



ANNUAL REUNION



96th INFANTRY DIVISION Tenth Annual Reunion

Sheraton-Fontenelle Hotel, Omaha, Nebraska July 27, 28, 29, 1967

# THURSDAY - JULY 27

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7:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. 11:00 A.M. 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. I:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. 6:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M. All Day

# FRIDAY - JULY 28

11:00 A.M.

9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. Registration - Mezzanine 9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. General Business Meeting - Ballroom Open for Auxiliary Tour - Boys Town, Nebraska (Reservations) 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Alternate Tour - Falstaff Brewery (Reservations) 8:00 P.M. - Midnight Beer Bust - Ballroom 8:00 P.M. - Midnight Root Beer Bust - Teenager's - Forum Room Teenager's Hospitality - Forum Room (Hotel)

# SATURDAY - JULY 29

All Day

9:00 A.M 5:00		Registration – Mezzanine
9:30 A.M 11:00	) A.M. (	Convention City Meeting - General Business Meeting
11:30 A.M 12:30	) P.M. 1	Memorial Services – Ballroom
1:30 P.M.	1	Auxiliary Meeting
2:00 P.M 4:00		Regimental and Other Unit Meetings (See Bulletin Board) 381, 382, 383, Division Artillery and Special Troops Ballroom, Parlors A, B, C, also West Room and Regal Room
6:30 P.M 7:30		Cocktail Hour – Mezzanine
7:30 P.M.		Banquet – Speaker, Norbert Tiemann, Honorable Governor of Nebraska (Non-Political) M.C. – J.R. Higgins, 96 Recon
9:00 P.M 1:00	) A.M. I	Dance

NOTICE: Mezzanine Registration Area shall be considered as Headquarters. Tour busses will load one half hour early. Reservation forms printed elsewhere in newsletter. Program and schedule subject to change or rearrangement.

## Executive Committee Meeting and Breakfast Registration - Mezzanine Open for Auxiliary Tour - SAC Hq. - Offutt Air Force Base (Reservations) Teenager's Swim Party - Omaha Athletic Club Reception and Hospitality - Ballroom Teenager's Hospitality - Forum Room (Hotel)



# WELCOME TO OMAHA WHERE ALL CROSSROADS MEET

Arriving in Omaha, you will be welcomed with open arms. If you have already been fortunate enough to visit Omaha at one time or another, then you will again be delighted to see this century-old city on the West bank of the Missouri River.

The Sheraton-Fontenelle Hotel, Reunion Headquarters for the Tenth Annual Reunion of the 96th Infantry Division Association, is located in downtown Omaha. All major department stores, restaurants and cafeterias are within walking distance of the hotel. There is extraordinary convenience for travelers because all major highways entering Omaha from the West pass directly in front of the Fontenelle which faces South. Highways entering Omaha from the East pass one block North of the Fontenelle. The Fontenelle has unloading facilities on both the South and East sides.

Our Reunion Host City has a number of major airlines with one of the nicest terminals in the country for a city its size. Greyhound Bus Depot is located just one block South of the Fontenelle and the Union Pacific and Burlington Railroad Depots are only a short distance away. Numerous tours have been planned to points of interest. On Thursday, July 27, there will be a tour of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) headquarters. Because security is involved with this particular visit, reservations are necessary. Notice that a reservation coupon is printed on inside of the back cover of this newsletter. Please maily by July 1, 1967, to Douglas M. Mack, 3517 South 127th Ave., Omaha, Nebraska, 68144.

There will be other tours to Boys Town, besides a tour to one of Omaha's famous breweries. You will find a variety of historical, cultural or sporting attractions to suit any taste.

Remember! It is a privilege to belong to the 96th Infantry Division Association. This orgainization has grown from an embryo idea just ten short years ago until it has World-Wide recognition.

WRITE TO AN OLD BUDDY – ASK HIM TO MEET YOU IN OMAHA IN JULY. THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT, TOGETHER WITH PLENTY OF TIME TO GET REACQUAINTED WITH DEADEYES. REVEILLE IS SOUNDING IN OMAHA FOR THE MEN WHO NEVER KNEW RETREAT!

# SEND IN YOUR REUNION RESERVATION

Reunion Reservation and Jour Reservation coupons are printed on inside of back cover this paper.

# **CONVENTION CHAIRMAN - OMAHA**



DOUGLAS M. MACK

Doug, as he is called, was with the cadre that helped form the 96th Infantry Division. He was attached to 'I' Company of the 32nd Regiment, Seventh Infantry Division, then later with 'I' Company of the 382nd Regiment of the 96th.

After the fightling had ended on Leyte, Doug was hospitalized and returned to the States.

Doug is married, has a lovely wife, Alta, who carries the nickname of "Pat". They have no children. Pat spends her time selling jewelry and cosmetics while Doug is a traveling man.

Whether you call the gathering in Omaha a Reunion or Convention, Pat and Doug have planned three days for your enjoyment.

