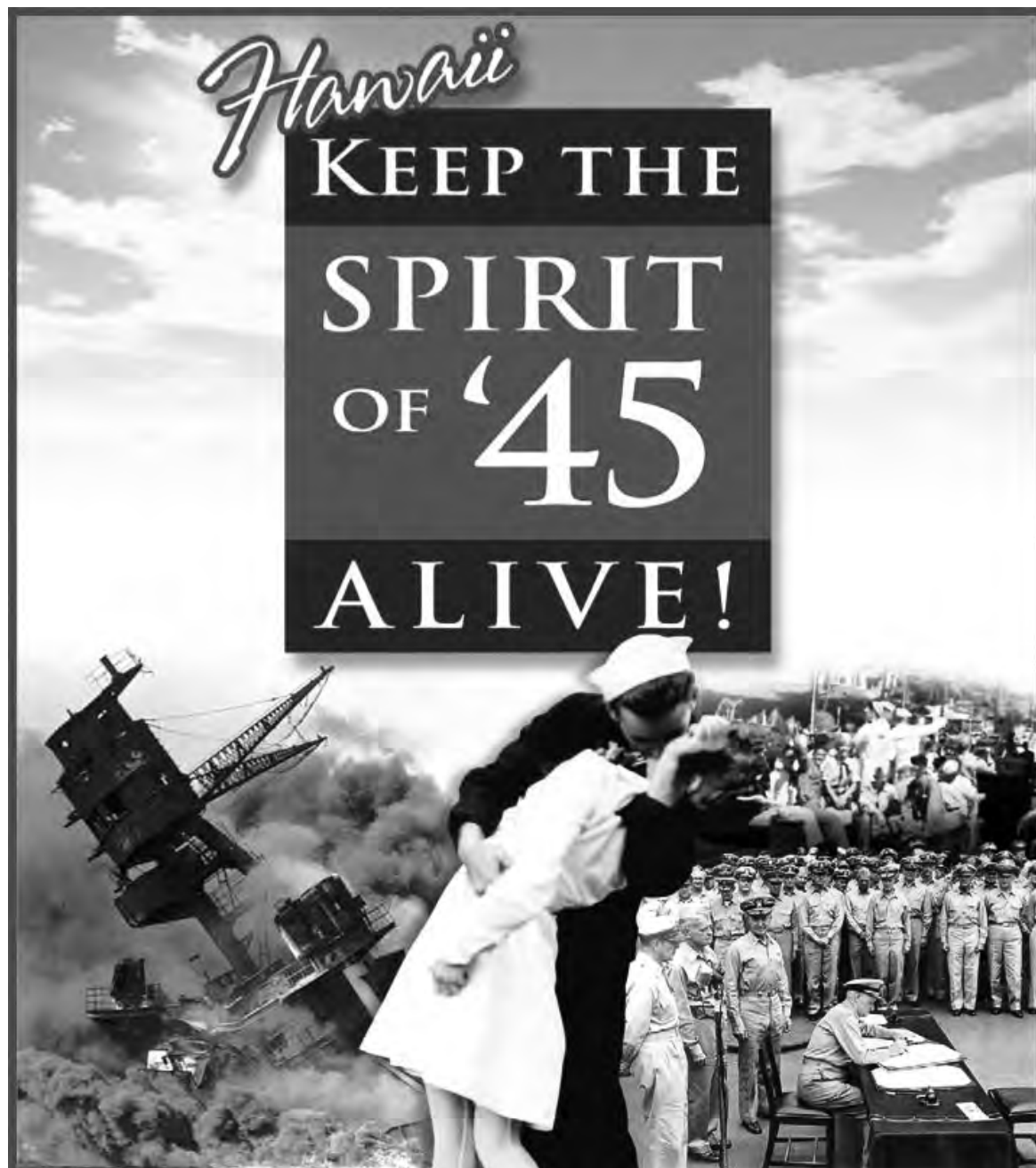
Dear Deadeyes and family members,

I am writing to invite you and other members of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association to join us for a special ceremony honoring the men and women of the World War II generation that will be held at the Battleship USS Iowa on Saturday, August 10, 2013, at 10:00 a.m.

This ceremony is one of the hundreds of events that will be taking place across America next month as part of Spirit of '45 Day, the annual day of remembrance and national unity that celebrates the achievements and values of the "ordinary heroes" of the World War II generation.

Passed by a unanimous Congressional vote in 2010, Spirit of '45 Day is now being observed throughout America on the second Sunday in August, aligned with the anniversary of the day that U.S. President Harry S. Truman announced that the most destructive war in history had ended on August 14, 1945.

Spirit of '45 Day reminds us of the courage, shared sacrifice, commitment to service, and national unity that were the hallmarks of the generation that endured the difficult times of the Great Depression, triumphed in defense of freedom



and democracy, and then went on to assure a better future for their children and their children's children.

