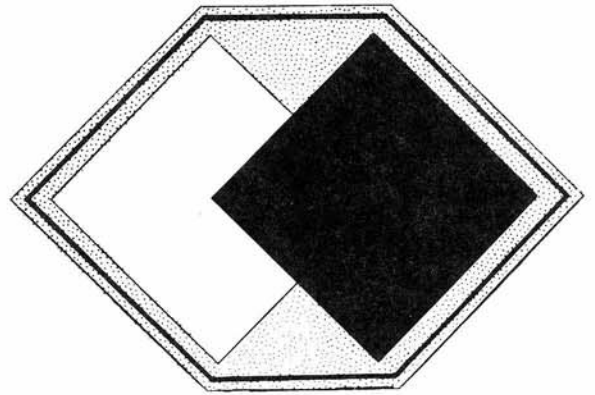


96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION-WWII

THE DEADEYE DISPATCH



Return To
Harold R. Strand
604 S. Hazel St.
Glenwood, Ia. 51534

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1983-1984 Officers

96th Infantry Division Association

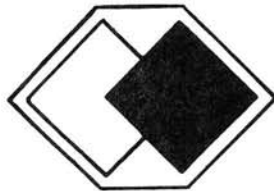
PRESIDENT

Harm Alberts
R.F.D.
Culbertson, NE 69024

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Virgil Below
C.R. No. 11
Risingsun, Oh. 43457

2ND VICE PRESIDENT



TREASURER

Anthony V. Skaronea
231 Rouse Ave.
Mundelein, IL. 60060

ASSIST. TREASURER

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Rt. 2, Box 81
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

REC. SECRETARY

Anthony Pavell
RR 3 Box 339
Monticello, In. 47960

CORRES. SECRETARY

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17819 So. Station Rd.
Columbia Station, Ohio 44028

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Donald Foster
232 N. Knox
Topeka, Ks. 66606

HISTORIAN

Stanley Smith
Rt. 1, Box 15
Coggin, IA 52218

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PRESIDENT

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1202 No. Franklin St.
Litchfield, IL. 62056

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Thelma Burton (Douglas)
11179 Fowler Ave.
Selma, CA 93662

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Celia Ellis (Richard)
P.O. Box 27
Athens, MI 49011

3RD VICE PRESIDENT AND HISTORIAN

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24836 Hayes
East Detroit, MI. 48021

TREASURER

Phyllis Fritz (Joe)
1429 N. 14th St.
Beatrice, Ne. 68310

REC. SECRETARY

Donna Foster (Donald)
232 N. Knox
Topeka, Ks. 66606

CORRES. SECRETARY

Delores Butts (Fred)
914 N. Jackson
Litchfield, Il. 62056



CHAPLAIN —

Connie Wright (LeRoy)
Rt. 4
Morrison, Il. 61270

Deadeye Dispatch

Harold & Lorraine Strand
(M Company - 381)

Editors

604 S. Hazel St.
Glenwood, IA 51534

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.



Greetings to all Deadeyes and their wives, members of the 90th Infantry Division Association and its Ladies Auxiliary:



ST. PAUL, MN. July 26-27-28

Dear Deadeyes:

After a long, cold, stormy winter, spring is just around the corner. I'm hoping you are all thinking about July 26, 27 and 28, and planning on joining all the "Deadeyes" in St. Paul for the 27th Annual Reunion.

At the executive committee meeting held in St. Paul, October 29, 1983, a total of 26 Deadeyes and Auxiliary members were present. I appreciate the extra effort these folks put forth to attend this meeting and much was accomplished.

Peter and Ann Pohl and their committees have been working hard for a great reunion. They tell us, Minnesota the state of ten thousand lakes, has many outstanding attractions. They are sure there will be something of special interest for everyone.

Minnesota is known as the Gopher State so lets "GO-FER" one of largest reunions yet.

Pre-registration has proved to be very successful -- so we will continue it this year. Send in your pre-registration and avoid standing in line to register. If you haven't sent for hotel reservations, do so as soon as possible to assure a room at the hotel.

On behalf of myself and the rest of the officers, we hope to see as many as possible in St. Paul.

Part of this page is missing.

Auxiliary Corner

96th INF. DIV. ASSN.

DEADEYES
ANNUAL REUNIONS



Dear Members:

Greetings from Illinois!

Winter is certainly reluctant to let go of its hold this year and let Spring have its fling. As I am writing this, the day before Easter, some of you are digging out of late snow storm. Some of us are getting downpours of rain with strong winds. Surely somewhere, some of you are getting sunshine.

July is just around the corner and we'll have put the bad weather behind us. A good time is awaiting in St. Paul. Please get all reservations in so there will be no disappointments. Ladies please get the luncheon reservation from this issue sent as a count is important. Money can be paid on day of registration.

I was able to attend the planning meeting in St. Paul in October. It was a blessing that President Harm Alberts had the foresight to move it up a few weeks. That weekend was absolutely beautiful, but the last of November was quite another story. The meeting was both interesting and fruitful. My thanks go to Ann and Peter Pohl and their helpers for the time and effort spent so that we can all have an enjoyable reunion. The shopping mall can be reached by skywalk from our hotel. There are 72 restaurants located in the mall so finding food outside the hotel should be no problem.

My thanks and appreciation to Harold and Lorraine Strand for getting information to us by way of The Deadeye Dispatch. It is a big, big joy well done.

Expecting to see you all in St. Paul for a good time featuring FRIENDS, FOOD and FUN.

Sincerely
Lucille Guthrie
Auxiliary President

Part of this page is missing.

TO ALL DEADEYES.

Your dues are what pays for the "Deadeye Dispatch". Please mail your dues in today to Tony Skaronea using the following form.

96TH INF. DIV. ASSN. Membership Application
ATTENTION: Be sure to complete blank for Unit Served.

Here are \$6.00, my annual membership dues for the year.

Name _____ Unit Served _____
(Please print) last first middle

Address _____ Army Serial No. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

Make Remittance Payable to: 96th Infantry Division Association Auxiliary dues are \$2.00 per year.
 Mail Remittance to: Anthony V. Skaronea, 231 Rouse Ave., Mundelein, Il. 60060

IF . . . this is a change of address, give old address as well as new!

TO INSURE PROMPT DELIVERY OF Deadeye Dispatch and other information, please advise the editors of any address change.

Name _____ Unit _____
(Co. Regt.)

New Address _____

Old Address _____

SEND TO: Harold Strand, 604 Hazel, Glenwood, Iowa 51534
USE YOUR ZIP CODE! Postal Service requires a FULL ADDRESS!

WANT A UNIT ROSTER?

If anyone wishes a Roster of your old outfit PLEASE REMIT \$2.00 to:

William (Bill Broschk, 17819 So. Station Rd., Columbia Station, Ohio 44028.

Name _____ Unit _____
Co. Regt.

New Address _____

Old Address _____

Remarks _____

PLEASE USE YOUR ZIP CODE! Postal Service requires a FULL ADDRESS!

Do you get your DISPATCH promptly?
Be sure we have your correct address in full . . . and . . . your ZIP Code!

ANYONE INTERESTED!!

This is the ORIGINAL book and is the story of the beginning and the war years on Leyte and Okinawa

96th INFANTRY DIVISION HISTORY BOOK APPLICATION

(All requests to be made through the Divi. Assn. Treas.)

NAME _____
Please print or type LAST FIRST MIDDLE ARMY SERIAL NO.

