

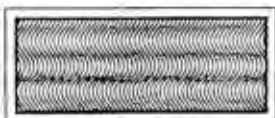
96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION • WW II

# THE DEADEYE DISPATCH



## SPRING ISSUE 2005 PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION OKINAWA

1st April 1945  
to  
30th June 1945



*for*  
EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST AN ARMED ENEMY



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TO:

# 96<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 2004 - 2005 OFFICERS

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# President's Corner



Dear Deadeyes, Spouses, Families, Friends, all those associated with the old 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association (96<sup>th</sup> IDA, and members of the new 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association 96<sup>th</sup> IDDA),

Association Officers and The Executive Committee are looking forward to seeing you at the 48<sup>th</sup> and final 96<sup>th</sup> IDA reunion this year. Every reunion has seemed like the best, but we are working hard to make this one very special.

We urge you to attend this landmark Reunion. Contact your "buddies" and encourage them to enjoy the comradeship you have enjoyed every reunion.

One cannot imagine the feeling of celebrating the brotherhood of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association unless you have mingled among "the old and young soldiers" and enjoyed silent as well as gentle and robust conversations. War stories as well.

Don't forget, many of our members are of the post WWII conflicts including 96<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command reservists who continue to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some have joined the new Association. They make me proud.

Finally we have very important agenda items for the business meeting, as well as a formal "Passing of the Colors", of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association to the new 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association.

### **The major agenda items needing approval by the general membership are:**

- Turnover of current 96<sup>th</sup> IDA member list to 96<sup>th</sup> IDDA
- Transfer of the remaining financial assets of the "old Association" to the "new Association" after all bills are paid, and the books are audited.
- Transfer of physical assets of the WWII Division, and the "old Association" to the "new Association", including history records, memorabilia, membership files, flags and all other materials.
- A resolution to encourage the new Association to plan periodic meetings to include an agenda, time, place, and social activities.
- Resolution encouraging life members from the old Association to voluntarily give tax deductible support to the new Association.
- Approval of distribution of a final post 2005 Reunion commemorative Deadeye Dispatch.
- Authorize current 96<sup>th</sup> IDA officers and The Executive Committee to continue beyond July 2005 and complete phase out of the Association. A final report will be prepared and published in the Commemorative Edition of the Deadeye Dispatch.
- Any other written motions that may be determined necessary for the good of the Association. Submit proposed items to me before July.

Remember our Welcome Night Kick Off Party is your chance to reminisce with your Deadeye comrades and families. Memories of reunions past, battle experiences or just some personal thoughts are of interest and should be shared. If you or family members have talents, musical or otherwise bring them on. This is our last "Hurrah" and our last chance to be heard. Contact Ann Moroz ASAP to get on the program.

George Rastall, President  
96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association

## Auxiliary Corner

# 96<sup>th</sup> INF. DIV. ASSN.

DEADEYES

ANNUAL REUNIONS



Members of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and Ladies Auxiliary!

It has again been my privilege to be a member of the Planning Committee for the annual reunion of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Working with Bob Siefert, George Rastall, and Bob Schmidt has been such a positive experience as we shared ideas and formats for our final reunion. We feel a sadness as we plan our last reunion, but have accepted the fact that it is time for all of us to complete the mission in preparation for a change of command to the 96<sup>th</sup> Deadeye Association ..

The Planning Committee have selected for your enjoyment tours that will be exciting and informative. The World War II Memorial is breathtaking and will be an unforgettable experience for your memory book. I hope all of you have an opportunity to ride the Metrorail System. For this country gal it was such a fun happening since I was able to experience the system while there for the October Planning Session.

Ladies please note on the page listing activities, dates and times there are some major changes in our activities. The first one being there will be no Ladies Executive Committee Meeting. We will have a Ladies Business Meeting on Thursday morning to discuss closure of our Auxiliary activities when all members can be present. Note the time of the Ladies Luncheon. Both of these events were scheduled to enable all of you to have the opportunity to take part in the WWII Memorial Tour and the Arlington National Cemetery Tour.

The Ladies Luncheon will be held on the top floor of the hotel with views of Arlington and surrounding area. It will be a festive affair with a strolling violinist to entertain us. In the past we have asked ladies to bring items for a drawing at the luncheon. We will not have that event as part of the program this year.

Have you invited your children to join us? I have! Have you made your hotel reservation? I have! My fondest wish is that I will see all of you as we gather for a grand and glorious intergenerational final reunion. If you are not able to join us may the Lord bless and keep you in his care'.