\*' \*' \*' \*

### USE DECALS

Decals are ready for the reunion in Omaha. One decal will be sent with every membership card, unless more are requested. Here is an opportunity to let other people know about the Association by display of these decals on your automobile, in your place of business or vets club.

Write to Dakan for Decals FREE! FREE! FREE!

\* \* \* \*

#### CORRECTION NOTICE

Important errors appeared in the newsletter that was published in January, 1967.

1. On page 4, Douglas M. Mack was omitted as Convention Chairman - Omaha. He certainly is.

2. On page 9, Association dues were shown as being other than \$3.00 per year. Membership dues will continue to be \$3.00 until August 1, 1967.

# SHERATON-FONTENELLE HOTEL 1806 Douglas Street Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Executive Office Robert R. Baxter Vice President General Manager Telephone: (402) 341-6226

It is my pleasure to say Welcome DEADEYES. At the Sheraton-Fontenelle, headquarters for your Tenth Annual Reunion, "Welcome" means more than a word. It is the friendly, smiling face of our doorman, Jim; it is a cheerful "Good Morning" from Mary, our elevator girl; it is the sincere concern for your comfort on the part of all of the Hotel Staff.

During 1967 we will celebrate Nebraska's Centenial Year. Many fine events have been planned for this occasion. We are pleased that the members of the 96th Infantry Division Association will be our guests in July 1967 and will help us celebrate our 100th Anniversary.

We pledge our fullest cooperation to make your Reunion an outstanding success.

> Sincerely, Robert R. Baxter General Manager

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# DEADEYE POST CARDS

As a way of encouraging DEADEYES to write to each other, the Association has printed a supply of post cards.

The cards have the same design and colors (red, blue, gold on white) that have been used on our decals for several years, except dates do not appear on the right hand margin. A black and white reproduction of the post card appears at the top of the preceding page.

Legend on the reverse side of the card reads:

July 27, 28, 29, 1967 The Sheraton-Fontenelle Hotel Omaha, Nebr. Will be Headquarters for 10th Annual Reunion of 96th Infantry Division Association

There is plenty of room for your personal message, mailing address and 4¢ stamp.

Order your supply of post cards from Dakan.

FREE! FREE! FREE! FREE! FREE! FREE!

3

# TAPS

God, in His infinite wisdom, has summoned 22 more DEADEYES who have served their country faithfully and well in war and peace. The 96th Division Association mourns their passing and extends sympathy to their surviving families.

381st - 'C' Co. 2 Bn.Hq.Co. 'l' Co.	Ivan R. Brooks * 6/25/65 Gerald Lowman * 2/6/67 Charles E. Dillon * Clarence Martin * Clyde Pugh * Carl E. Sheraden *
	Homer I. Simpson *
'M' Co.	Raymond Ullman
382nd - Antitank	Glennon Trautman * 10/15/62
Antitank	Col. Joseph Vering
Antitank	Walton R. Anderson
Service	Austin Manuel
Service	Donald Mc Gill 1964
'E',,Co.	Buster Brown Albert Vaughn
383rd - Ist Bn.Hq.	Raymond Baar
921st - FA	Ebbie Baker
361st - FA	Earlies Schlueter * 2/22/57
,, ,, ,,	Roy Fike
., .,	Clifton M. Pinckard 1955
362nd - FA	Jack R. Ropar
363rd - FA	Guy Folmer
Div. Hqs.	James R. Stephenson

\* Confirmed by letter. Other are derived from returned mail and do not guarantee accuracy.

\* \* \*

#### PROFILE

Colonel Edwin T. May 1896-1945

Colonel Edwin T. May was killed by Japanese machine gun bullets through his heart on June 5, 1945. A simple stone monument was erected on the site of his death in Southern Okinawa and dedicated by the men of his regiment.

Described by General Bradley as "the finest soldier I have ever known", and widely regarded as the outstanding troop leader on Okinawa, Col. May commanded the 383rd continuously from its activation.

Our tribute to Col. May in the DEADEYE DISPATCH at this time is intended to show something of his personality and to revive nostalgia of magnificent, although tragic events. Numberless memories of this gallant soldier are still carried in the hearts of his men, for he won from them the implicit respect and Col. Edwin T. May (continued)

trust that only a great leader can command, and demanding of them the absolute maximum, got it.

The following is a copy of a letter written by Colonel May to Edwin O. List, Co. of the 1st Battalion, 383rd to October 27, 1945 on Leyte, P.I.:

> APO 96, c/o Postmaster San Francisco, California 4 December 1944

Lt. Colonel Edwin O. List Detachment of Patients 334 Station Hospital APO 565

My Dear List:

Just received the order transferring you, and thought I would take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the manner in which you handled a difficult and dangerous mission.

Your initiative and drive in forcing a crossing of the Liberanan River, seizing the ridge in the face of enemy machine gun and artillery fire, your tenactiy in driving forward day after day along the Liberanan Head against stubborn resistance and your cool judgement in calming and inspiring green troops which prevented them from wavering under fire, was a major factor in our success in taking Catmon Hill.

