

WHO IS A DEADEYE?

Reunion time has come and old soldiers will meet together again to recall times many years ago, when their comradeship began.

Today a DEADEYE is middle-aged, but his memories are as real as yesterday. Maybe he wears a blue and white pin in the lapel of his business suit. Not much else sets him apart from other citizens except:

He performs his daily activities with the same honor and persistence that made him stick it out 20 years ago and 10,000 miles from home with green replacements, with non-coms in charge of companies, with privates leading platoons.

He never knew defeat, but winning often meant losing his friends and seeing his outfit bleed to death.

He belonged to the 96th Infantry Division that was described as "the perfect infantry division," or "the best bunch of fighters since the Alamo".

He secured a place in history although he alone might never know fame.

He remembers good days and bad. He can tell about a Saturday night at the PX in Camp Adair, or re-live night guard in a fox hole in Okinawa.

He thinks once more of the men on his company roster who were left in hastily dug graves on Pacific Islands, and of others who will answer the roll call at the reunion.

Then the DEADEYE decides to renew his membership in the Association by signing in at the headquarters hotel in person.

Writer Remains Anonymous

"OLD SOLDIERS" TRADE MEMORIES AT CAMP ADAIR REUNION

ADAIR AFS, CORVALLIS-A World War II Sergeant and two of his men traded golden memories here July 24, 1964. Among many veterans of the 96th Infantry Division returning to the site of old Camp Adair, where the unit was activated and trained 20 years ago. The old Sarge is Edmund Biggs (right), Plainfield, Indiana, Trucker. Two of his charges, who remember mostly serving on KP and washing muddy trucks, are Shirley Levy, (left) Temple, Texas, Army employee; and Ross J. Vohland, Salem, Oregon, Papermill worker. This picture was taken by Tom Wright, State reporter for the Oregon Statesman of Salem, Oregon. This is the picture that appeared on the back cover of the Deadeye Dispatch which you received in December.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It is very important that anyone changing addresses notify: Richard Klassen, 929 South Myrtle, Kankakee, Illinois. The Association mail isn't first class, so under postal regulations it cannot be forwarded. It is returned to the Corresponding Secretary, who must make up new addressograph plates and remail. So, as you can see, this gets to be a costly project. Dick is not one who wants to lose names on the 96th Division roster.

MINNESOTA AND MICHIGAN CHAPTERS

The Minnesota Chapter of the 96th Division held its first reunion October 31, 1964. There were 109 in attendance and lots of well wishers sent messages to the meeting. They had a dinner and dance. All are looking forward to the National reunion.

The Michigan Chapter will have their meeting May 1, 1965, at the Albert Pick Motel, 1427 West Saginaw, East Lansing, Mich. Richard Klassen will have the Division files at that reunion. So come on Michigan "Lets Go", Make it big.

GENERAL DOUGLAS MacARTHUR COMMOMERATIVE COINS AVAILABLE

William "Bang" Meyer, 5161 College Cornor Road, Oxford, Ohio, has these uncirculated coins that are available only to the men of the 96th, so if interested please write him. Bang is a former DEADEYE and also a coin collector and dealer. He would also like to find an old roster of his Company A 381st. Contact him if you know where any of your old buddies are. He intends to write all of them in regards to attending these reunions.

96TH DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEETS APRIL 1, 1949

The DEADEYE'S of the Northwest held a meeting on the above date, at the Stadium Sports Center, 509 Pike Street, Seattle, Washington. Newspaper clippings and pictures will be at the Minneapolis reunion, this summer, for viewing. It was at this meeting that former Lt. Col. Richard Weisfield made a motion "To elect all men not present at the meeting. Officers of the 96th Division Association." The paper stated the next day that the Association must have at least 10,000 new officers. In attendance was PFC Ellery Scott, then a member of the 23rd Infantry Regt. of the Second Division. During World War II, he spent 38 months in the 96th, participating in all its action, and suffering critical grenade wounds four days before the end of the fighting on Okinawa. Said Scott: "Now the Second is a good division, but you should have seen the 96th during the war. Man, that WAS a Division." The above are parts from the Seattle Times and the Seattle Post Intelligencer.