UNIT _____
Company or Battery Regt., Art., Eng., etc.

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NUMBER OF HISTORY BOOKS DESIRED: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL BLANKS AND FORWARD TO:

Anthony V. Skaronea, Treas.
231 Rouse Avenue
Mundelein, Il. 60060

A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER for \$25.00 must accompany the Application for each book ordered, made payable to the 96th Infantry Div. Association.

PAY YOUR DUES - USE SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP ENVELOPE

=====

ONCE A DEADEYE

ALWAYS A DEADEYE

96th INF. DIV. ASSN. REUNION -- ST. PAUL, MN.

JULY 26, 27, 28, 1984

SEND IN YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

Scotch-tape the folds and mail

(Fold this portion down.)

ACCOMMODATIONS WILL NOT BE CONFIRMED WITHOUT A CHECK FOR THE 1st NIGHT'S DEPOSIT OR USE YOUR AMEX OR DINERS CLUB CREDIT CARD # TO GUARANTEE YOUR RESERVATION. YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE 1st NIGHT IF RESERVATIONS ARE NOT CANCELED 48 HOURS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.

CREDIT CARD # _____ AMEX DINERS CLUB VISA MASTERCARD EXPIRATION DATE _____
(PLEASE CHECK ONE)

PLEASE CHECK PREFERRED ACCOMMODATIONS

_____ \$50.00 Single
_____ \$58.00 Double (2 persons)
_____ \$70.00 Cabanas (2-3-4 persons)
Poolside or Garden Court

SUPER BONUS: Early Bird registration qualifies you to enter a drawing for a complimentary room when your reservation is made for minimum of 3 nights.

IF RATE REQUESTED IS NOT AVAILABLE, NEAREST AVAILABLE RATE WILL BE ASSIGNED.
RATES ARE SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE TAXES.
NO CHARGE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18 OCCUPYING THE SAME ROOM AS PARENTS.

170-221



RADISSON ST. PAUL HOTEL

DON'T FORGET —
MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER
PAYABLE TO RADISSON ST. PAUL
DO NOT SEND CURRENCY.

ORGANIZATION 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

FUNCTION 27th Deadeyes Annual Reunion DATES July 25-29, 1984

ALL REQUESTS FOR THE ABOVE GROUP MUST BE RECEIVED BY July 1, 1984

Please reserve accommodations for		Print or Type
NAME _____	COMPANY _____	
ADDRESS _____		
CITY _____	STATE _____	ZIP CODE _____
SHARING ROOM WITH _____	NO. OF PERSONS _____	
SIGNATURE _____	PHONE NUMBER _____	

MONTH	DAY	YEAR
ARRIVAL DATE		

ARRIVAL TIME

MONTH	DAY	YEAR
DEPARTURE DATE		

CHECK IN TIME 3:00 PM
CHECK OUT TIME 1:00 PM

RADISSON ST PAUL HOTEL
11 East Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

PLACE
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FROM THE **RADISSON**[®] COLLECTION



**Pages 9 and 10
are missing.**

T O U R S

Early Bird Tour - Thurs. July 26, 8:00-3:00

Visit the 3M Company Corporate Center, 3M Show presentation, Hall of Products, Company Store (where you may purchase items).

Bali Hai Supper Club - You will be served a delicious luncheon meal, plus a one hour Hawaiian Show. (Cocktails may be purchased on your own.)

Stroh Brewing Company - A visit to Stroh's where you will be served refreshments at the Rathskeller in the sky.

Price per person - \$14.00 120 people max.-98 min.

Twin City Tour - Thurs. July 26, 1:00-4:00

In Minneapolis, the City of Lakes, see Nicollet Mall and the skyway network, Tyrone Guthrie Theater, mansion and cathedral areas, the TV home of Mary Tyler Moore, sparkling lakes and lagoons, former home of Walter F. Mondale, gravesite of Hubert H. Humphrey, University of Minnesota campus and new domed stadium. Stop at legendary Minnehaha Falls and follow the Mississippi River into St. Paul to stately Summit Avenue to see the homes of lumber and railroad barons, the magnificent Cathedral of St. Paul, the home and haunts of F. Scott Fitzgerald, and the Minnesota State Capitol. An excellent introduction to the Twin Cities.

Price per person - \$10.00 No max-40 minimum

Byerly's/Bachman's Tour - Friday, July 27, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

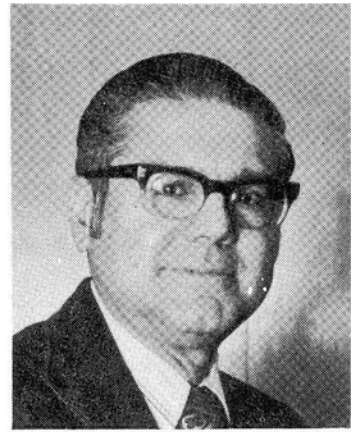
Another set of Minnesota Twins - Byerly's, world's most luxurious supermarket, and Bachman's, the largest retail florist in the world. Don't miss Byerly's, a crystal chandeliered gourmet's delight with 92,000 square feet of delectables, a cooking school, Wood's Chocolate Shop, resident home economists' offices and a spectacular gift shop. At Bachman's see acres of blooms in vast greenhouses and a very fine gift shop in which to browse. A fresh long stemmed rose for each participant.

Price per person - \$11.00 No max. 40 minimum.

Free Tourist Information: State of Minnesota Travel Information Center
240 Bremer Building
419 N. Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Outside Minn. 1-800-328-1461
In Minn. 1-800-652-9747

TREASURER'S REPORT



As my memories still linger on the Houston Reunion, all eyes must now focus on the St. Paul Reunion. Last October a great group assembled in St. Paul with Mr. Pohl, Chairman, and the Radisson Hotel representative to review the pre-plans of our activities for the next Reunion. Mr. Pohl and his committee have been working hard to make the St. Paul Reunion one of the greatest.

It was agreed upon by the committee to have PRE-REGISTRATION again and you will find the form in this issue. A change will be made in the registration procedure during the Reunion. Instead of having a double line with a split alphabet, a single registration line will be used. This will entail half as many workers and should cut our registration cost. The single line will result in a slower registration procedure. I encourage any member that is planning on attending the St. Paul Reunion to PRE-REGISTER and eliminate the standing and "sweating out" the single slow line at the Reunion.

A brief overview of the organization's financial picture has turned from a pale green to a rosy red. Our increase in dues to \$6.00 and the additional contributions made by the membership has placed the organization's financial position in a favorable up-swing.

A bumper sticker and a post card is included with every dues that is mailed from my home. Make a concerted effort to use the postcard and write to a buddy and encourage him to attend the St. Paul Reunion. If you need a few extra postcards make your request when you mail your dues.

In closing I wish to reiterate - MAKE plans now to attend the St. Paul Reunion, PRE-REGISTER early, and ENCOURAGE a buddy to join you at St. Paul.

ALWAYS A DEADEYE

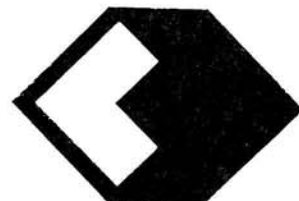
TONY SKARONEA - Treasurer



96th INF. DIV. ASSN.