In the bond of the 96<sup>th</sup>,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glendoris Cole".

Glendoris Cole, President

96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association Auxiliary



# 96<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION AUXILIARY 2004 - 2005 OFFICERS



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## MEMORIAL SERVICE

**Douglas Burton** – 11279 S. Fowler Ave., Selma, CA 93662-9619 (559-891-0352).



# REMINISCING!!!

Date	Place	Number	President	Distinguished Deadeve(s)
1958	St. Louis, MO	103	Minor Butler	
1959	Chicago, IL	223	Minor Butler	
1960	Kansas City, MO	264	Hubert Hoffman	
1961	Detroit, MI	over 250	Morris Roberts	
1962	Dallas, TX	over 200	Willard"Hoss"Mitchell	
1963	Little Rock, AR	about 200	Jack Fisher	
1964	Portland, OR	about 150	Patrick McDermott	Minor Butler
1965	Minneapolis, MN	330	Alex Marcus	Richard Klassen
1966	Indianapolis, IN	364	Robert Huff	Ed Dakan
1967	Omaha, NE	351	Peter Pohl	Edmund Biggs
1968	Chicago, IL	551	Paul Bauer	Harold Roetker
1969	Des Moines, IA	345	Robert Fitzpatrick	Alex Markus
1970	Detroit, MI	434	Henry White	LeRoy Collins, Jr.
1971	Denver, CO	376	Edward Dunning, Jr.	James Breece
1972	New Orleans, LA	426	Joe Fritz	Paul Bauer
1973	Peoria, IL	526	Iden Johnson	Harold Strand
1974	Indianapolis, IN	433	James Breece	Sam Benson
1975	Kansas City, KS	482	Edmund Biggs	Dean Sterner
1976	Ft. Worth, TX	462	Cyril Dean Sterner	Peter Pohl
1977	Cincinnati, OH	449	Tyson Shelton	Victor Barth
1978	New Orleans, LA	398	Douglas Burton	Henry White
1979	Denver, CO	432	Atwell Champion	Willard Mitchell
1980	Springfield, IL	533	Fred Weeks	Glenn Hamilton
1981	Milwaukee, WI	487	Glenn Hamilton	Elmer Stuckemeyer
1982	Dearborn, MI	476	Russell Watts	Virgil Below
1983	Houston, TX	376	Ernest Qualls	Anthony Skaronea
1984	St. Paul, MN	591	Harm Alberts	William Broschke
1985	Oklahoma City, OK	549	Virgil Below	Russell Watts
1986	Fresno, CA	428	Louis DeLuca	Douglas Burton
1987	Memphis, TN	607	Anthony Pavell	Glyn Hollingsworth
1988	Peoria, IL	622	Donald Foster	Stanley Smith
1989	Rapid City, SD	632	Tom Roby	George Buttell
1990	Omaha, NE	660	James Warren	Donald Foster
1991	Spokane, WA	511	James Knight	Hubert Hoffman
1992	Louisville, KY	670	Joseph Garabedian	Tyson Shelton
1993	Sparks, NV	519	Robert Siefert	Louis DeLuca
1994	Hot Springs, AR	645	Robert Schmidt	Joe Fritz
1995	Lubbock, TX	416	Louis Canedo	Robert Schmidt
1996	Des Moines, IA	517	Glenn Amonett	Robert Siefert
1997	St. Louis, MO	550	Don Dencker	Iden Johnson
1998	Ft. Mitchell, KY	416	John Elliot	Tom Roby
1999	Denver, CO	407	Richard Haglund	James Knight & Donald Dencker
2000	Salt Lake City, UT	322	Glyn Hollingsworth	Robert Huff & Steve Melnyk
2001	Omaha, NE	407	James Causey	Richard Haglund & George McMahan
2002	Kansas City, MO	309	Ernest Malkewitz	Joseph Garabedian & James Warren
2003	Tulsa, OK	273	Robert Cronshey	E.Jay Thompson & Louis Canedo
2004	Salt Lake City, UT	226	Edwin Wright	Tom Roby
2005	Washington D.C.		George Rastall	



## 96<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order (no credit cards or phone reservations accepted). Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before June 24, 2005. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing.

**Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.**  
**322 Madison Mews**  
**Norfolk, VA 23510**  
**ATTN: 96<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION**

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 6/24/05	Price Per	# of People	Total
<b><u>TOURS</u></b>			
Tuesday: Shear Madness Theater	\$54		\$
Wednesday: Washington DC City Tour	\$25		\$
Wednesday: Spirit of Washington Dinner Cruise	\$88		\$
Thursday: WWII Memorial Tour	\$25		\$
Friday: Arlington National Cemetery Tour	\$31		\$
<b><u>HOTEL FUNCTIONS</u></b>			
Friday: Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon -	\$11		\$
Friday: Beer Bust	\$6		\$
Saturday: Banquet (Please select your entrée):			
Prime Rib	\$35		\$
Chicken Champagne	\$30		\$
Saturday Banquet children's plate (12 and under) -Chicken fingers and French fries	\$12		\$
<b><u>MANDATORY REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON</u></b>			
	\$5		\$
<b>Total Amount Payable to <u>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</u></b>			<b>\$</b>

Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME (for nametags) \_\_\_\_\_

REGIMENT \_\_\_\_\_ COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_ BATTERY \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, ST, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST 96<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION REUNION ATTENDED? YES

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS?  YES  NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain your cancellation code.

**96<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION – 48th ANNUAL REUNION  
 JULY 26 –31, 2005  
 SHERATON NATIONAL HOTEL, ARLINGTON, VA**

**Tuesday, July 26**

2:00pm - 7:00pm Reunion Registration open  
 7:00pm - 10:30pm SHEAR MADNESS THEATER (description follows)  
 Evening and dinner on your own

**Wednesday, July 27**

TBD R & R Room (USO Room) Hours will be posted at the reunion.  
 8:00am - 8:30am Reunion Registration open  
 9:00am - 12:00pm WASHINGTON, D.C. CITY TOUR (description follows)  
 2:30pm - 5:30pm Reunion Registration open  
 6:00pm - 10:45pm SPIRIT OF WASHINGTON DINNER CRUISE (description follows)

**Thursday, July 28**

7:00am - 8:00am Reunion Registration open  
 8:00am - 11:00am Executive Committee Meeting  
 9:00am - 11:00am Ladies Business Meeting  
 10:00am - 8:00pm History Room open  
 11:30am - 1:00pm ASTP Luncheon - For information see announcement on "Notice Page"  
 1:30pm - 4:30pm WWII MEMORIAL TOUR (description follows)  
 4:00pm - 8:00pm Reunion Registration open  
 8:00pm - 11:00pm Reunion Kick-Off Party

**Friday, July 29**

7:30am - 11:30am ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY TOUR (description follows)  
 11:30am - 8:00pm History Room open  
 12:30pm - 2:30pm Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon  
 1:30pm - 4:30pm General Session  
 3:00pm - 5:30pm Reunion Registration open  
 5:30pm - 6:00pm Banquet Seating Assignments collected at the Reunion Registration Desk  
 8:00pm - 11:00pm Beer Bust and Dance

**Saturday, July 30**

8:00am - 10:30am Individual photos taken  
 8:30am - 10:30am Deadeye Association Board of Directors Meeting  
 11:00am - 12:00pm Memorial Service  
 11:30am - 12:30pm Reunion Registration open  
 12:00pm - 4:00pm History Room open  
 3:00pm - 5:30pm Individual photos taken  
 4:00pm - 5:00pm Catholic Mass  
 5:30pm - 6:30pm Social Hour with Cash Bar. Doors to Banquet open at 6pm.  
 5:30am - 6:30pm Group Photos taken during Social Hour  
 6:30pm - 8:00pm Banquet dinner.

**Sunday, July 31**

Farewells and departures

## **96<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION – 48th ANNUAL REUNION TOUR DESCRIPTIONS**

### **SHEAR MADNESS AT THE KENNEDY CENTER**

Tuesday, July 26

The Kennedy Center is home to the entertaining show, *Shear Madness*, Washington's hilarious whodunit murder mystery. Someone's been killed in the apartment above a Georgetown hairstyling salon, and the police haven't got a clue... take a stab at catching the killer. It's a riotous, improvisational plot with topical humor where *you* spot the clues, *you* question the suspects, *and you* solve the crime! The ending is different every night so you'll never see the same show twice. If DC critic Arch Campbell says *Shear Madness* is "the most fun he ever had at the Kennedy Center," you are guaranteed to have a great time!

Note: The dress code is casual. Amphitheatre-style seating in the Theatre Lab and a cash bar will be available.

**7:00pm board bus, 10:30pm back at the hotel**

**\$54/Person includes bus, escort, and show.**

### **CITY TOUR**

Wednesday, July 27

See the sites of our nation's capital during a driving tour of Washington, D.C. Ride by the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, the Mall, Capitol Building, Washington Monument, White House, and other notable monuments and federal buildings.