The Battleship USS Iowa is proud to have this opportunity to honor the men and women who served in uniform and on the Home Front during this historic chapter in America's - and the world's - history, and warmly invites you to join us in expressing our appreciation to the surviving members of what is often referred to as our "Greatest Generation."

Our opening ceremony will feature a display the flags of America's allies and countries that were liberated in the year 1945, and special appearances

by veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa; members of WWII heritage groups like legendary Tuskegee Airmen, the all Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Filipino Scouts, and women who served in uniform and on the Home Front, including the nation's oldest working "Rosie the Riveter" Elinor Otto.

The rest of the day will feature live '40s swing dance music, educational exhibits, and a health fair for seniors and their families. WWII veterans will be given free admission to the Iowa and are invited to bring their service photos so they can be scanned and entered into a national "Wall of Honor"

that is displayed each year on Spirit of '45 Day in front of the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC.

We know you will want to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime event and have the opportunity to express thanks to those whose Spirit can continue to inspire future generations of Americans.

I personally look forward to welcoming you to the Battleship USS Iowa, as together we "Celebrate America's Spirit!"

Sincerely,

Jonathan Williams
President and Chief
Executive Officer



Deadeye News...

Veterans Administration

Fort Rosecrans Military Reservation

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Situated in San Diego County on the Fort Rosecrans Military reservation, the cemetery is located approximately 10 miles west of San Diego, overlooking the bay and the city.

Many Fort Rosecrans interments date to the early years of the California Territory, including the remains of the casualties of the battle of San Pasqual. Shortly after the United States declared war on Mexico in May 1846, Brigadier Stephen Watts Kearny was tasked with conquering Mexico's northern provinces, New Mexico and California. While Kearny demonstrated his considerable gift for administrative command with his acquisition of the New Mexican territory, he faced a more difficult task in California. Expecting a show of force from the Mexican Californios, Kearny set out west from New Mexico. Upon reaching California, Kit Carson intercepted him and his men, who informed him the territory had been taken by American settlers in the Bear Flag Revolt. Kearny sent 200 of his men back to New Mexico with the news and continued forward with one-third of his force. Unfortunately, the success of the revolt had been exaggerated and, before reaching their destination, Kearny and his men encountered a group of Californios intent on keeping more U.S. troops out of their homeland.

In the subsequent Battle of San Pasqual, 19 of Kearny's men and an untold number of Californios lost their lives. Initially, the dead were buried where they fell, but by 1874 the remains had been removed to the San Diego Military Reservation. Eight years later, the bodies were again reinterred at what is now Fort Rosecrans National



Cemetery. In 1922, the San Diego chapter of the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West had a large boulder brought from the battlefield and placed at the gravesite with a plaque affixed that lists the names of the dead.

Another notable monument in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery commemorates the deaths of 62 sailors in a boiler explosion aboard the USS Bennington. The Bennington, which had just returned from maneuvers in the Pacific, was anchored in San Diego Harbor. On July 21, 1905, the crew was ordered to depart in search for the USS Wyoming, which had lost a propeller at sea. At approximately 10:30 a.m., an explosion in the boiler room ripped through the ship, killing and wounding the majority of the crew. Two days later the remains of soldiers and sailors were brought to the post cemetery and interred in an area known

as Bennington Plot.

Fort Rosecrans became a National Cemetery on Oct. 5, 1934. The decision to make the post cemetery part of the national system came, in part, due to changes in legislation that greatly increased the number of persons eligible for burial in a national cemetery. Grave space in San Francisco National Cemetery then grew increasingly limited. In addition, southern California was experiencing a phenomenal population growth during this period, and there was a definitive need for more burial sites.

WIKI

Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery is situated in the city of San Diego, California on the grounds of the former Fort Rosecrans. The cemetery is located approximately 10 miles west of downtown San Diego, overlooking the bay and the city on one side, and

the Pacific Ocean on the other. Fort Rosecrans is named after William Starke Rosecrans, a Union general in the American Civil War. The cemetery was registered as California Historical Landmark #55 on December 6, 1932. The cemetery is spread out over 77.5 acres located on both sides of Catalina Blvd.

The recent addition of concrete walls for cremated remains at Fort Rosecrans in place of old chain-link fencing has allowed thousands of World War II veterans to be interred there who otherwise would not have been able to since the cemetery was closed for new burials in the late 1960s. Currently, the cemetery has no space for new casketed remains, but does accept cremated remains. Once Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery has reached maximum occupancy the cemetery will be turned over to the National

Park System and the grounds will be taken care of by park employees.

In 1973, Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery was placed under the control of the Veterans Administration.

Today, the Fort Rosecrans Memorial Day celebration is the largest Memorial Day festivity in San Diego. The Fort Rosecrans Memorial Day Committee consists of war veterans' organizations, their auxiliaries, and patriotic groups.