ILLINOIS PLANS CHAPTER

Alex Markus just will not stop! He is starting a Chapter for the State of Illinois, so come on men get with him and "GO". At the present time he has the names and addresses of more than 600 former DEADEYES from this state. What Alex needs now is some good volunteers. Drop him a line if you are interested in getting it in the makings earlier, as he is the President of the National Association at this time, and will be quite busy with this job until next Summer. Suggesting a spot for the first meeting will be the first issue and the mailing of notices will be next on the agenda. Help him if you can.

POSTING NOTICES IN LOCAL PAPERS AND USING DECALS

Place an ad in your local newspaper announcing the 96th reunion to be held at Minneapolis, July 29, 30, 31, 1965, at the Hotel Leamington. Make use of the 96th Division Decals by posting one at your local American Legion and V.F.W. post, with Richard Klassen's address on it. Also, put a decal on your car bumper or in any conspicuous spot where it might catch some lost DEAD-EYE'S attention. Richard Klassen has written to 36 newspapers and received 20 letters from Deadeyes who never knew the Association existed. Let's share our organization, by letting others know of its existence. A notice was published in the January Legion Magazine.

DUES

Dues are \$3.00 per year, so if you haven't paid as yet, please send at once to Richard Klassen or Ed Dakan. Lots of expense you know.

MINNEAPOLIS CHAIRMAN MAKES PLANS

During the Minneapolis reunion, plans have been made for the women to attend a style show at Dayton's and tour the Betty Crocker kitchens. To see all those recipes prepared will be an attraction to you ladies, and a little hard on those Deadeye's waistlines when you get home and start serving all those goodies. (BEATS SPAM YA KNOW).

Minnesota is known as the State with "10,000 Lakes" and is proud to take this opportunity to welcome all DEADEYES. Why not combine your vacation and attendance at the 8th Annual Reunion. Anyone wanting to spend time fishing, boating, swimming, or any number of vacation attractions, are urged to write to Bob Siefert, 5741 - 33rd Avenue, So., Minneapolis, Minn. 55417. Bob will send you any or all the information you need to make your visit to Minnesota a long remembered event.

Plans are made for a tour of the Hamms Brewing Company (some will see the modern way they brew the stuff, after seeing it brewed Island style in an old water can, out of raisins and what have you). It wasn't mentioned in the word received if there would be samples for those wanting same, however, knowing a DEADEYE he will get what he wants.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES

You could make it possible to see a dozen of your old buddies from your old Company. If you'd write all the fellows that you know, telling them you plan on attending the reunion at Minneapolis, perhaps it would motivate them into joining you. It was said that all DEADEYES are Corresponding Secretaries. Get that pencil or pen out and start with paper or postcards, telling them that you, and any other fellow that your buddy might know, are going. Let them know so they too can enjoy the festivities we all share at these reunions. Now is the time for you to show the DEADEYE spirit, and push your old Company ahead, as you always did as a soldier. Your old Company was the best, and you know it. Anyone who wants a roster of their old Company, write to Klassen and he will send you what names he has of your old unit. This will be so you can write to all of them. Your old outfit could very well have the largest number of men at our next reunion. I hope to see all of you at the Minneapolis Reunion this summer.

HERB PAUL CORRESPONDENT PASSES AWAY AT MINNESOTA

Mr. Paul, who wrote lots of news of the 96th Division on Okinawa, passed Away July 23, 1964. Pictures, as well as editorials, appear in our 96th Div. history. "Every Doughboy I have met in the 96th Division who has been through the tough fighting is a hero to me". "Yet when you set down with these boys, many still in their teens, you find them always willing to give

their buddies credit, but a little reticent to tell of their own exploits". "Heros are made, not born, is a proverb that has been proven time and again during the battle for Okinawa". The above is just a part of the writings by Paul, that appeared in his editorials.

OLD ROSTERS AND THEIR VALUE

The old roster you may have in that old trunk, stashed away in the attic, is of real value. The roster of the 796th ORDNANCECO..and the 728th AMTRAC CO. have been used for our mailing lists. The Ordnance Co. added over 100 names to the Association mailing list, and the Amtrac Co. added about 100 of their old buddies to the same list.. These two units will have a good showing at future reunions. So dig out that old roster and send it to Edmund Biggs, 213 Wayside Drive, Plainfield, Indiana 46168. He will make a copy and send your original back to you.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO FUTURE LETTERS

The newsletter will list those in attendance at the reunions starting with the 1965 meeting. They will be listed by Regiment and Company, to let your buddies know you are attending the reunions.