DEADEYES

ANNUAL REUNIONS



27th Annual Reunion
 Radisson Hotel
 St. Paul, Minnesota
 July 26, 27, 28, 1984

Thursday July 26

8:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. Early Bird Tour, 3M, Bali Hai, Brewery
 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Registration - Lower Lobby
 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Twin City Tour
 8:00 P.M. to 12:00 Mid. Reunion Kickoff Party (Cash Bar)
 Minnesota Ballroom, entertainment Chuck & Elaine, Wild Goose Chase Cloggers

Friday July 27

7:30 A.M. to 8:45 A.M. Executive Board Meeting/Breakfast
 7:30 A.M. to 8:45 A.M. Ladies Executive Committee Meeting
 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Registration - Lower Lobby
 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Business Meeting - Minn. East
 (First half-hour with auxiliary)
 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. Ladies Auxiliary Meeting - Capitol Room
 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Ladies Luncheon - Garden Court
 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Tour of Byerly's and Bachman's
 8:00 P.M. to 12:00 Mid. Beer Bust (Cash Bar) Minnesota Ballroom
 Entertainment, Dean Wentworth Orchestra
 Philippine Dancers

Saturday July 28

9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Registration - Lower Lobby
 9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Business Meeting - Minn. East
 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Memorial Service - Minn. East
 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Church Service - Minn. East
 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Social Hour (Cash Bar) Garden Court
 7:00 P.M. to 12:00 Mid. Banquet-Dance, Minnesota Ballroom
 Dean Wentworth Orchestra

All three days, displays in the Indian Room

Storage - coatcheck room - Lower Lobby

notices

TRAVELING BY MOTORHOME?

Parking can be arranged within walking distance of Hotel.

NO HOOKUPS -- Self-contained units only.

Reservations are a MUST and contact must be made by June 15th

Peter B. Pohl

Route 1

Stacy, Mn. 55079

TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE -- 1987

In order to have adequate time for the committee to function, it is requested that petitions to host our 1987 Reunion be directed to the Committee Chairman VIRGIL BELOW -- IMMEDIATELY

Such petitions should be accompanied by the name, address and phone number of the ON-SITE Chairman and his assistants together with a program and commitments of the City and/or Convention Center involved.

Please direct correspondence to:

Virgil Below

C.R. No. 11, Risingsun, Oh. 43457

Russell Watts

66 West Norwich Ave., Columbus, Oh. 43201

James Moore

2462 Newland St., Denver, Co. 80214

NOMINATING COMMITTEE -- 1984

Anyone interested in becoming involved in committees and/or office please contact the following persons:

Tyson Shelton

522 W. Broadway, Elk City, Ok. 73644

Iden Johnson

P.O. Box 651, Grinnell, Ia. 50112

Robert Huff

6320 Woodwind Dr., Indianapolis, In. 46217

40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF THE PHILIPPINES

On October 20, 1944, the 96th Infantry Division landed on Leyte. A "Reunion for Peace" is being planned for October 20, 1984. If anyone is interested in returning to the Philippines contact:

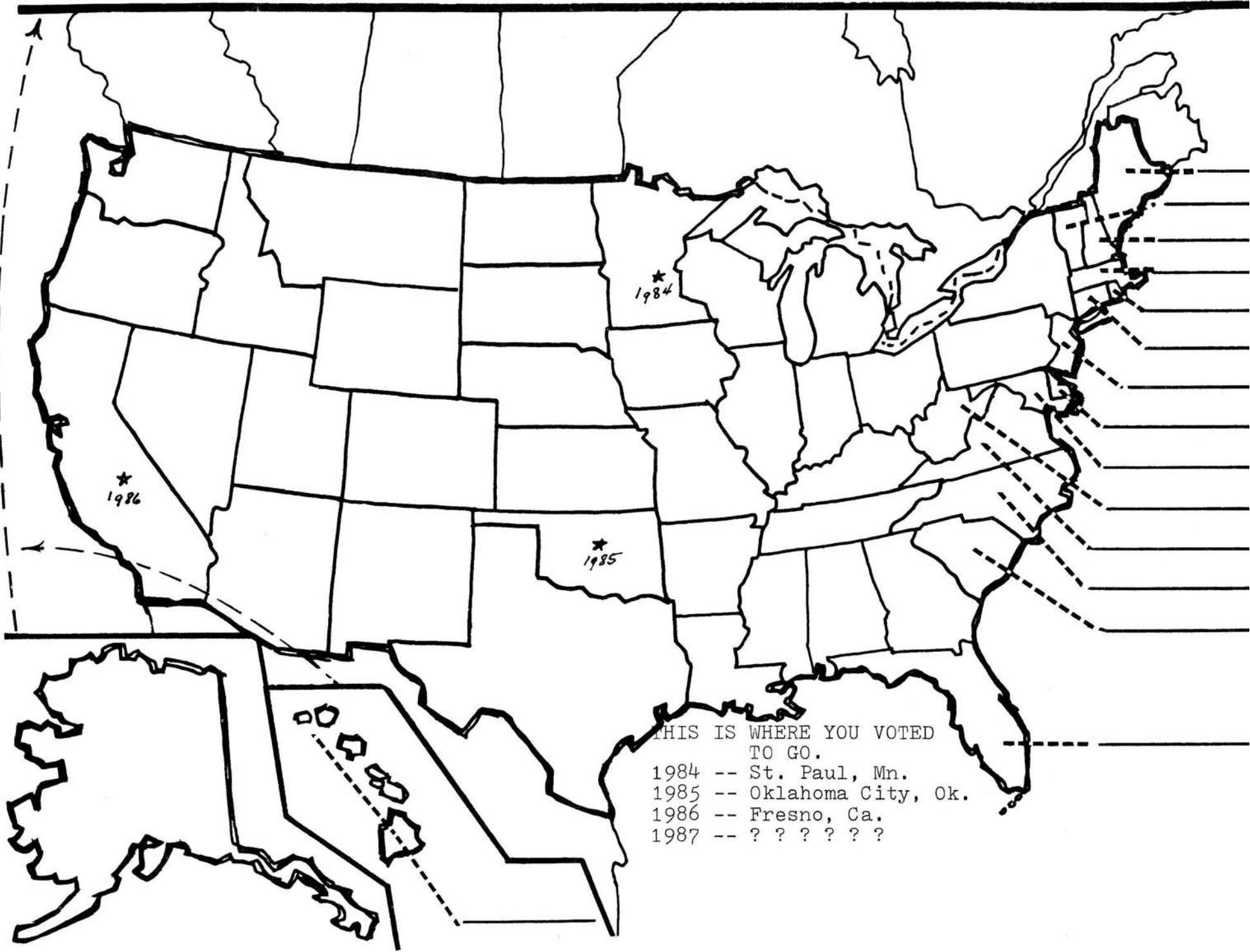
Joseph Hofrichter

Phone 1-513-621-0310

1718 Bird Dog Court

Loveland, Ch. 45140

CONTRARY TO THE BELIEF OF SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE 96th INF. DIV. ASSN. THE MAILING LIST HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED TO ANYONE IN THE PAST TEN YEARS.



Let's hear it for Company L



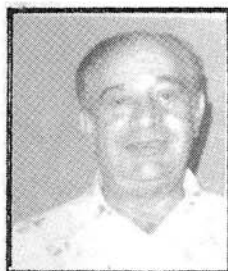
Heroism was commonplace on Kakazu West that afternoon

By Ed Dakan B-381

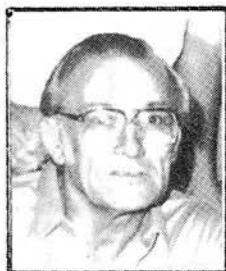
NOTE: This version of the story of Company L has been based on a number of references which told in detail about the combat exploits of the most decorated unit in the 96th Infantry Division. Other personal accounts gleaned from interviews have been included to provide background. Who were they? What did they have going for themselves? reasonable questions about fighting men who went to a crossroads and far beyond.