**9:00am board bus, 12:00pm back at the hotel**

**\$25/Person includes bus and guide.**

### **SPIRIT OF WASHINGTON DINNER CRUISE**

Wednesday, July 27

Relax on one of the three fully enclosed, climate-controlled decks of the Spirit of Washington while you cruise the historic water of the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. Your captain will point out landmarks - the Washington Monument, Ft. McNair, Washington National Airport, General's Row, and Old Towne Alexandria. After dinner and the live show, you can either dance or enjoy the evening on the outdoor decks.

**6:00pm board bus, 10:45pm back at the hotel**

**\$88/Person includes bus, escort, and dinner cruise. Gratuity not included.**

### **WWII MEMORIAL**

Thursday, July 28

The National World War II Memorial is the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during World War II. The Memorial, which was established by the American Battle Monuments Commission, will honor all military veterans of the war, the citizens on the home front, the nation at large, and high moral purpose and idealism that motivated the nation's call to arms. The Second World War will be the only 20<sup>th</sup> century event commemorated on the Mall's central axis.

**1:30pm board bus, 4:30pm back at the hotel**

**\$25/Person includes bus and escort.**

### **ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY**

Friday, July 29

Almost four million people visit the Arlington National Cemetery annually. For some, it is an opportunity to walk among the headstones that chronicle American history; for many, it is an opportunity to remember and honor the nation's war heroes. Aboard the TourMobiles, tour members will briefly visit the Kennedy gravesite and the eternal flame, then drive by the graves of Brig.Gen.Easley and Col. May, both killed in action on Okinawa. We then proceed to the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Monument and Memorial Tree where we will have a wreath-laying and ceremony at 9am. Then the TourMobiles will take the tour to the Tomb of the Unknowns for a wreath-laying ceremony at 10:15 a.m. We then reboard the TourMobiles and pass by the graves of Col. Halloran and the home of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, returning to the Visitor Center by 11am.

**7:30am board bus, 11:30pm back at hotel**

**\$31/Person includes bus, escort, and admission.**

**Tour members will receive a ticket that will be needed to ride our chartered TourMobiles.**

Driver and Guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time.

All tours require a minimum of thirty people.

### **CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.**

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$5 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable \$5 AFR registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Cancelling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

**SHERATON NATIONAL HOTEL**  
**(703) 521-1900 OR (800) 325-3535**

The Sheraton National Hotel is located at 900 S Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204. Call the hotel directly for accurate driving directions. The hotel is on high elevation overlooking many Washington, D.C. famous landmarks and is just blocks from the Metro, The Pentagon, Ft. Myer, and Arlington Cemetery. Downtown Washington, The Kennedy Center, Crystal City, and the National Airport are just five minutes away. Complimentary shuttle van service departs every 30 minutes to and from Washington National Airport, Metro at The Pentagon, and Pentagon City Fashion Center. A pharmacy is conveniently located five blocks from the hotel. The hotel has eleven handicapped accessible rooms along with many non-smoking rooms, which are based on availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your reservation. We recommend that you *reconfirm* these special requests before arriving at the hotel. The Sheraton National has 408 deluxe guest rooms with individual climate controls; color TV with in-room movies, and video check-out. Rooms offer in-room coffee makers, hair dryers, and irons/ironing boards. Guests can enjoy a rooftop indoor swimming pool (please check with the front desk for the hours of operation), sundeck (during the summer season), and an exercise room. The exercise room features Stairmaster, LifeCycle, and weight resistance equipment. Parking is complimentary for overnight and day parking. There are 390 parking spaces available with a six-foot ceiling height. Oversize vehicles or RVs can park in the hotel's satellite parking lot across the street from the hotel. Check-in time is 3:00pm; check-out is 12:00 noon. *Potomac Restaurant* is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner for snacks and full course dinners. *Potomac Lounge*, in the Atrium lobby, serves regular cafe menu. Room service is available.

Complimentary shuttle van service departs every 30 minutes from 6:00am - 11:30pm to and from Washington-Reagan National Airport. Go to the Ground Transportation area of the airport to catch the shuttle. SuperShuttle offers transportation from Dulles International Airport and Baltimore/Washington International Airport. More information will be communicated later.

The hotel does have the space to park RVs, but if you require RV hook-ups please contact Harmony Place located on Rt. 1, Richmond Road, which is about 8 miles from the hotel. Call (703) 360-4460 for information, reservations, and directions. There are no campgrounds in Arlington County.