The paper will also make a listing of those who have answered the call of "Taps" over the past year. This is something we don't like to talk about, but must face sooner or later, as we are losing our buddies year after year. This listing will be called "Taps". If you know of any of your buddies that have passed away, please drop a note to Klassen, letting him know, and it will be listed. Be sure to list your buddie's former Regiment and Company.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CARD ON THE WAY

The Treasurer has plenty of the membership cards of the same variety that have been used for several years. You may have one by sending in \$3.00 dues. Checks should be made payable to 96th Infantry Division Association and sent to the following address: Ed Dakan, Box 725, Mason City, Iowa 50401. Members are entitled to all privileges, benefits, and good fellowship that can be promoted for DEADEYES. A picture of the new model membership card to be distributed on depletion of old stock is shown on page 7 Item#2. Now is the time to pay your dues.

The new card is printed in Infantry Blue on white stock. Division insignia has been reproduced in olive and blue. This distinctive card is bordered by a listing of places that became notorious in campaigns of the 96th Infantry Division.

9th ANNUAL REUNION TO BE HELD AT INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

The Claypool Hotel will be the Headquarters for the 1966 Deadeye Reunion. Indiana will be celebrating its 150 years as a State, so join in the Sesquicentennial celebration. The State has a calendar of events for the year and will include the 96th Division Association.

There will be 10 kegs of free beer along with free appetizers, prepared by the hotel kitchen. Free potato chips will be furnished by a potato chip company. For the non-drinkers there will be plenty of soft drinks.

There are lots of attractions just one block from the hotel. The famous Soldiers and Sailors Monument is just a block away. A tour of the famous 500 mile motor Speedway and the Museum will be made. The museum has lots of old racing cars of yesteryear, which is very interesting to see. Efforts will be made to arrange for a driver or more at the speedway. At that time of year, Firestone usually makes tire tests, so maybe we will be able to see some of the speed of these tests. You can be sure that anything Biggs can get for a DEADEYE, he'll take.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

The ladies need all the members they can get to complete their projects. If you want to join (and please do) send One dollar for dues to: Norma Bauer, 101 North Bond Street, Altamont, Illinois 62411. The women have meetings at our reunions, while the men are in session, so this will serve as a means to visit with other Deadeye wives. Most of all, it gives you an opportunity to talk and gossip about other reunions you have attended. Practically all of the women I have talked with have the 96th just as much at heart as their husbands..My wife likes to go have breakfast first, and have the rest of the day for talking. So lets drop Norma a line, letting her know you are interested in joining the Auxiliary and being a part of the "Best. Outfit." the "96th Division Association, Ladies Auxiliary." Mrs. Bauer has the complete set of colors which will be presented to the Association by the Auxiliary at Minneapolis.

MINOR BUTLER ENTERS HINES HOSPITAL

Our founder, Minor Butler, enters the Hines Veterans Hospital for a checkup, as his health has not been the best of late. Lets drop Minor a card, either at his home address, 485 Front St., Arcola, Illinois, or Hines Veterans Hospital, Hines, Illinois.

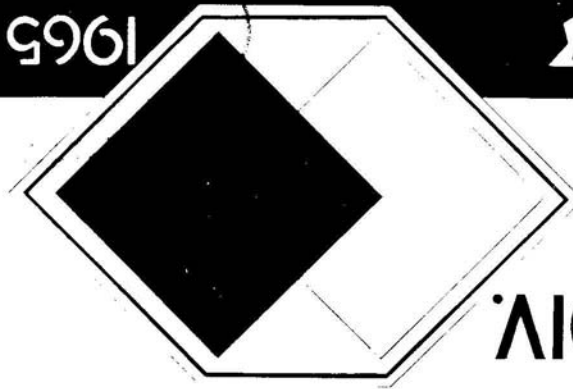
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. THE DEAD EYES - WW II

1965

ANNUAL REUNION

96th

96th INF. DIV. ASSN.



RICHARD KLASSEN

929 S. Myrtle

Kankakee, Illinois