Although Willard (Hoss) Mitchell had more to say than anyone else and his role appeared more prominent, he insisted that his "hardtails" for the most part were made up of ordinary men who did an extraordinary job when they simply sucked in their guts and did what had to be done.

Company L, 383d was represented by 10 vets at the reunion in Dearborn, Michigan. Shepsky, Stubbe and Mitchell were three of the eight men who went all the way with the company during the Okinawa Campaign. Staggs attended his first reunion.



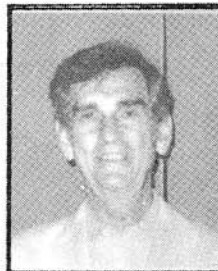
Milton Shepsky
Chicago, IL.



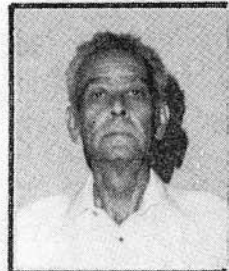
James Warren
Faribault, MN.



Peter Croft
San Antonio, TX.



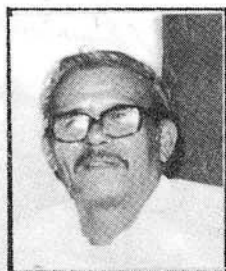
Harvey Ball
Worcester, MA.



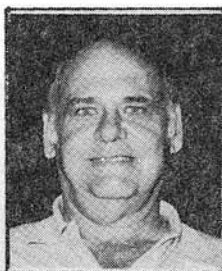
Melvin Staggs
Enon, OH.



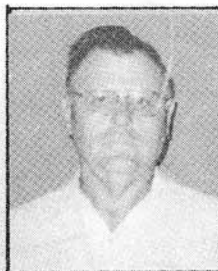
Lyle Pitcher
Muskegon, MI.



Ruben Leal, Sr.
Dallas, TX.



W. M. (Hoss) Mitchell
Ponchatoula, LA.



Max Hymas
Sweet, UT.



Bill Stubbe
Ayr, NE.

Let's hear it for Company L

"It was a laughing situation beginning with basic training at Camp Adair, Oregon. No doubt about it," Hoss Mitchell said, recalling events of early 1943 when he joined Company L (moving over from Company K) at the time all five officers were second lieutenants.

His comrades, a remembering remnant gathered at the reunion in Dearborn, Michigan in July, 1982 agreed. L Company started out as the SNAFU outfit of the 383d, maybe the entire 96th Division. Just one damn thing after the other kept company commanders hotfooting in and out. None of the COs found a home in the company and few showed much stomach for getting men ready for war.

One of the first COs wore bedroom slippers in the orderly room and complained about having some kind of special disease. Adding to confusion during his tenure was a running dispute among the five second looeys about who was in command when the company was out in the field. Later on at Fort Lewis, Washington, a captain who wanted to set an Army record for the five mile march wore out everybody's feet. A former Fort Snelling bugler more or less handled the company thru maneuvers. Next a fellow who had been in the National Guard and had a rating of Senior First Lieutenant stayed a while. Both he and Lt. Mitchell had to leave after a severe disagreement. Hoss was transferred to Regimental Headquarters Company.

Ready or not, Company L shipped out with a CO who was invariably late and who used a lingo that made even close order drill commands nearly impossible to understand.

Overseas, L Company went thru the motions during the early part of the campaign on Leyte. Brief and bitter skirmishes with the Japs bloodied the troops. Patrols were endless. Time and circumstances conspired to reunite Hoss as executive officer with the men whom he would later serve as company commander.

In late December, 1944 the Leyte campaign was in the mopping up phase. Regiment threw in Company L to help out on the drive to Alto Peak and a related adventure against White Chalk Ridge. A disheveled sergeant named Shepsky became the subject of controversy between Lt. Mitchell and Col. Stare. Stare cornered Mitchell to discuss the problem.

"Why can't you make that animal shave?", the colonel asked.

"We'll try to clean him up, sir," Hoss responded, hedging slightly because he recognized the limits of his ability to improve Shepsky's appearance.

A truce quieted the issue, but another crisis followed when Shepsky allegedly ignored an order that everyone had to wear boots all of the time. Looking for trouble, Col. Stare found Hoss in his hole asleep and barefooted. Exact conversation and consequences of that meeting have remained privileged. Nevertheless, Shepsky's luck held out. Mitchell saved the sergeant from the colonel and the favor was shortly justified when Shepsky knocked off a Jap sniper who was after the colonel.

Urged on by rumors as the fighting ended, but hampered by bad overlays, Company L trudged through jungle covered mountains searching for Lake Danao. Japs were supposed to have an aid station all the way around it, entirely camouflaged, a real prize if it could be found. The frustrated and exhausted patrol ended up in Ormoc on the other side of the island. Lieutenant Mitchell was running the company much of the time.

A larger battle loomed, one requiring more backbone and less BS. Okinawa.

Within an hour after hitting the beach, Hoss took command of L Company. Their destiny was to meet the Japs at the main line of resistance.

On April 9, 1945 on an obscene little ridge named Kakazu, Company L fought for its life. One of six companies in a pre-dawn attack by the 3d Battalion,

(Continued)

Let's hear it for Company L (Continued)

the GIs got across both the open ground and the gorge and picked their way up the slopes of the hill without having been discovered. When the Japs realized what was going on all hell broke loose. Machine guns with interlocking fields of fire opened up. A furious mortar and artillery barrage blanketed the gorge and its approaches, cutting off resupply and reinforcements.