Major King is now commanding your Battalion, Captain Young is S-3 and is also acting as Executive Officer at the present time. Lt. Leuhrs did an outstanding job and is being recommended for promotion to Captain. Company "A" is now being commanded by Captain Morris who has returned. Captain Geddings is commanding Company "B", Lt. Belman has Company "C", and Captain Koops took over "D" Company.

As to the operation, there is not much that can be told, except that we have given a good account of ourselves thus far, and intend to keep pushing the enemy until there is nothing for him to do but go to his honorable ancestors.

I hope for you a speedy and complete recovery. If there is a possibility of your returning to this command, communicate with me at once and steps will be taken to hasten your return.

Sincerely,

Edwin T. May Colonel, 383rd Infantry

continued next column

# ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING PROPOSAL TO REPRINT DIVISION HISTORY

Ninety Sixth Infantry Division Association members have shown much interest in having their history book, THE DEADEYES, reprinted.

Since it is the belief of the Officers and Executive Committee that the project is feasible if price can be kept within a range that everyone can afford, some preliminary contacts have been made with printers. One company, Graphic Publishing Co., Inc. a text book publisher has presented a bid. More bids will be sought.

Officials of the publishing company have recommeded identical reproduction of our book. Included would be color plates, maps, pictures, high quality paper and printing with hard cover binding. Every effort would be made to put out a book exactly like the one first published by Infantry Journal Press in 1947.

Graphic Publishing Co., Inc. have quoted a firm price of \$6.75 each based on order of 1,000 copies. Larger quantites would result in more favorable price.

A portfolio of their estimates and samples will be available for inspection at the reunion in Omaha.

Orders for THE DEADEYES are not being taken at present time. If or when a decision is made by the membership regarding this significant project, DEAD-EYE DISPATCH will carry all details.

In meantime, if you would be interested in purchasing one or more copies of the history book, write to Richard Klassen, or any of the other officers of the Association.

# THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS

One of the aims of the Association has been to provide DEADEYE DISPATCH to anyone who is interested in the activities of his old outfit. Total printing of the January 1, 1967 issue was 8,200 copies of which 6,700 were mailed to addresses on the permanent roster. The other 1,500 newsletter were sent to new members or to new addresses from old rosters.

Using a mailing permit, cost of postage is only 1/4¢ per copy, or about \$84.00. However, if the address is incorrect in any manner, the newsletter is not forwardable; therefore are returned to the sender at cost of 8¢ each.

When known, the Post Office will write the forwarding address on the newsletter then return it to the Corresponding Secretary; he then rewraps and mails to the new address at a cost of 6¢ per copy. Listed below is a breakdown of the returns.

545 newsletters returned at 8¢ each	\$43.60
255 no forwarding address;	
mostly recently acquired names	
290 remailed at 6¢ each	17.40
	\$61.00

For two mailings each year, from \$100 to \$125 are involved.

Use the coupon printed here when your address should be updated. Richard Klassen needs to know your new address in order that you may not be lost from the mailing list, besides saving unnecessary postage cost for the Association.

\* \* \* \*

	TO INSURE PROMPT DELIVERY OF Deadeye Dispatch AND OTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE ADVISE THE REGISTRAR OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS
	NAME
SEND TO	NEW ADDRESS
RICHARD KLASSEN	OLD ADDRESS
929 S. Myrtle	
Kankakee, Illinois	REMARKS
60901	

# OFFICERS 1966-1967

#### Reprinted from Army Digest, Feb. 1967

# PRESIDENT

Peter Pohl 96th Signal Co. 1630 E. Demont, St. Paul, Minnesota 55109

# Ist VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Bauer 382nd – Service Co. Box 23, Altamont, Illinois 62411

# 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Fitzpatrick 382nd – 2nd Bn. Hq. 115 S. Hazel, Pontica, Illinois 61764

# TREASURER

Ed Dakan 381st - "B" Co. Box 725, Mason City, Iowa 50401

#### RECORDING SECRETARY

Milton Shepsky 383rd – "L" Co. 5614 N. Christiana, Chicago, Illinois 60645

# CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Richard Klassen 383rd – "K" Co. 929 S. Myrtle, Kankakee, Illinois 60901

# CHAPLAIN

Minor Butler 381st – "B" Co. 142 Woodlawn, Aurora, Illinois 50505

#### HISTORIAN

Col. Cyril Sterner 382nd – 2nd Bn. Hq. 46 Ripley Dr., Redstone Arsenal, Alabama 35809

#### SERGEANT AT ARMS

Henry White 383rd - """ Co. Mackinaw, Illinois 61755

#### OMAHA CONVENTION CHAIRMAN - 1967

Douglas Mack 382nd - "I" Co. 3517 S. 127th Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska 68144

#### OMAHA CO-CHAIRMAN - 1967

Lyle Brabander 96th Division Hq. 415 S. Cleburn, Grand Island, Nebraska 68801

#### CHICAGO CONVENTION CHAIRMAN - 1968

Alex Markus 382nd – "B" Co. 3629 N. Plainfield, Chicago, Illinois 60634

#### PREVIOUS REUNIONS

St. Louis	1958	Little Rock	1963
Chicago	1959	Portland	1964
Kansas City	1960	Minneapolis	1965
Detroit	1961	Indianapolis	1966
Dallas	1962		



"Rumor has it that you'd gamble on almost anything, Henderson."