Should you require a wheelchair Apria Health Care rents standard wheelchairs. Please call (703) 642-3141 for information and to make any reservations. Also ScootAround rents wheelchairs, please call (888) 441-7575 for more information and to make reservations.

**Vendors, Schedules, and Prices are subject to change.**

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL TO HOTEL -----  
**96<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION – HOTEL RESERVATION FORM**  
**REUNION DATES: JULY 25-AUGUST 1, 2005**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS (if available) \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE # (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM DEP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF ROOMS NEEDED \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN EACH ROOM \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL REQUESTS: Wheelchair accessible room \_\_\_\_\_ Nonsmoking room \_\_\_\_\_ Smoking room \_\_\_\_\_  
King Bed \_\_\_\_\_ Two Double Beds \_\_\_\_\_ Bed types are not guaranteed

**RATE: \$89 (single/double) + tax (currently 10.25%)**

**CUT OFF DATE: 6/24/05.** Reservations received after this date will be processed on a space available basis, at the prevailing public rate.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled 24 hrs. in advance of arrival date. Record your cancellation number. Call (703) 521-1900.

**GUARANTEE:** Reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit, enclosed.

MC \_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ AM. EXPRESS \_\_\_ CARTE BLANCHE/DINERS \_\_\_ DISCOVER \_\_\_

CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) \_\_\_\_\_



# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Your Reunion Committee is working with CLASSIC REUNIONS to create memories at your upcoming reunion. Together from, our portraits, your candid and submitted photos, a Color Reunion Memory Book will be created.

HAVE YOUR PORTRAIT TAKEN AT NO CHARGE OR OBLIGATION!!



FOR: 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOC. REUNION

~HERE: SHERATON NATIONAL HOTEL, ARLINGTON, VA

WHEN: JULY 30TH, 2005 at 8:00 A.M.



There is no charge or obligation to have your portrait taken by our photographer. Make sure you are included the Reunion Memory Book!!

### For those Members Attending

Please fill out the form below and bring it with you to the camera on the portrait date shown above. You can purchase a COLOR Reunion Memory Book for \$24.00 (includes tax & shipping) the evening of the banquet or when you receive your portrait previews order form.

### If You are Unable to Attend

You can still enjoy the Reunion with a copy of the Reunion Memory Book. Simply fill out the form below, enclose payment of \$24.00 (includes tax & shipping) and mail to the address shown. The Memory book will be sent to you in approximately eight to twelve weeks after the reunion.

REMOVE HERE AND GIVE TO PHOTOGRAPHER IF ATTENDING, MAIL YOUR ORDER IF UNABLE TO ATTEND

I Would Like to Order  Reunion Memory Book(s). (Make check/MO payable to: CLASSIC REUNIONS)

Total Amount Enclosed - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Reunion: 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Member Name:  Spouse (if in picture)

Address:  Apt#:  Phone (  )  -

City:  State:  Zip:



... Creating Reunions Memories Since 1965  
2515 7th Ave Greeley, Colorado 80631-8447  
Phone: (800) 334-6388 Fax: (970) 352-6346  
E-Mail: CLAREUNION@2.AOL.COM



# **Honor the men of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division**

## **Here's your opportunity.**

The men of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry helped to change the course of history. Their dedication and sense of duty made the world a better place and they are leaving a legacy of freedom for generations to come.

Now, on the occasion of the last official reunion of the Division, it's time to let these very special men know how we feel about them. To take time to say the words that need to be said or to remember those special stories that say so much about the character of these fine men who gave so much for us all.

## **Here's what you can do.**

The 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division is planning the last issue of the Deadeye Dispatch. This will be a commemorative edition featuring selected letters of appreciation and photos/stories about the men of the 96<sup>th</sup>. Families and friends of Deadeyes are invited to submit letters, photos and articles that will put your feelings of pride on paper for members of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division to treasure forever.

## **Here's how to do it.**

If you, your children, grandchildren or friends would like to write a brief letter or story that expresses your pride in your Deadeye and the honor that you'd like to extend to him, put it on paper and send it to the Deadeye Dispatch. Please make sure to identify yourself and provide your telephone number with the material you submit.

**Mail to:**  
*Deadeye Dispatch*  
*1284 McKusick Road Lane North*  
*Stillwater, MN 55082*

**Letters, stories, photos are due by September 15, 2005.**

Items cannot be returned, so please be sure to keep your originals and send copies only.