Fort Rosecrans Details

Year established: 1882

Location: Point Loma, San Diego, California

Type: United States National Cemetery

Number of graves: 110,043

Deadeye Reunion 2013 Photos...

San Diego, Ca. • San Diego, Ca. • San Diego, Ca. • San Diego, Ca. • San Diego, Ca. • San Diego, Ca. • San Diego, Ca. • San Diego, Ca. • San Diego, Ca. • San Diego, Ca.

- Photos by Joe Boyack -



Deadeye Reunion 2013 Photos...

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- Photos by Joe Boyack -



Deadeye News & History...

Only Yesterday - A private museum in San Diego

- Submitted by Jim Collins -



Pictured above at the museum this summer at the reunion are Calvin Clements, Jim Foster, Chuck Spielman, Orville Caspers and Don Dencker.

Chuck and Amy Spielman have created a unique museum featuring magnificent automobiles and military history. Both are passions for the Spielmans and they have spared no expense in making their exhibits informative, artistic and beautiful. During the reunion in San Diego we had a private tour for 20 Deadeyes and their families. Chuck Spielman and his staff at the museum treated us to a great tour. First we looked at nearly 30 fabulous automobiles that are maintained so that they are ready to drive every day. One of the rooms in the auto display was decorated to look like an auto dealership from 1935. He had a rare and beautiful 1934 Dusenber Convertible on display as well as several other mid 30's cars. In the main display area he had a Mercedes Benz 300 SL Gull Wing coupe and a Convertible. There were Chevrolet convertibles from 1955 thru 1960 and several Corvettes including a new ZR 1. A prize possession for Chuck is a 1964 Cobra that he had in College. He sold it in the late 70's and bought it back in the 90's. He said it will never be put up for sale in his life-

time. It is a very rare car.

In another wing of the building is the Military Museum. It started out to be a WWII museum but it has expanded to include all of our military history. There are rare one of a kind documents as well as great photos, artifacts, uniforms and even a Korean war vintage helicopter. The museum is really all about personal stories. It is through these personal stories that the bigger picture of what was going on is portrayed. Letters, awards and decorations, maps, operational materials are all combined to tell a story about some hero. Chuck has a lot of memorabilia regarding the Holocaust in Europe including a mock-up of a German home with a hidden basement that housed a Jewish family in the early 1940's. There were wartime documents signed by General Eisenhower and operations orders from the Normandy Invasion. There was a lot to take in during our short 2 hour visit.

Chuck Spielman was an Army 1st Lieutenant in the Infantry and he served in Vietnam. The Spielmans were very gracious hosts and we all enjoyed seeing their special museum.





Pave the Way for Army History

The new National Museum of the US Army is offering an opportunity to purchase personalized bricks to be placed on the "Path of Remembrance" leading up to the main entrance of the Museum which will be constructed in 2014/15. Individuals can purchase a brick for themselves, a fellow soldier or for their unit.

This is also a great way for a family to create a lasting memory of their 96th soldier. The Museum will place the bricks in the order in which the order was received. Therefore if we can consolidate an order for multiple bricks there is a good chance they will be placed nearby each other.

The 96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund will offer to coordinate collecting the orders and sending them in all at the same time. We are going to purchase a large brick just for the 96th Infantry Division. It would be nice if we could cluster other bricks for 96th soldiers or other units around the large 96th Infantry Division brick. We will start collecting orders now and continue until 1 June 2014 at which time all the orders received will be sent on to the Army Museum.

If you are interested in joining with your fellow Deadeyes and purchase a brick then send Liz Harper an email and she will send you back an order form and instructions. Or if you would rather send her a letter that is ok too. Here is her contact information:

Liz Harper
 1104 Winnsboro Court
 Allen, TX 75013-6306
 Cell/Work#: 214-726-5419
 eamh@sbcglobal.net

Visit www.armyhistory.org/bricks for complete information on the Army Brick Program.

About the Museum...

The approved site for the Museum is on Fort Belvoir's North Post, along the Fairfax County Parkway. Just 30 minutes south of the National Mall in Washington, DC, and ten minutes from Mount Vernon, historic home of the nation's first commander-in-chief, Fort Belvoir is the ideal site for the National Army Museum. The Museum will be publicly accessible and is conveniently located at a major crossroads – just two miles from I-95 and Route 1.

The main building will be approximately 175,000 square feet. Outside this facility will be a park with a memorial garden and parade ground. Space is being planned to accommodate ceremonies, reenactments, lectures, and educational programs, and there will be ample room for parking.