# INVITE AN OLD BUDDY TO MEET YOU IN OMAHA

DEADEYES are men of action. If members follow through with action indicated by the slogan that is being used as title for this item, and elsewhere in the newsletter, our Omaha Reunion attendance will set another record.

Recognizing the fact that one of the principal reasons for the existence of our Association is to help buddies keep contact, a decision has been made to offer a valuable service that ought to encourage letter writing.

Richard Klassen, Corresponding Secretary, is custodian of our unit rosters. He has the Thermofax machine that was recently purchased by the Association. Until now, Richard had to type rosters individually; now be has equipment to do the job.

You may secure at no cost one copy of your Company or Battery roster with address. Just send a self-stamped and self-addressed envelope to Klassen. Use coupon on preceding page to explain your needs.

\*. \*. \*. \*



Maj. Gen. R. G. Gard (Ret.) 238 Five Oaks Drive San Antonio, Texas 78209

Brig. Gen. Robert G. Gard was Commanding General of the 96th Division Artillery when his name meant firepower. His son, R.G. Gard, Jr., is continuing the tradition for he is now

a Lt. Col. in field artillery. Book IV. The DEADEYES. story of the 96th Infantry Division, is a separate section of that volume which tells about the part played by our four artillery battalions (921st, 361st, 362nd and 363rd) in the two operations. Also, many of the fire missions of the 763rd Tank Battalion and 780th Amphibious Tank Battalion, attached units, were handled by Division Artillery.

Besides our own guns on Okinawa, General Gard had control of all the artillery from the First Marine, the 7th and 77th Divisions at one time or another.

ASSIGNMENTS & ACTIVITIES SINCE VI DAY: Member, Military Commission, War Crimes Trails, Manila until Feb. 1946.

G-3 Section, GHQ, Allied Occupations Forces, Japan, until Sept. 1947.

G-3 Section, Hgtrs. Second Army, Ft. Meade to May 1949.

General Gard (continued)

Treasurer, U.S. Military Academy, to March 1951.

Commander, VII Corps Artillery, Germany, to Nov. 1952.

Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations Hqtrs. U.S. Army Europe to Aug. 1954.

Deputy C. G., Hqtrs. 3rd Army, Ft. McPherson, Ga. to April 1956.

Senior Member, United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission, Korea, to Nov. 1956.

Chief, Military Assistance Advisory Group, Korea to July 1957.

Commander VIII U. S. Army Corps (Reserve), Austin, Texas to Nov. 1959.

Retired | December 1959.

In 1950 General Gard became a life member of the 96th Division Deadeye Post, Chicago Chapter.

Referring to some of the officers from DEADEYE artillary he recalls that he last saw Col. Avery Masters, CO 361st FA Bn. at Ft. Bliss, Texas in 1959. Then in October 1965 he saw the widow (since remarried) of Col. Francis W. Jenkins, CO 362nd FA Bn., at Ft. Meyer, Va.

The General sends his regards to former members of the 96th, particularly to its artilleymen.

Continued next column					
ED DAKAI 96th Inf. D	State of the second	MEMBERS	SHIP APPLICAT	non	
P. O. Box 7				CLIP OUT	AND MAIL TODAY
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Notice: Membership dues will be increased to \$4.00 per year beginning August 1, 1967. Our fiscal year begins August 1 each year and extends through following July 31.

Reverend Edward J. Konisky Catholic Chaplain Veterans Administration Hospital 113 Holland Avenue Albany, New York 12208

Father Konisky joined the DEADEYES in August 1944 at Schofield Barracks. He was Catholic Chaplain for 96th Division Artillery during the battles of Leyte and Okinawa.

Reverend Konisky has since served as Chaplain of the V.A. Hospital in Chillicothe, Ohio from 1946 to 1951 and presently at the V.A. Hospital in Albany, N.Y.

He had planned to attend the Reunion in Indianapolis, but found it impossible because of the airlines strike and his Saturday – Sunday commitments. He is still hoping.

The following are excerpts from his recent letters to the Editor of the DEADEYE DISPATCH:

I remember Chaplain Leonard Todd very well because the 382nd was without the services of a Catholic Chaplain for a good part of the Leyte Campaign. Colonel Dill or Chaplain Todd would pick me up in a weasel or jeep to conduct services for the 382nd.