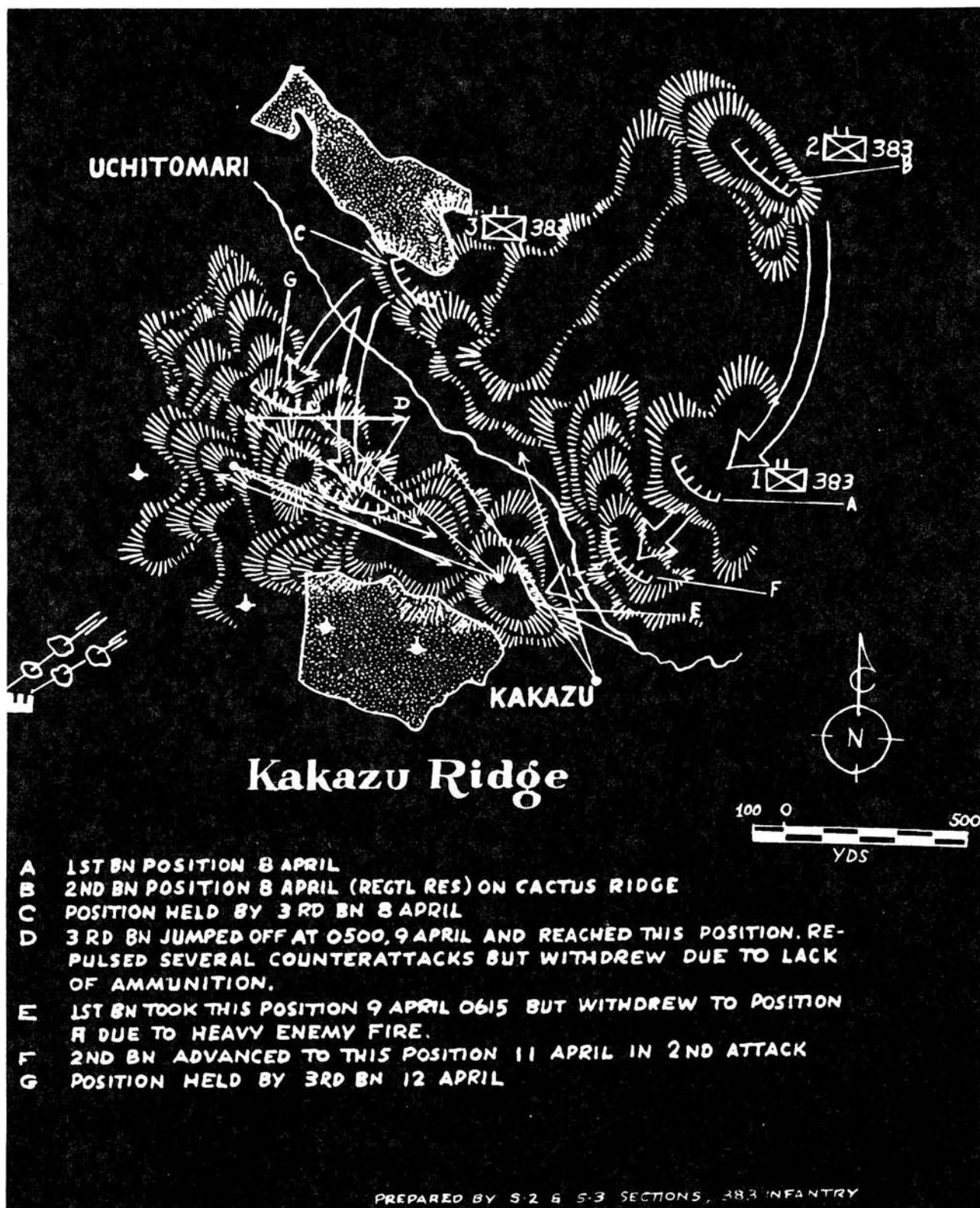
Hoss and his 88 men were isolated in a shallow saddle that afforded some protection on the very crest of the hill. Japs were all over the place. The fight, virtually eyeball to eyeball, raged through the morning. An enemy counter attack started about noon. Four times they struck, charging through their own mortar fire; four times the outnumbered men of L Company turned them back. With ammunition giving out late in the day, the company was ordered to withdraw. Company L had qualified for its Unit Citation award recommendation - the first on Okinawa.

Only 29 men remained, a few of those unscratched, when the shattered company went into reserve for a few days to absorb replacements. PR people put Hoss in clean fatigues for picture taking. A citation was written up for nearly every man who had been involved in the Battle for Kakazu West, including for Hoss the Congressional Medal of Honor (subsequently reduced to DSC). A couple of Pfc's., James E. Dowdy and Ray E. Decker, became platoon sergeants. An anxious flock of new men filled oldtimer's vacant slots in the squads. Shepsky, still unreformed, moved up to first sergeant.

Military analysts critiqued and second guessed a lot to explain differences in performance among line companies when the chips were down. An old BAR man in Company L had his own ideas: "After Kakazu we made arrangements that the cooks would never go back up with us again. No matter what happened, we were going to have something to eat."

Hoss picked up the story: "As soon as the day ended, I'd get on the radio and holler for Pig Meat, code name for our supply sergeant. He'd say, 'We're on our way.' Pretty soon the jeep driver, mail orderly and at least one of the cooks would show up. Even when they made old mutton stew, it was pretty good. When we sat down for the night we generally had donuts or something like that. We'd look across our perimeter and watch other companies chow down C or D rations, but we had our pastries."

Time ran out for the Japs. The fight went on to its finish in June, 1945. Afterward, Company L lived on in memories of good men who survived and in pages of history books.



This sketch of Kakazu Ridge and its environs was extracted from an official action report prepared by the S-2 and S-3 sections of the 383d. Company L made its epochal stand in the saddle between the two ridgespurs indicated by key "D".

--

We are the men of America,
The men of the city and farm;
We are the men who have built you
And sheltered you from all harm;
We are the men from the bombers,
The men from the tanks and the ships--
Will you not pause and pray for a moment
To heed the cry of our lips?

--
We are from Leyte and Okinawa,
The men who battled and bled,
On beaches and ridges and struggled
Till the ground ran rivers of red.
We counted the cost but little
Out where the bodies were strewn--
Is it too much to ask you
Not to forget us so soon?

--
We are the lame and the crippled,
The men who have given their blood;
The men who have breathed malaria
And lived and slept in mud.
The men who have traded an arm
For less than a half mile gain--
Will you not lift your arm
To ease the sting of our pain?

We are the old and the young of the nation,
And war has left us with many scars;
But love and freedom we cherished
Not medals or battle stars.
The bullets and shrapnel dug deep
And every wound was hard-gotten--
But the deepest wound of all
Would be to come home and be forgotten.

Complied by Vincent Otto & Father Konisky
and paraphrased to present the veteran's
point of view by Father Konisky, formerly
chief of Chaplains at Albany Veterans
Administration Medical Center



96th INF. DIV.
★

INFLATION HITS 96th Inf. Div. Assn.

Due to the rising cost of postage, paper, stencils, make-up, printing, addressing, etc., it has been necessary to raise the dues. Members attending the reunion in Houston, Tx. voted to raise the dues to \$6.00.

YOUR DUES PAY FOR THE DEAD EYE DISPATCH.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DUES today to:

Anthony Skaronea, Treas.
231 Rouse Ave.
Mundelein, Il. 60060

Auxiliary dues -- \$2.00



Here's my dues for myself and for my wife, Magdalena.
We've never been to a reunion but hope to go to St. Paul, Mn.
in July and hope to see some of my "Buddies" there.

Whatever happened to Co. H, 383, as I never hear from anyone
and no one goes to the reunions. Haven't seen a name in the
Deadeye Dispatch yet. We really enjoy the Deadeye Dispatch.

I started with the 96th Division at Camp Adair and was with
the Division all the way to Okinawa where I was wounded.

Eustachuis Duchsherer
Rt. 1 Box 23
Balfour, N.D. 58712

This past Christmas, I received a card from one of my army
buddies who told me about the 96th Inf. Div. Assn. and receiving
the Deadeye Dispatch.

I was a member of Co. E 382. Enclosed is my check for dues.
Is this all I need to do to join the association?

Paul R. Hess
111 Margaret St.
Newark, Oh. 43055

I haven't been able to make any of the reunions for the last
few years, but will see you in Oklahoma City. Keep up the good work.
Enclosed are dues for myself and for my wife, Lorene.

Ted Weber - 381-D
Box 411
Okeene, Ok. 73763

I'm coming to you through my buddies in the "Twin Cities", Mn.
I have been out of the mainstream of Deadeye activities. However, I
am planning to attend the big reunion in St. Paul during July 1984.
Enclosed is a check to cover my dues and subscription to the Deadeye
Dispatch. I was a member of Co. H 381 and participated in both the
P. I. and Okinawa campaigns

Alfred Weiss
855 Queen Ann Rd.
Teaneck, N.J. 07666

I just recently learned that there was a 96th Div. organization. I have been searching the Veteran magazines for a reunion of some sort, but never found any. My dues are enclosed -- please enroll me as a member.