Deadeye Dispatch Change of Address Form

Clip and mail to:

Diane O'Brien, PO Box 34, Trempealeau, WI 54661-0034 or email to ddobrien@trivest.net

| OLD ADDRESS | NEW ADDRESS |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Name _____ | Name _____ |
| Address _____ | Address _____ |
| City _____ State _____ Zip _____ | City _____ State _____ Zip _____ |
| Phone _____ | Phone _____ |
| Email _____ | 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 Sustainment Brigade.

| MEMBERSHIP DUES | | | |
|--|------|---------------------------------------|------|
| <i>Those that previously served in the 96th DIV/ARCOM/RSC/RRC and are not currently assigned to a unit:</i> | | | |
| 1 year..... | \$18 | 2 years..... | \$34 |
| | | 3 years..... | \$48 |
| <i>Those currently assigned to a unit in the 96th Sustainment Brigade or those assigned to another command that previously served in the 96th Sustainment Brigade:</i> | | | |
| 1 year..... | \$8 | (yearly renewals are the same amount) | |
| <i>Family members or friends of former 96th Soldiers (WWII or Desert Storm):</i> | | | |
| 1 year..... | \$10 | 2 years..... | \$18 |
| | | 3 years..... | \$24 |

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

(Detach and return with Payment)

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$ _____

DONATION \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make check payable to : 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association

Mail application to:
 Dennis O'Brien
 PO Box 34
 Trempealeau, WI 54661-0034



Deadeye History...



Capt. John R. "Jack" McNicholas M.D.,

8 April 45
Okinawa Jima

Dear Ann, Mom & Dad & Jim:

Sorry about the pencil, but an examination of records chest showed that it had been dunked in sea water, and in spite of waterproofing, where we had a typewriter, we now have a hunk of rust. In due time, tho, I think we can get a complete new chest. Meantime, I'll get writer's cramps trying to tell all.

I could not say much in my last letter from Leyte, mainly, because everything we were doing pertained to this operation – so, I was limited to routine "duties." Mine largely were, except for shots, and we gave hundreds of those. We are now protected against tetanus, typhoid, small pox, yellow fever, cholera, plague and typhus. If they get any more we will get 'em.

Before leaving Leyte I was assigned to Engineer Group HQ. The engineer group consists of three combat battalions, which go ashore early and take care of the unloading and locating of supplies. Their aid station also handles back evacuation to ships until Army Hospital units are set up. They were missing a medical officer in HQ, so I was put there, expecting to be there only a few days. I was lucky in one way – I got to ride in a regular transport instead of the much smaller LSM (Landing Ship Mechanized) which the 321st rode on and which pitched and tossed like a bronco. I found out that I was going ashore with General Easley's party – He is the Assistant Division Commander, and he goes in to pick out a spot for division headquarters and tell Bradley that it is safe (or it is not) for him to come in. I did not feel so good about that, since Easley likes to go in early. Sometimes I am afraid that he will beat the assault troops in. But there I was and I could not do anything about it. When the officers aboard found out that I was going with Group (again not going with the 321st Engineers) they started calling me "Mobile Mac." I must be versatile, anyway. Our ship was not as good as the last one – quarters were much more crowded and no room to move around.

Letters Home from the Front...

Capt. John R. "Jack" McNicholas M.D., (called "Brud" by his family) served with the 321st Engineers on Leyte and Okinawa. He was awarded the Bronze Star for service, "mostly for keeping my nose clean," he told his oldest grandson. He spoke little about his service, other than telling stories about the mud and the typhoon. He practiced medicine in Glendale, Calif., and died at home of cancer in 2005, at age 89. He left two daughters, two sons and two grandsons, and a brother. He left his sons a sword and a Nambu pistol and holster he had brought back from Okinawa.

His brother Capt. James D. McNicholas served with Patton's headquarters company in Europe. He lives in Texas.

His brother 2nd Lt. Carleton E. McNicholas served with the engineers in the 29th Division. He was killed on Omaha Beach after volunteering to lead a frontal attack on a machine-gun nest "greatly impeding the progress of the work parties" trying to open a beach exit. His Silver Star citation mentions the danger "both from the enemy and our own naval gun fire," but doesn't specify which proved fatal. He was buried in Marenisco, Mich.

The letter below was submitted by Capt. McNicholas' oldest son, John R. McNicholas Jr., email: jrmcnicholasjr@gmail.com.

It was the usual transport they use in assaults. The food, tho, was really marvelous. Steak, turkey, pork, ice cream, apples, vegetables. I could go on and on! After our diet ashore of spam, wieners, sausage and more spam, it was heaven!

I wrote a couple of letters aboard, but we still "were in the Philippines" for security reasons. Had to lie again, talking about things on shore which had happened weeks ago. But that is the way it is. We had one practice landing; and practiced transferring of LCVPs to the t(r)acked vehicles. It was easier than I thot it would be, although teetering on the side of (a)n LCVP with 50 pounds of equipment on your back and carbine in one hand, is not the way to keep from growing (and) going gray.

Our trip, while short, was rougher than the dickens, and it rained all the time. Many a time I thanked my stars that I was not with the Battalion on that "little row boat," as my dental officer calls it. Practically all got sea sick. We had a few on our ship, but I was fine all the way – enjoying the food to the utmost.