Regarding Father Rovinski, I had contacted him other years at the same time that I contacted Father Leonard LeClair, who, during the Okinawa Campaign, was our Division Chaplain.

continued next column

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# SEARCH FOR DEADEYES CONTINUES

Many old rosters have been checked out during the past three years. This has proved to be a most effective way to locate DEADEYES who ought to be on our mailing lists. If you do not know for sure whether your roster has been checked, send to:

> Edmund Biggs 213 Wayside Drive Plainfield, Indiana 46168

He will make a copy, then return the original to you. Ed has been doing great work for the 96th Infantry Division Association.



Above – Father Edward J. Konisky, V.A. Hospital Chaplain, also Chaplain of Active Army Reserves. Picture at Camp Drum – Evening Mass

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Rev. Edward J. Konisky (continued)

Incidentally, I see Hubert Richter, now a City Judge of Kingston, New York on occasions. In fact, some of his cases are patients in our V.A. Hospital.

If per chance you have the address of the wife of Lt. Ervin H. Rybnicek of the 362nd FA Bn., I would appreciate the information. He was killed the day after we landed on Okinawa and I buried him in the Division Cemetery at that time together with other K.I.A.'s.

May God bless all of the DEADEYES and their families.

(Can anyone answer his question about Lt. Rybnicek's widow? Write directly to the Chaplain.)

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# STATEMENT

DEADEYE DISPATCH is the official publication of the 96th Infantry Division Association. All communications should be directed to the Corresponding Secretary who also serves as editor.

Aims are to promote activities of the Association and serve its members in every way possible. Your comments, questions, pictures, anecdotes and suggestions are solicited.



Lt. Col. Prosser E. Clark (Ret.)

Livestock Commission Co.

N. Portland, Oregon 97043

During the two island campaigns, 2nd Battalion, 383rd had more changes of CO than any

of the other eight similar combat units of the 96th.

Major Clark commanded from October 26, 1944 through the landing on Okinawa, then was wounded on April 8, 1945 by enemy artillery while his troops were taking a breather on Cactus Ridge, backing up the Ist Bn., 383rd's move against Kakazu. He was evacuated to Saipan, received promotion to Lt. Colonel. then returned to Okinawa about the first of June.

Lt. Col. Clark took over this 1st Bn., 383rd on June 14, succeeding Lt. Col. Glenn A. Nelson who was wounded during that day. Clark found himself in charge of a battalion that had lost every rifle company commander in the disaster of Ozato. He finished out the campaign with the 1st Bn., 383rd.

Upon returning to the United States, Col. Clark applied for discharge immediately and was separated from the service around the first of February 1946. At that time he resumed his former occupation in the livestock brokerage business in Portland, Oregon.

Present, Clark is part owner of the Portland Livestock Market, Inc., North Portland, Oregon, engaged in the marketing of livestock from that area.

Prosser Clark and his wife, Joy, have two daughters. The oldest, Tracey was born while the 96th was stationed at Camp Adair in 1943. She is married now. The youngest, Susan was born while the DEADEYES were enroute from Leyte to Okinawa. She was married in 1966. Prosser is a booster for our Association. keeping up correspondence with a number of his friends from the 96th.



PROFILE

William H. Hewes, MD Mill Road Adrian, Michigan 49221

Major Hewes, Surgeon for the 381st. left Okinawa at the end of the campaign and returned to Leyte. After two weeks in a rest camp, he eventually ended up with an assignment of bringing

home a ship load of colored troops. During the rail trip from San Francisco to Fort Sheridan, the 1889vintage train found a forlorn boon docks area of desert land to leave the tracks. Not a man was lost in all of the confusion. Since there was no place for them to go, they did not wander very far off.

After separation from the service, he returned to his hometown of Adrian, Michigan to practice pediatrics. Dr. Hewes expects to pick up a second partner in July to ease the increasing load on his old bones.

The Hewes family live on a small farm where they raise quarter horses. Wife Helen is head of the household and because she is an excellent cook, keeps Bill fat and sassy. Their older daughter, Jean, who was born at Camp White hospital during the Oregon desert maneuvers, is married to a biologist and lives in McNary, Arizona at a Federal fish hatchery, Nineteen year-old Jacquelyn is a freshman in college.

Dr. Hewes is on the state board of the Society of Mental Health and chairman of the State Committee for Mentally III and Emotionally Disturbed Children. He is also serving on the local school board and is past president of Rotary. For 20 years he bas sung in the choir of his church.

Hobbies are hunting, fishing, gem stone cutting, swimming, water skiing and snow skiing.

Bill asked that his best wishes should be extended to all DEADEYES, especially to all in the 381st Infantry.

END IN YOUR REUNION RESERVATION

Reunion Reservation and Tour Reservation coupons are printed on inside of back cover this paper.



Brig. Gen. C.H. White, Jr. (Ret.) 7619 Quail Run San Antonio, Texas 76209

Now retired after 30 years service, Brig. General White was on the original

cadre for the 96th Infantry

Division from the 7th Infantry Division. He remained with the DEADEYES throughout WW II in training on the west coast and in combat in the Pacific. His duties included Division Artillery S-3 and Division G-3 while in training and later Division Chief of Staff during the Leyte and Okinawa campaigns.