Richard C. Barkley -- 381- 2nd Bn.
830 E. Main St.
Morris, Il. 60450

Late again with my dues! I guess if I didnt receive the Deadeye Dispatch I never would remember. Even though I can't make the reunions, I do enjoy reading the Dispatch.

I wonder how many of my old buddies remember me singing and whistling with the 96th Band and sometimes smaller groups when we would get a rest period from combat on Leyte -- Okinawa and later on Mindoro? There were some good times mixed in with the bad ones and these we remember!

Doug Williamson -- 382 AT
P.O. Box 4273
San Diego, Ca. 92104

Enclosed are dues for the year 1984 for my wife and myself. I was a replacement. I joined the 96 Deadeyes a week after landing on Okinawa. If plans work out, maybe I will see you and enjoy the St. Paul reunion.

Earl H. Schuster-- 383-G
Cavalier, N. D. 58220

I certainly enjoy receiving the Deadeye Dispatch, and look forward to receiving it regularly. Enclosed please find my check for dues which I realize is needed so greatly for editing the Dispatch.

I was unable to make the Houston reunion, but definitely plan on attending the reunion this year in St. Paul.

Walace P. Christman -- 381-C
2643 Beaumont St.
Green Bay, Wi. 54301

I enjoy the Deadeye Dispatch very much. Keep up the good work. Hope to see you all at the reunion in St. Paul. Dues are enclosed.

Edward G. Van Deusen -- 381-Serv
3411 So. Camino Seco #465
Tucson, Az. 85730

Enclosed are my dues and my wife's. We really enjoyed the reunion in Houston and are looking forward to the one in St. Paul. It is so close to where we live. All of you do such a great job.

J. R. Ulman -- 381-C

823 6th St.

Hudson, Wi. 54016

Enclosed are my dues for 1984. I can't attend the St. Paul Reunion. I'm an out-patient of V.A.M.C. Northport for cancer of the larynx and can't speak. I would like to hear from any who served with Co. F - 382.

I'm glad that the Deadeye Dispatch is doing so well -- I enjoy it so very much.

Walter W. Train -- 382-F

797 Fulton Ave.

Bohemia, L.I., N.Y. 11716

Thanks to the Association for another issue of the "Dispatch". Enclosed is a check for a couple of years due for myself and also to the Auxiliary for my wife, Elaine.

I was in the Division Band and, I guess, like the rest of the band members, haven't been active in the Association since I can't recall seeing much about the band in past issues. After these 40 years, I can't help wondering where some of them are and what they're doing. Most of you probably know that we lost George Merker and Dick Kesner several years ago.

How about you guys--are you out there somewhere? Anyone interested in getting together at the St. Paul Reunion? Maybe we could get a couple of trucks and start another campaign to elect another "Marjorie Main" as our pin-up girl. If any of you are interested in the next reunion, I'd be delighted to hear from you.

Will Triebes -- Band

430 Buena Vista

Edwardsville, Il. 62025

Here are dues for my self and for my wife. We weren't able to go to the Houston reunion, but plan on being in St. Paul in 1984. We were at the Michigan reunion in 82 and sure enjoyed the convention and seeing 9 of my old buddies of M Co. 381.

We did attend the N.W. State reunion which was held at Camp Adair, Or. There was over 40 present -- no one I knew -- but made good friends of many and had a good time.

Would like to hear from any of my old buddies of Co. 381-M.

George Ashford

8200 SW 87

Portland, Or. 97223

Enclosed is a check for dues, and change of address. Verna and I have retired, sold home and lake place and heading for a new sunny life in the south.

I always look forward to our Dispatch and enjoy it very much.

Somehow I neglected to get the ORIGINAL 96th Division Book, so please advise if this 1st book is still available.

Thanks again for doing a good job and keeping all of us informed.

Howard Kunz -- 383-3rd BH

10406 E. Twilight Dr.

Sun Lakes, Az. 85224

It's always nice to get the "Deadeye Dispatch". I am now married again and I'm sending my wife's auxiliary dues and a few extra dollars. You fellows are doing a real fine job. Many thanks again for keeping the 96th together.

Wilbur Morrison -- 321 Medics

18400 Cherry Creek

Homewood, Il. 60430

Got my Deadeye Dispatch today. Enclosed with this note is my check for dues.

I am wondering if there is anyone that belongs to the "Deadeyes" who remembers me. I was in 382-B. We left the states and went to Hawaii, we then left Hawaii, "bypassed the Island of Yap" and landed on Leyte.

Glen A. Mitchell -- 382-B

Bridgeport, Ne. 69336-0220

Enclosed is my check for dues and some additional money. I have been pleased to receive our 96th Deadeye News for the past several years but I do not think I have been very regular in paying my dues- had some bad years but have just had some real good luck and may have some "extra" money for a change. So want to get paid up and in good standing.

Also, had some real experiences the past year that brought back many memories. Might start by saying my youngest son is in the air force on a scholarship. He is a veterinarian and was stationed in South Korea last year. The combined governments of U. S. and S. Korea sponsored a tour and we qualified as Jim's parents. We were very fortunate to get to fly to South Korea and spend some three weeks with our son. We had such a wonderful visit and had just fantastic kind and gracious treatment while in Korea.

The best part was we got to fly to Okinawa! We had to fly by way of Tokyo and did not get to spend near enough time -- but landed in Naha -- had an A.F. Vet from Kadena AFB as our guide. Toured all around - such a change!! You all know how we left it -- blasted and burned flat -- now it is so heavily populated and very much American. MUCH congested traffic. We stayed in the Okinawa Hilton up on the hill where we could see both the China Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Needless to say, my wife Mildred and son Jim were treated to a lot of 96th tales. Now that we are back home, we are sorry that we did not make the effort to get to the Phillipines some way.

William L. Eubank -- Div. HQ
Box 116
Coats, Ks. 67028

Enclosed are my dues for membership in the 96th Inf. Assn. I'm happy to know that the organization does exist. Since I have been out of the country a number of the past 35 years, I have not kept in contact with a number of stateside happenings.

I served most of the time in Service Co. 383rd, finally as Company Commander during Okinawa and on thru Mindora.

William C. Luehrs -- 383 - Serv.
2840 Chatsworth Road
Columbia, S.C. 29206

I would like to thank all of the men and women of the 96th Inf. Assn. for allowing Harold and Peggy Steadman, my wife Joyce and myself to attend your annual reunion.

As you know we are planning a reunion of our own from the Viet Nam War. This will be our first reunion. What we learned from the 96th Infantry would have taken us 5 years to learn. It was clear to see how important your reunion was to each and everyone of you, and has shown us the potential of our reunion. We feel to have a well

organized and successful 1st reunion, it is important to develop what the 96th has today. Thanks to you, we feel we have had the best advice and help we could ask for.

Terry L. Weeks
23 Oak Parkway
Burleson, Tx. 76028

(**Terry is the son of Fred and Jeannette Weeks)

This recent reunion in Houston, Tx. was the first that I had attended -- since I found out about it only by chance.

I was privileged to be a member of the 321 Eng. A Co. There were 5 members present from Co. A and one was the company commander.

Donald E. Bemis
212 Bonnell Dr.
San Antonio, Tx. 78223

To All our Deadeye Friends:

We wish to thank each and everyone of you for the privilege and honor in serving as editors of the Deadeye Dispatch all of these past years.