It really took guts to come in this close to Japan and land, and we were a little apprehensive as to what we would run into ashore. Every one was a little tense, but not at all like you would expect. We knew we had to go ashore, anyway, so might as well make the best of it. It is funny, but traveling aboard ship I never have the slightest fear of submarines, etc. I have confidence in the navy to take us where we are going in perfect safety. It may be foolish. But I sleep better and I have been right so far.

When we got there – offshore – it was a swell day. Not rough or choppy, but warm and sunny. The assault troops were to land at 8:30 and at 8:30 we went down the nets into our LCVP's, and started out again. I forgot to mention that the officer I had replaced had returned to Group, so I was going ashore to help him until the 321st Engineers arrived, and then go with them. We left the ship and started for the area where we were to meet the LVT's – and our (L)VT broke down. So, we floated around until another came up and

towed us. One of the comments while we were floating there was "Wait until Time magazine hears about this!" The motor could not be fixed, so we transferred to anther LCVP and started out again. There were more ships of all kinds around than I had ever dreamed existed – the sea was just black with them as far as you could see. And especially comforting was squadron after squadron of navy planes overhead constantly.

When we got to the "rendezvous area" our waves of LVT's had just formed, so we got into ours and started in. Ours had taken the assault troops in earlier and he said that the "Beach seemed quiet." That was a little comforting. The LVT's (or alligators) are full tracked and all steel, and it seems impossible that they will float, but they do. They were being used because of the reef we had to cross, which extended out about 300 yards. So, we started in. The reef was rough and bumpy – part of the time we would be swimming and then crawling – but soon we were right up to the sea wall. We dropped our life belts, climbed up on the nose of the LVT and stepped up to the wall. The first thing I saw was a lot of men, each crouched on one knee, spread out and looking all around. And my first thot was – "Snipers." – So, I got down myself and waited for shots to be fired. None were, and pretty soon our Group moved inward to the spot previously picked out for our CP. We got up there, and got rid of our packs, and began looking around. By that time the doughboys were way inland and there was absolutely nothing going on where we were. We spent the rest of the day watching the other landings (We got in at noon) and picking a spot for the night. During the afternoon Jap artillery opened up on the beach South of us, and we had a nice spectator's view of the bursts. They were lousy shots, tho, and the shells kept dropping out on the reef.

Since we did not have any blankets (our gear had not come in yet) we spent one very cold night. Nothing but a very thin poncho, fatigues and a light sweater. It was really chilly. I was very happy to see morning come with its sunshine. So, I went down to the beach and waited for the Battalion to come in. They got in on L plus. (it was "L" day

instead of A or D day). I just joined them as they came in and so came back to my old job.

We bivouacked in a series of little valleys for a few days with no excitement, then moved. Where we are now we can hear our own artillery shells whistling overhead. Last night I heard them, then I heard others which seemed to be coming from a long way off and they were exploding about one half mile from us. So, I called out to Lager (my dental officer), "Melvin, where are those darned things coming from?" in a very hoarse whisper. And he whispers back, equally hoarse, "The wrong way!" which was what I had figured too, and then I was very happy that my foxhole was nice and deep and comfortable. However, none came close to our area, and we were well defiladed in besides, so we have no worries. I had a wonderful night's sleep once I got used to the sound. Our artillery quieted them down, anyway, after they had fired a few rounds.

We are lucky to be in the Engineers, where they have an air compressor and jack hammer. We use it to dig out fox holes in the coral rock. It can be done with a pick, but is very laborious, so we use the machinery. The company commander saved up a lot of supplies like flour, sugar, etc. on Leyte before we left. Now we have the kitchen set up and have had pancakes for breakfast every morning since the second day. The kitchen prepares our 10 in 1 rations, so all we have to do is to get in the chow line. It makes it pretty nice. (Kneisler, Ann, is H & S C O now and is doing a very good job. Miller is S-L and doesn't keep butting into everyone else's business.)

Well, it is getting about chow time and I guess I had better close. Am nice, comfortable and safe, although the weather has been cool since the second day and we use two blankets at night. We have to get acclimated from our tropical climate to this, I guess.

(Don't worry – any of you – I am OK and doing fine. Send your copy to Pat, Mom.)

All of my love to all of you,
Brud

Deadeye Reunion 2013 & News...

96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund Report

Submitted by Jim Collins

Our current fund-raising campaign has been for a new monument at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. During the 2013 Reunion in San Diego we were able to raise nearly \$5000 for the monument which should be enough to pay for it. I appreciate the support from all the donors. Upcoming projects include a large plaque at the new National Museum of the US Army. In this issue of the Dispatch is an announcement regarding the Army Museum Brick Program and how our members can participate. Our web site is especially important for the Heritage Fund as we continue to preserve the history and memory of the 96th. I expect to have some new pages on the web site that our members should find to be useful. One addition we will work on is a Hall of Heroes where we can post a photo (or two) and a story about our 96th soldiers. Another addition is a place where someone can post a message like "Does anyone know my Dad? He served in B Company 381st." There is a lot we can do and so I am always looking for volunteers as well as donations. Remember your donation to the Heritage Fund is tax deductible.