After the war, he was assigned to various schools, staffs and commands in Philippines, Washington, D.C., Japan and Korea, Fort Meade, Md. In January 1953 he was assigned as the initial commander of the 42nd Field Artillery Group of the 7th United States Army which he activated in Germany. This group received and trained the five 280mm Gun Battalions and supporting units which were sent to Europe in 1953 and 1954. These units were the first United States Army atomic delivery units deployed to Europe.

### ASSIGNMENTS and POSTS:

July 1954-1955, attended National War College, Washington, D.C. 1955-1958, Director of the Department of Tactics and Combined Arms of the Artillery and Guided Missile School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In March, 1956 was designated Deputy Assistant Commandant of the school. April 1958, assigned as the Chief of Staff or the Army Section, Joint U.S. Military Aid Group, Greece. He became Chief of Staff of the Group in Dec. 1958. Feb. 1960, returned to United States to assume command of 2nd Infantry Division Artillery at Fort Benning, Ga. Promoted to Brigadier General April 1960. Sept. 1961, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Headquarters NORAD, Colorado Springs, Col. May 1963, Chief of Staff of Fourth Army Headquarters, Fort Sam Houston, Texas until retirement 31 July 1964.

The Whites, Charles and Emily, spent the past year travelling through Colorado, California and Hawaii trying to decide on a place to call home, than chose Texas.

For the past one and half years, Gen. White has been associated with R. L. Stewart & Co., as an Account Executive.



# PROFILE

Major Virgil N. Thompson (Ret.) 805 S. 12th Street Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

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Major Thompson, regimental S-3, assumed command of the 1st Bn., 381st after Lt. Col. John Cassidy was

wounded on June 2, 1945. This was during a time when the 96th had been pushing steadily toward the southern of Okinawa, clipping off better than a thousand yards a day when they came up against the highest and steepest section of Yaeju-Dake wall. Thompson finished the campaign leading his battalion in a number of important thrusts that reduced Japanese resistance.

Leaving the Division on Mindoro, Thompson returned to the States via Mindanao with the "Dixie" Division. He became a civilian again on New Year's Eve (December 31, 1945).

In 1963, he was transferred to the Retired Reserve after having reached "statutory senility" of 30 years service. At the end of WW II, Thompson was given a promotion to Lt. Col., then while he continued in the Active Reserve the Army saw fit to pin eagles on him in 1954.

He returned to his old job as Division Plant Superintendent for the Washington Water Power Company at Lewiston, Idaho in 1946. Subsequently has been Mining District Manager at Wallace, Idaho and then manager of three or four divisions of his company's service area. The Thompsons have been living in Coeur d'Alene since 1960.

In 1965 Mr. Thompson was president of the Coeur d'Alene Chamber of Commerce. That organization received a lot of credit for helping to stage the International Girl Scout Roundup at Farragut State Park, (formerly Farragut Naval Training Station). Presently he is vice president of the North Idaho Chamber of Commerce.

Virgil and his wife, Jane, live one half block from beautiful Lake Coeur d'Alene. Their son, Dave, graduated from University of Idaho in 1960. He is in the district office of Ford Motor Company in Seattle.

Grandpa Thompson enjoys golf at Hayden Lake Country Club. He says that his handicap is still – "Saturday Night".

Although urgent company business kept him from being in Portland in 1964, Virgil is hoping to attend a reunion of the 96th Division in the near future. \* \* \* \*

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381st - HO

From: Jerry Regntik 6060 Oakman Dearborn, Michigan

I have just received the 96th Deadeye Dispatch and when I read about how many of my buddies of the 381st Hq & Hq Co. represented the last reunion, I just had to sit down and write a few words, even though I have never written before. I don't know how you received my name, but I am very glad that you have me on your mailing list. I have been receiving the Dispatch ever since it started, I believe. I am sorry that I wasn't able to get to the reunion when it was held in Detroit and at Lansing, Michigan. But will try to plan on the one coming up in Omaha, Nebr. My vacation starts around that time.

All the letters that were in this last issue were very interesting, especially the one asking about Mortimer Rappaport. I happen to know him also. I was surprised that he performed on TV. I enjoyed his singing.

There were two mechanics in Hq Co. I would like to know if anyone has heard from. They are Edward J. Murphy from Michigan and Gilbert Gray from Kansas.

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From: Charles Ellis 1904 Vermont Urbana, Illinois 61801 362nd FA, Bty. C. Div. Hq.

Enclosed please find my check for dues to your fine organization. Included is one dollar for dues to the Auxiliary in behalf of Mrs. Ellis. Thank you for including me on your mailing list. I came to the division in October, 1942, taking basic with Battery C, 362nd FA. After being sent to the East Coast for ASTP, I returned via Fort Bragg to the Division as was reassigned to Division Headquarters in the postal division. These newsletters bring back a lot of memories. I was assigned to the locator files in the APO and therefore recognize a lot of names even tho not their faces. However, I do exchange Christmas Cards with some of them, Al Corwin included. I saw his name on the roster of those attending the Indianapolis Convention. He was the barber for the fellows in Battery C. I also remeber Lyle Brabander who, incidentally has grown into a handsome, distinguished fellow.