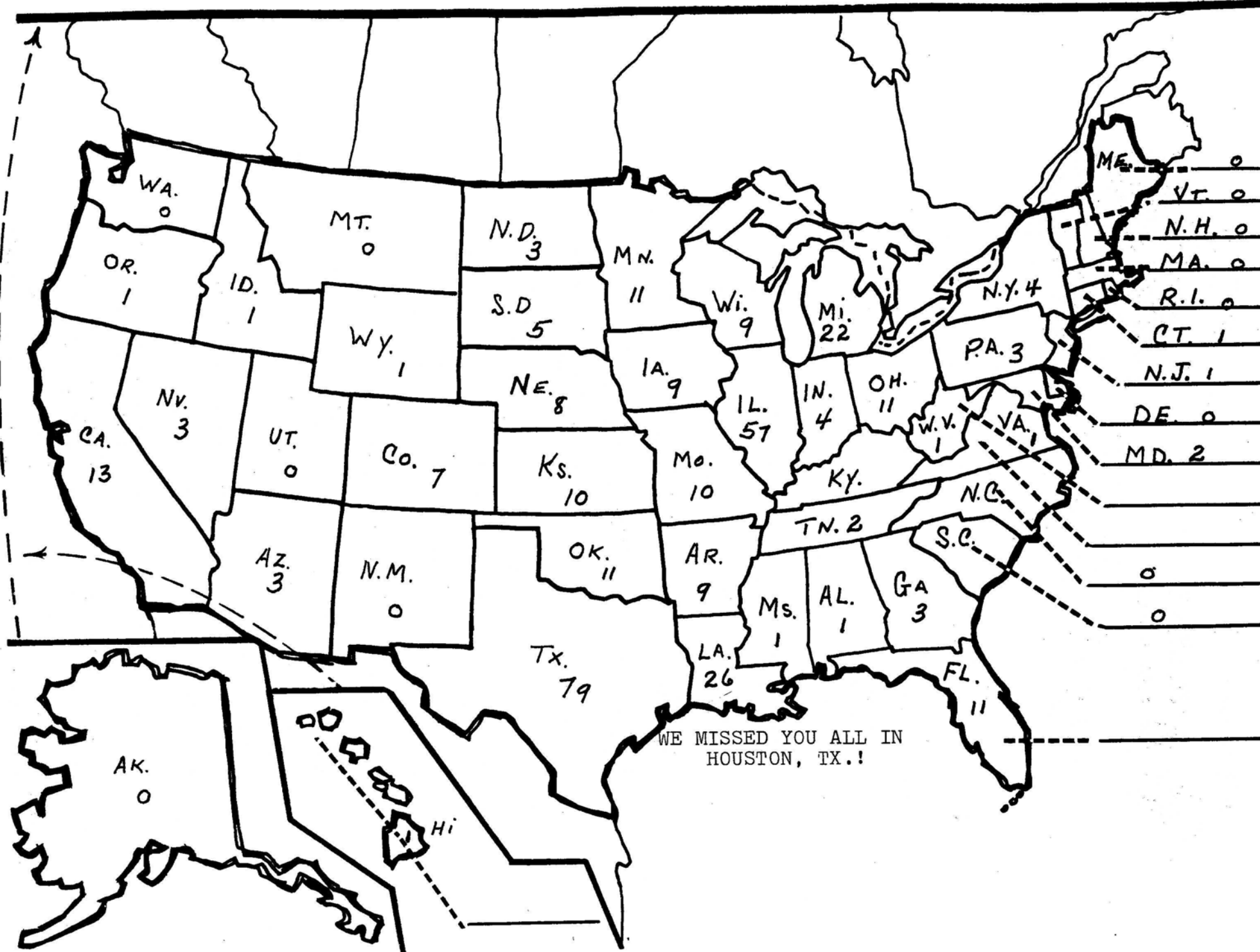
We apologize for any errors and omissions that have been made.

We especially wish to thank all of you who have so willingly sent in articles for print in the Dispatch. Your letters are always welcome and we print as many as space is available.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to all Deadeyes families in the passing of your loved ones. Ted Hanna and Reuben Leal are two of many of our friends. Ted was elected as 2nd Vice President last year in Houston and was host of two successful reunions. Reuben attended many of the reunions and always brought his family -- from small children on up to grown "Kids" who attended with their spouses and children.

Harold & Lorraine Strand -- 381-M
604 South Hazel Street
Glenwood, Ia. 51534

YOUR DUES ARE WHAT PAY FOR THE "DEADEYE DISPATCH". Send them in today.



WE MISSED YOU ALL IN HOUSTON, TX.!

In Memorium...



"Taps"

God, in his infinite Wisdom, has summoned more "DEAD-EYES" who served their country faithfully and well in war and peace. The 96th Infantry Division Association mourns their passing and extends sympathy to their surviving families.