Heritage Fund Gold Sustaining members

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE GOLD SUSTAINING MEMBERS OF THE 96TH DIVISION HERITAGE FUND WHO CONTRIBUTED A MINIMUM OF \$250 DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2013.

Al Altig
Joe Boyack
Calvin Clements
Jim Collins
Bob Cronshey
(In memory of Rosemary Cronshey)

Don Dencker
David Ellis
Kermit Ellis
Joe Gonzales
Don Klimkowicz
Roman Klimkowicz
Dennis & Diane O'Brien
Marvin Reames
Bob & Ruth Siefert

Gripping World War II memories at reunion

Veterans from Army's 96th Infantry Division recall liberating islands during Midway tour

GARY WARTH • U-T

SAN DIEGO

To the other visitors on the USS Midway Museum, the elderly men touring the ship with walkers and canes may have seemed like any other tourists out for a Saturday morning excursion.

Anyone who struck up a conversation with them, however, was treated to a rare firsthand account of history.

"Our baptism of fire was an artillery barrage by the Japanese on the fifth of April," said Don Dencker of Wisconsin. "From then on, we were in almost continuous combat on Okinawa."

Dencker, 88, is author of "Love Company," which tells the story of Company L of the Army's 96th Infantry Division, known as the Deadeyes.

He's in town this weekend to reunite with other survivors from the 96th, which saw its first action in the Oct. 20, 1944, invasion of Leyte in the Philippine Islands.

The 96th helped liberate the island in about two months and then headed for Okinawa, a large island the Allies planned to use as a base to invade Japan just 340 miles away.

It would not be easy. With 12,500 U.S. troops killed or missing and 62,000 casualties in all, the battle for Okinawa was the bloodiest in the Pacific.

The 96th had the highest rate of casualties among the seven divisions involved in the battle. According to an article Dencker wrote for the 96th Infantry Division Deadeyes Association, the group suffered 1,625 killed, 7,500 wounded and 888 combat fatigue casualties.

Wearing shorts and a T-shirt that read, "Growing



World War II veteran Rick Ricker Jr., 89, of Hanover, Pa., tours the USS Midway Museum during a reunion Saturday of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeyes Association. Ricker was a private first class. HOWARD LEVIN • U-T PHOTOS



Virgil Simmons of Bay City, Ore., holds a dog tag he removed from a Japanese officer he killed on Okinawa.

and is mandatory, growing up is optional," Bay Area resident Glenn Stewart recalled several harrowing close calls in Okinawa.

"I had two or three options for not coming home," said Stewart, 87.

On one assignment, his squad was ordered to capture a hill that other troops had been unable to hold.

"Our squad got on top and we spread ourselves lengthwise left to right, and we held it," he said. "But at that time I heard machine gun fire coming from 10 o'clock. My buddy was say-

ing 4 feet away from me uphill. I turned my head and saw bullets go from his shoulder to his leg. And he was gone."

On another excursion, Stewart said he was walking ahead of his squad when his sergeant grabbed him by his uniform and threw him to the ground.

The sergeant had spotted a Japanese sniper prepared to shoot as soon as Stewart walked past a brick wall. The sniper was killed by a grenade tossed by the sergeant.

Virgil Simmons, who will be 90 next month, recalled the time he came upon a Japanese officer on horseback on Okinawa. The officer surrendered his pistol, but was still armed with a sword.

"He unsheathed the sword, and I could just see him rear that horse, and my head would be lying in the street," he said. "But I had my .45, and I just blew him right out of the saddle."

Simmons reached into his pocket and pulled out the Japanese officer's dog tag.

before he dies, he would like to find the man's relatives to give them the tag.

San Diego native Joe Gonzales also was among the veterans attending the reunion. One of four brothers who fought in World War II, Gonzales remembered his friend Manuel Galaz, who came to the United States from Tijuana and joined the Army with plans of becoming a citizen.

Galaz went on a patrol in Okinawa and never returned, he said.

The Midway tour was arranged by San Diego Inbound Tours, and company President Rob Wallace said the 96th Division reunion was one of hundreds held in San Diego each year.

When he began the business 24 years ago, Wallace said a World War II reunion would commonly attract 100 or 200 veterans, but their numbers have been dropping each year.

Only 27 veterans from the 96th Division made it to this year's reunion.

Article Submitted by Don Dencker...