I went to Leyte, although we were a little late, having been in rear echelon for that one. We made up for it by being some of the early arrivals at the sea wall on Okinawa. I was returned to Camp Stoneman in Jan., 1946 and a few days later discharged in Jefferson Barracks, Mo. I have my copy of the Division History and still take pride in showing it from time to time. From: Valentine Janicki Not known 1148 Milwaukee Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60622

I was delighted to receive from Mr. Ed Biggs a mimeographed letter regarding the "96th INFANTRY DIVI-SION ASSOCIATION" and I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$3.00 in anticipation of being kept on the mailing list for continued receipt of the newsletter.

Twenty-four years ago, on January 9th, in the Chapel at Camp Adair, Oregon, with my Company quarantined because of "meningitis", my wife and I were married. So you can understand my delight when I received this newsletter concerning the "96th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION."

I regret that my schedule will not allow me to be in attendance at the Reunion in Omaha, Nebraska during the month of July, but I know that your newsletter will keep me informed of the activities.

From: Vernon Enger 381st - M Co. Route 2 St. James, Minnesota

Received the Dispatch today and I'm always happy to see it. I'm sending my dues in with this letter and I hope to get to Omaha this year if at all possible.

I always read the letters just in case someone from my old Co. should write. Keep up the good work.

I would appreciate any word from my old buddies.

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From: Frederick W. Palm 361st FA - C Ceresco, Nebraska 68017

I have just received a copy of the 96th Deadeye Dispatch. Thanks ever so much for it.

I was drafted when 40 years old, was with the Division at Camp Adair, Oregon, then discharged when all of those over 38 were given discharges. Still, I completed my basic training.

Some of my friends in C-361 were Conrad Holden of Thompson, N. Dakota, Lester Hathaway, who lived somewhere in Iowa and Elmer Winters of Holton, Kansas. When the 96th Division went to the Philippines in 1944 I lost track of these men.

I have found the book, The Deadeyes, very interesting to read.

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#### INVITE AN OLD BUDDY TO MEET YOU IN OMAHA

From: Bruce Rasmussen 381st – K Beaver Dam, Wisconsin 53916

l enclose my check in the amount of \$3.00 for annual dues to the 96th Infantry Division Association.

While overseas it was always a welcome event to receive a letter; it was practically the same feeling as experienced when I received the 96th DEADEYE DIS-PATCH. Compliments to all of the excellent members of the Association who have worked so hard to maintain the lines of communication that preserve the comradship of the 96th Division.

I wish to add just a personal note: I joined the Division on Okinawa, and regret that I hadn't the opportunity to become more fully acquainted with the personnel of the outfit. The personal profiles that you publish in the Dispatch are; therefore, very welcome. I note in the profile of Col. Michael Holloran that he was born in Oconto, Wisconsin, which is, incidentally, the birth place of my father, Peter H. Rasmussen.

I wish you well at the reunion. I doubt very much whether I will be there, and hesitate very much to attend a reunion because I would not know very many members. My acquaintanceship was pretty well limited to the 3rd Battalion, 381st Regt.

Can you provide me with the address of my combat medic, T.V. McKinney?

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From: Martin L. Allday 201 Wall Bldg. Midland, Texas 79701

382nd – C Co.

I just became aware of the fact that there is a 96th Infantry Division Association, and enclosed you will find my check for \$3.00 covering my dues. I would like to have my name added to the roster and placed on the mailing list of the Deadeye Dispatch.

Mr. Larkin Lay of Midland, Texas, (where I live) found out that I also had been with the 96th and informed me about the organization. He brought by the Deadeye Dispatch which was published last year and lo and behold there was a letter from my old captain, Robert E. Rector with C Company of the 382nd Battalion which I found most interesting.

I also have lost my copy of the Division History and will be most interested in obtaining a new copy of such if a reprint is ever accomplished.

INVITE AN OLD BUDDY TO MEET YOU IN OMAHA

From:	Loland Simon			
	Route 1, Box 23-A			
	Maurice, La. 70555			

I am enclosing a check for three dollars for membership in the 96th Infantry Division Association.

382nd - G

I am very sorry that I could not attend the 1966 convention which was held in Indianapolis last summer. On the "Roster of those Present in Indianapolis", I have noticed that Franklin Nicholson, Co. Commander of 382nd - G Co. attended along with other members from my own company.

I am looking forward to seeing all of them at next year's convention to be held in Omaha.

I would also like to congratulate you and all the other men who have made the Association a success.