Tom Murphy -- 921-FA
per letter wife --2-6-82

Abe Van Dyke -- QM
per Wm. Broschk

Curtis Slusher
per Milo Thompson

Huie V. Clair -- 381-3rd Bn.
per letter sister

Gerald Anderson -- Div. Hq.
per Post Office -- 10-25-81

Henry L. Peters -- 261-FA
per Post Office

Ernest Janssen -- 96 Recon.
per Post Office

William Hollingsworth -- 363-FA
per Post Office

Walfred Makenin -- 383-D
per Post Office

Albert Toto -- 363-FA
per letter sister -- 9-5-78

James L. Wiczek -- 381-C
per Anthony Skaronea -- 102-81

Russell V. Gipperich -- 381-H
per letter wife

Gordon P. Keith -- 382-G
per Rollin Nelson -- 6-16-83

LeRoy Everett -- 383-B
per Elmer Sweeter -- 5-2-83

Marion O. Mark -- 382-K
per letter wife -- 2-5-83

J. L. Medler -- 383-B
1983

Lawrence Hunter -- 381-2nd BH
per Bob Borden -- 8-4-82

Otto Harrison -- 381-Medic
per letter - 2-7-82

Earl P. Crisp -- 796 Ord.
per letter wife -- 5-10-83

Paul L. Helker -- 383-1st BH
per letter wife -- 4-19-83

Maurice B. Stoland -- 362-FA
per letter Arnold Clemens -- 3-28-83

Dan Pevach -- 381-L
per Ed Dakan -- 8-21-82

John E. Tweedy -- 362-FA
per Post Office

Robert E. Rector
per letter wife -- 12-1981

Charles H. Golden -- 728 Amt.
per letter letter wife -- 7-1-82

Harold L. John -- 382-M
per Post Office

Nesbitt Moverly -- H & H
per letter wife

Irving L. Bothun -- 382-G
per Post Office

Elmer K. Vingelen -- 383-A
per Post Office

Alex Petriska -- 728 AMT
per letter son -- 1-14-81

Raymond H. Epps
per James Jackson -- 1-1982

Walter Stasiak -- 361-FA
per letter wife -- 4-8-83

Ross S. Lahew
Per Post Office

George Van Boening -- 382-F
per Harm Alberts -- 3-1984

Carl Graefing -- 383-B
6-21-83

John Koza, Jr. -- 321-Medic
per letter wife -- 12-11-82

Art Phibbs -- 321-Eng.
per letter wife -- 6-22-82

Alphonse J. Melito -- 381-Medic
per letter wife -- 4-23-83

Jewell Brooks -- 796-Ord.
per Joe Mate -- 3-8-83

David B. Wilson -- HHQ
per William Eubank -- 8-1982

TAPS

Roy J. Bachman -- 382-1st Bn
per Otto Dimond -- 6-28-83

Herbert Adams
per Post Office

Charley Gregory
per Post Office

John M. Piccini -- 381-I
persister-in-law -- 4-13-80

Charles J. Rhodes -- 383-K
per sister - 11-7-83

Dr. Gaston A. Shook -- QM
per letter wife -- 10-8-83

James Hill -- 728-Amt.
per Post Office

James Moran
per Post Office

Edward V. Mynard -- 381-H
per George Caswell -- 8-82

R. G. Gard
per Anthony Skaronea

James R. Rice -- 381
per letter wife -- 7-10-83

Alton L. Gremillion
7-22-71

Charles Arrowsmith -- 321 Eng.
per Wm. Broschk

Willard O. Butler -- 321-Eng.
per Wm. Broschk

Ted Hanna -- 381-K
per Harold Williams -- 1-12-84

Delbert J. McDonough -- 796 Ord
per Ben C. Conver -- 9-21-83

Ruben Leal -- 383-L
per Fred Bush -- 2-6-84

Wm. B. Reed, M.D.
per Wm. Broschk -- 1-8-78

Otto P. Slatinsky
per Wm. Broschk -- 4-5-81

Joe Vaverka -- 321 Eng.
per Merwin F. Hill -- 4-10-83

George Tsouras -- 383-D
per note Earl Zinc - 3-25-84

Archie & Ellen Martineau -- 381-I
per Mrs. R.L. Rodger -- 12-82

Bruce R. Maltman
per Post Office

Edward W. Koerbel -- 381-G
per Post Office

Harold R. Martin -- 381-M
per letter son -- 5-19-83

Lafe E. Johnson
per Post Office

Robert E. Gindling
per letter wife -- 8-10-82

Kenneth Gray -- 362-FA
per Wm. Broschk -- 1983

Elmer E. Peterson
per Ivan Peterson

Arlie C. Elrod
per George Casewll -- 3-23-83

Ed A. Baranski
per letter wife

Robert P. Adams
per Brother -- 4-12-83

Morris J. Johnson -- 321-Eng.
11-14-82

John Thill -- 921-FA
per Ann Dunning -- 12-16-83

Louis Govern
per wife

Melecio N. Contreraz -- 381-I
per Calvin Stevens -- 12-16-83

Carl H. Lind -- 362-FA
per Post Office

Emmette W. Roshier -- Div. Hq.
per Fred Bush -- 5-12-83

Ernest Rogers
per Wm. Broschk -- 11-11-76

William H. Wegener
per Wm. Broschk

Webster F. Boggs -- 383-B
per JoLynn Boggs

Judin C. Antonson -- 321-Eng.
per letter wife -- 12-1-82

Subscriptions for New History Book, YOURS IN COMRADESHIP, Being Sold

A new history book, YOURS IN COMRADESHIP, which describes the first 26 years of the peacetime adventures of the 96th Infantry Division Association will be published. Maybe. The main hitch in the plan to have the book ready for distribution at the reunion in St. Paul, Minnesota, next July is whether at least 1,000 subscriptions can be sold soon enough. According to the motion adopted at a business meeting in Houston, Texas, no treasury funds will be involved. Time limit for completion of the project will be one year.

Format for the 240-page book will be copied from THE DEADEYES, the story of the 96th Infantry Division published at the end of World War II and later reprinted by the Association. Cover design and quality of binding of the new book will closely as possible match the first book.

YOURS IN COMRADESHIP will be edited by Ed Dakan, P.O. Box 1254, Dubuque, IA. 52001. Contact him if you have materials of interest or skills or talent to contribute. Men who wrote or provided art work for the wartime Deadeye Dispatch will be furnishing items, articles and art work for the book. Besides those persons and others, the women who were active in the formation of the auxiliary and who have firsthand knowledge of that group's activities will be mainly involved with preparation of Book II, Ladies Auxiliary: A Family Affair.

"We need to have a lot of cooperation from everybody if this book is to tell the whole story. It will be both a story book and a reference book," says Dakan. "We expect YOURS IN COMRADESHIP to interest anyone who has attended even one of our reunions. The book ought to pretty well sum up to date the postwar activities of the men of the 96th."

The date of July 26, 1984, subscription deadline, will be all important to this project. A long selling campaign and follow-up to plead for more participation is not being anticipated. Now is the time to do it or drop it.

Anyone wanting to order a book that will tell his grandchildren and the world what the 96th Infantry Division Association is all about can do it by sending his personal check or money order with the book order to treasurer Anthony Skaronea. END

BACK IN '58 AT THE REUNION IN ST. LOUIS

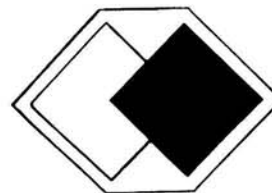
WE TOLD WAR STORIES...

NOW WE TALK ABOUT GOOD OL' DAYS AND GRAND CHILDREN!



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THE STORY OF FIRST 26 YEARS OF THE CIVILIAN SIDE OF A FAMOUS FIGHTING OUTFIT



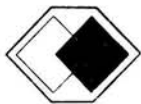
Money will be refunded if project is not completed

Subscription must be completed by JULY 26, 1984

Details on following page

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Make Remittance Payable To 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION



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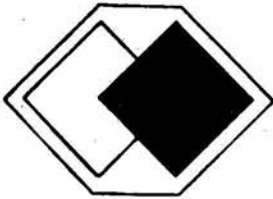
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96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION - WW II



Read all about it!

FIRST 26 YEARS OF THE 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

YOURS IN COMRADESHIP

CONTENTS

- Book I The Largest and Most Active Organization of Its Kind
- Book II Ladies Auxiliary: A Family Affair
- Book III Remembering
- Book IV Follow-up

SPECIFICATIONS

- * Facts and figures for 26 reunions
- * 240 pages - 8½" x 11" trim size
- * Includes interior on enamel stock
- * Four divider sheets printed in 2nd color
- * About 400 pictures
- * End sheets printed on offset stock
- * Hard binding with die stamped cover and spine

NOW HEAR THIS! At least 1,000 subscriptions must be paid before printing contracts can be signed. Every old DEADEYE will want this book. Act now.



MOTION

I move that the printing of the book, **YOURS IN COMRADESHIP**, will be accepted as an official project of the Association. The president and treasurer will be authorized to execute necessary contracts whenever they are satisfied that the best possible terms not to exceed \$25.00 per copy have been worked out and the project will be limited to subscriptions received. The newsletter will carry appropriate announcements and subscription information. In event that the project cannot be completed after one year, all subscription proceeds will be returned by Association check to sender, unless there is further action on this matter by the membership at the next reunion. This project will be intended to be strictly nonprofit. There will be no claim whatsoever on the Association treasury.

This motion was adopted at the Business Meeting held at the Galleria Hotel, Houston, Texas on July 30, 1983.



Yours in

COMRADESHIP

96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION · WW II



1983-1984 MEN

Back Row Left to Right: Sam Benson, Tony Pavell, Virgil Below, Harold Strand, Stanley Smith.
 Front Row Left to Right: Donald Foster, Harm Alberts, Ted Hanna, Anthony Skaronea. (Wm. Broschk not present when picture taken.) (Deceased)



1983-1984 AUXILIARY:

Phyllis Fritz, Delores Butts, Celia Ellis, Lucille Guthrie, Thelma Burton, Irene Hanna, Donna Foster.



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