Here is an article from the Sunday morning, July 28, 2013 San Diego newspaper for publication in the Fall, 2013 Deadeye Dispatch. We were interviewed by the newspaper reporter while we were in the 96th Infantry Division reunion group touring the retired U.S. Navy aircraft carrier Midway.

In 1995-96, a comprehensive research effort was made of 1944 through 1995 Pacific war casualty records to determine a final list of U.S. military personnel killed, died of wounds, and missing in action from the Battle of Okinawa. This was in connection with the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa. All the names gathered were put on black marble plaques in the Cornerstone of Peace Monument on Okinawa and in a separate much larger section which listed Japanese names.

A total of 14,005 names are listed in the U.S. section. This is considerable higher than the 12,500 frequently quoted in indicating U.S. military dead from the battle of Okinawa.

This copy of the article was sent to me by Frank Ratty who served in Company I, 382nd Infantry Regiment during the Battle of Okinawa. He lives in El Cajon, California, but was unable to attend our reunion.

Deadeye History...

96th INFANTRY DIVISION COMPOSITION FOR BATTLES OF LEYTE, PHILIPPINES & OKINAWA, JAPAN

Submitted by Don Dencker, L/382/96, 1 July 2013 • Sources: "U.S. Army Handbook 1939-45 & Division History Book 1947

On top of the 96th Infantry Division Structure plan is the Military symbol for the 96th Infantry Division including the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Company. In the left column are the military symbols and insignia for the 3 Infantry Regiments, the 381st, 382nd and 383 Infantry Regiments. At the bottom are three attached units, the 763rd Tank Battalion, the 593rd Joint Attack Signal Company (JASCO) and a Company of the 88th Chemical Mortar Battalion with 4.2 inch mortars. In the Division there were 90 60 mm Mortars and 54 81mm Mortars. (The 96th Division shoulder patch

is also shown twice.) A total of 9,354 men were in the Infantry component of the Division.

In the center column are the Division Headquarters Artillery Battery and the 4 Artillery Battalions, the 361st, 362nd and 921st Field Artillery Battalions with 105mm Howitzers and the 363rd with 155mm Howitzers with their military symbols and insignia. Each Artillery Battalion had a Headquarters and Headquarters Company, a Service Battery and 3 Firing Batteries, each with 12 Howitzers. This is a total of 48 artillery pieces for the Division Artillery. Also the Infantry

Cannon Companies had 18 short barreled 105mm Howitzers on a self propelled tank base, A total of 2,160 men made up the Division Artillery component.

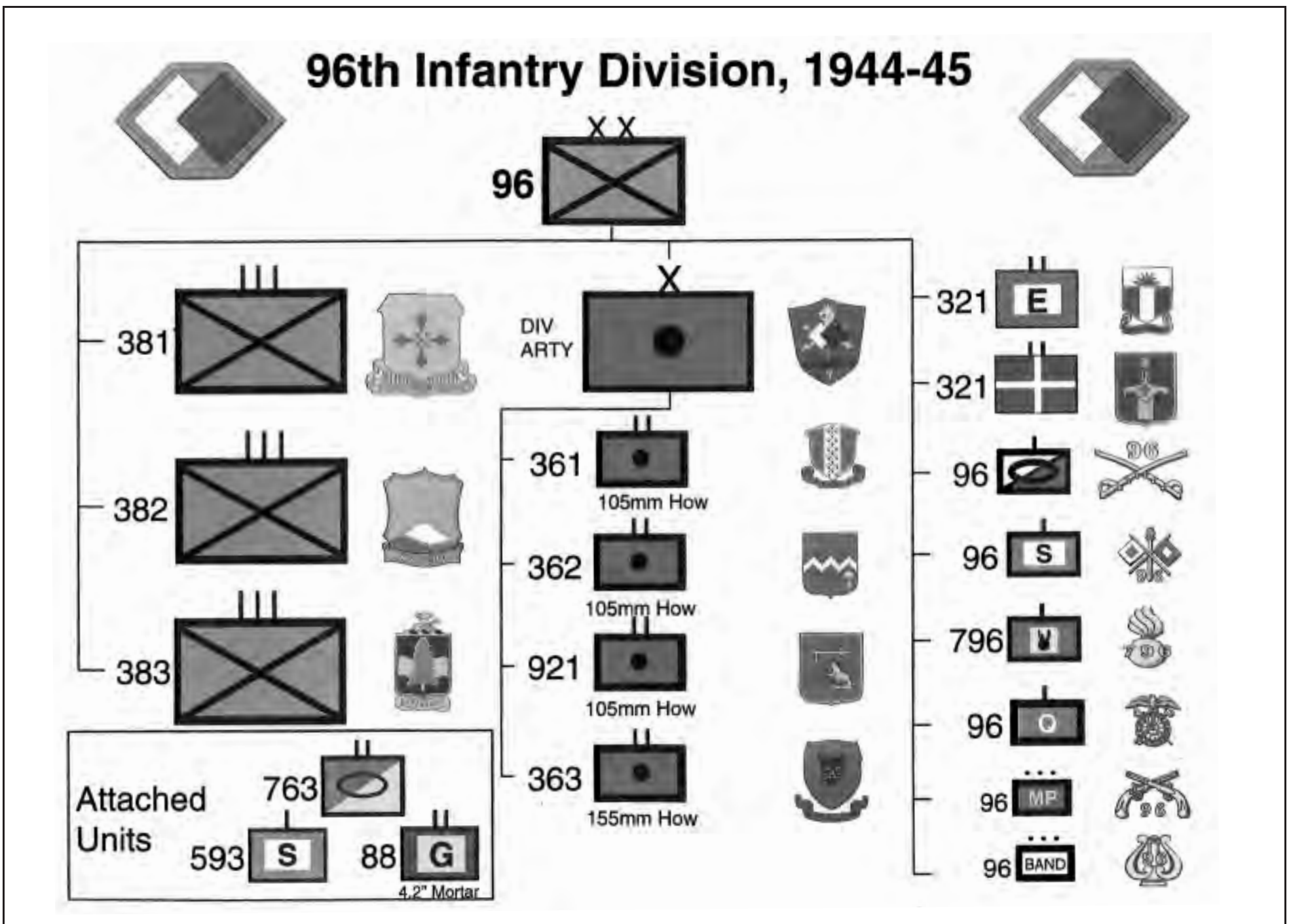
The right hand column has Division troops and their insignia starting at the top with the 321st Engineer Combat Battalion, followed by the 321st Medical Battalion, the 96th Reconnaissance Troop, 96th Signal company, 796th Ordnance Company, 96th Quartermaster Company and the Military Police Platoon and the Division Band. Band members had combat support duties. The Medical Battalion had 465 men