From:	William H. Mason	321st Medics
	404 S. Clinton	B Co.
	Collinsville, Illinois	

I guess I'm one of the last who was contacted about the Association, but recently I visited with a couple of old buddies from B Co., 321st Medics and they told me about receiving the Deadeye Dispatch and about the reunion which I'm sorry I missed. I hope that next year I can attend; had I known about this years sooner, I sure would have attended. Enclosed please find a check for \$3.00; please send me the Dispatch as I would like to hear all the news I can about our old Division.

From: Miller Hansen 321st – Engineers 213 S. Montana Avenue Helena, Montana 59601

Albert Strand, K Co., 381st Infantry is in the Veterans Hospital in Fargo, North Dakota. Some of his old friends may remember his nickname "Lowball".

There may be some old 96th Division hands in other hospitals around the country — is there any way we can locate them?

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From: Vernon Brammeier 383rd – I Syracuse, Nebraska 68446

Sorry to be so slow sending in dues. I will try to deliver in person, for I expect to be in Omaha.

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From: Earl Brown 921st FA - C 765 Mountain View Drive Midvale, Utah 84047

I was really surprised and very happy to find the "DEADEYE" in my mail. The newsletter is interesting to me for I have kept in touch with a few of my buddies through the years, but have lost track of most of them.

I noticed in Taps column the names of two of the fellows that I worked with. Sorry to hear this.

Here are \$10.00 to cover my dues, and also my wife, Shirley. The other \$6.00, I would like to pay up the dues for the following two friends of mine:

> Hans Van Waart 1343 Morningside Avenue Sioux City, Iowa

William Daugherty 8239 Burnet Avenue Van Nuys, California

Thank you and all the staff for sending the newsletter to me. I hope that you can continue the good work.

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From: Mrs. Chester L. Bieck 383rd – 3rd Bn. 1710 Hoover Street Hq. Co. Lexington, Nebraska 68850

Enclosed is a check for \$4.00 for our membership dues.

We have not been able to attend a reunion, but plan to come to Omaha this year. Also, we are looking forward to receiving the spring issue of the DEADEYE DIS-PATCH.

My husband was in the original cadre to the 96th at Camp Adair, Oregon.

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From: Herman A. Puryear 381st – E Co. 910 Retama Austin, Texas

Enclosed find money order for \$3.00 for dues in the 96th Infantry Division Association.

The last DEADEYE DISPATCH was received and I enjoyed it so much I read and reread it two or three times. "Profiles" was particularly interesting. May we have much more of them and "Personal Notes", too. Those of you who devote so much of your time to provide us with the dispatch are to be commended. Keep up the good work. AFTERTHOUGHTS

A lot of DEADEYES are sitting on stories that would make interesting reading in the newsletter. Think about your years spent with the 96th, then write a letter to the Editor.

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Although the membership application form does not mention Auxiliary dues, you may include \$1.00 for your wife. Be sure to identify any extra remittance in order that the proper amount can be forwarded to the Auxiliary treasurer.

Auxiliary dues may be sent directly to their treasurer:

Mrs. Rose Fritz 1429 N. 14th Street Beatrice, Nebraska 68310

Would you like to host a DEADEYE REUNION in your State? Now is the time to go to your local visitors and convention bureau of your Chamber of Commerce to get details about the facilities in the location of your choosing. Bring this information to Omaha and make your pitch. You might be the one to promote the best reunion we ever held. We need bids.

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Here is an idea! When you have received your roster from Klassen, ask Dakan to send you a handful of free post cards. Then arrange to have a little reunion of your own unit in Omaha.

96th Infantry Division Association is recognized as an official veterans organization by the Department of Defense. Our Charter is in the State of Illinois. Being a non-profit organization, whatever income there is must be used to benefit the entire membership. Dues money may not be used to finance any part of the reunions.

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**NOTICE:** For the first time, Reunion Reservation coupons are being printed as part of the newsletter. Let the hotel know that you are coming and when. If you should fail to show up, the hotel will simply release your room to someone else.

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**NOTICE:** A Tour Reservation is necessary if you intend to accompany the group to visit SAC at Offutt Air Force Base. However, if you do not send in a Tour Reservation, or prefer not to attend the tour, come to the reunion anyhow. There will be plenty of other activities and of course you want to be where everything is going on.



The Auxiliary has furnished a lot of the enthusiasm that has helped the Association to reach its present successful state. Shown here are current officers, together with some of their Board of Directors members.

Front Row: (L to R) Juanita South, President; Hilda Biggs, 1st Vice President; Fran Huff, 2nd Vice President; Dorothy Fitzpatrick, 3rd Vice President.

Back Row: (L to R) Teresa Hoffman, Board of Directors; Norma Bauer, Board of Directors; Rose Fritz, Treasurer; LaVon Wilker, Corresponding Secretary; Helen Klassen, Board of Directors; (Lela Buxton, Recording Secretary, absent).

# SEND IN YOUR REUNION RESERVATION

Reunion Reservation and Jour Reservation coupons are printed on inside of back cover this paper.

# BACK COVER MISSING INSIDE BACK COVER CONTAINED REGISTRATION FORMS