plus there was a Medical Section in each Regiment. The Engineer Combat Battalion had 647 men with 226 men in the Signal Company, 155 men in the Reconnaissance Troop, 147 Men in the Ordnance Maintenance Company and 193 men in the Quartermaster Company.

Each Infantry Regiment had a Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Cannon Company, Anti-Tank Company, Service Company, 3 Infantry Battalion Headquarters Companies, 3 Heavy Weapons Companies and 9 Rifle Companies. This adds up to 19 Companies per Regiment and 57 Infantry

Companies in the Division, of which there were 27 Rifle Companies. Regimental Infantry strength totaled 3,118 men.

Total authorized 96th Infantry Division strength in 1944 was 14,253 men and in 1945 was 14,037 men. If our 96th Infantry Division history book is correct, we landed on Okinawa short of authorized strength 1,236 men. This put the Division Okinawa landing strength at 12,081 men, significantly under-strength. Manpower strengths listed are from the Army Table of organization in effect when we landed on Leyte, Philippines on October 20, 1944.



Deadeye Reunion 2013 Photos...

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- Photos by Joe Boyack -



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DEADEYE ITEMS

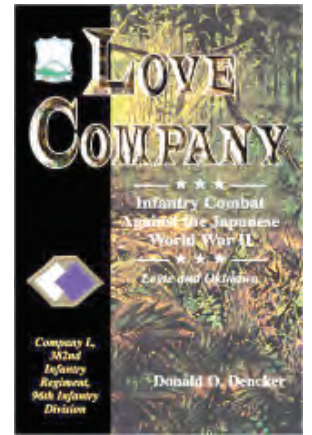


Deadeye Caps

(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.

To purchase Love Company, send a \$15.00 check made out to: Donald Dencker, 128 N. Musket Ridge Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

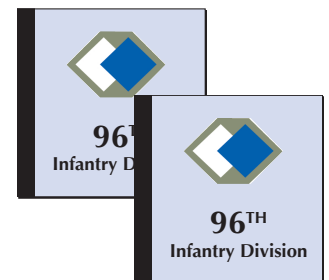


96TH Infantry Division Presidential Unit Citation Documents Available

Two color photo copies: Presidential Unit Citation Certificate and Presidential Unit Citation Text
Cost is \$6.00 per set of two, postage paid

Also available: Philippines Presidential Unit Citation. One page, black & white.
Cost is \$2.00, postage paid.

Make check to: Donald Dencker, 128 N. Musket Ridge Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590



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)

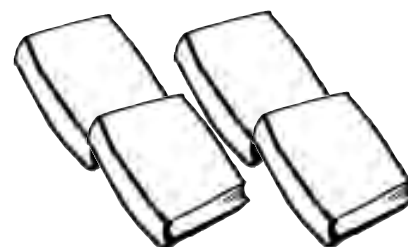
CD #2:
Battle of Okinawa (91 screens)

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)

Make check to: Donald Dencker,
128 N. Musket Ridge Drive, Sun
Prairie, WI 53590

(Revised-April, 2007)



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: ephillips3@hotmail.com