## COMBAT SOLDIERS, WWII, 2005, FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

*By Jim Causey*

As all old soldiers do, we cannot think of departed friends without evoking memories of all that we have gone through together. These memories of friendships conjure the grim trials, the awful strain of combat and great losses that we have endured. But, finally, there are the triumphs we have all celebrated through our association.

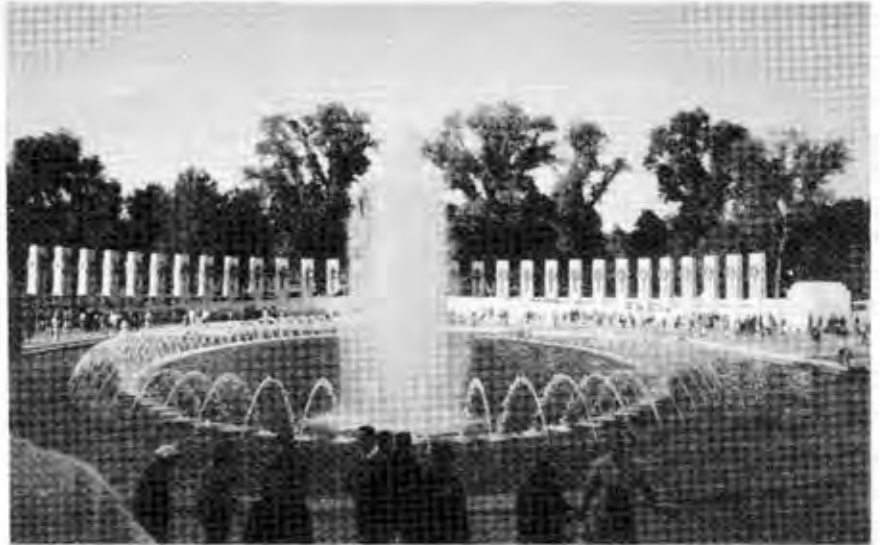
As fading figures from a great war, that changed the world forever we have already taken our places in history. The final birth year of the "Greatest Generation" was 1926.

In Tom Brokaw's book "The Greatest Generation Speaks" the section on **Lessons**, his profound words about WWII on page 219 can be rephrased and adapted to become a focus for the future. An example of this is:

"There may again be a time when all the layers of our complex society are completely absorbed in monumental challenges like they were during WWII. Everyone has an obligation and a role, and everyone can understand that the successful outcome of our new century is critical to the continuing evolution of political and personal freedom. Each nation can be infused with a sense of purpose and patriotism. Political leaders, the popular culture, advertising, newspapers, radio, TV, and Internet can cheer on the united effort once the movement for Interactive Democracy begins. For many young men and women, that call to duty and the constant reminders of its importance will mark their lives both during the process of coming together and long after. They can bring home from their efforts fundamental lessons in the random nature of mortality, the gratification of entering into a common effort for the greater good, and the true reward of unconditional love of family. They also can return mature beyond their years, and eager to have a life of renewal and not destruction."

# WASHINGTON DC REUNION 'S PLANNING MEETING

## WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL



## LORI SHEPARD – Our Service Representative at the Sheraton With Bob Siefert, Ann Moroz and Harriet Nichols



## TRANSITION COMMITTEE FRONT ROW; John Holt, Jim Causey, Ernie - Malkewitz, & Bob Cronshey. BACK ROW: Tom Roby, Bob Siefert, Phyllis & Bob Schmidt



WASHINGTON DC REUNION'S  
PLANNING MEETING - CONTINUED

AROUND TABLE STARTING ON THE LEFT  
Pat Causey, Douglas Burton, Thelma Burton,  
Jerry Foster, Clara Bell Knight, Jim  
Knight, Don Foster, Donna Foster, Barbara  
Holt, John Holt & Jim Causey.



AROUND TABLE STARTING ON THE LEFT:  
Phyllis Schmidt, George Rastall, Bob Siefert  
Bob Cronshey, Ernie Malkewitz, Steve Melnyk,  
Theresa Melnyk, Bob Schmidt & Tom Roby.



AROUND TABLE STARTING ON THE LEFT:  
Carole Wargo, Glendoris Cole, Ann Moroz  
Mary Eleanor Wood Smith, Harriet Nichols.





# AN INVITATION TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL

- Washington D. C. is home to many wonderful monuments, museums, historical sites, as well as cultural attractions. Your reunion planners selected five attractions that seemed most appropriate to include in our reunion program. However, with so much to see in our capital area most likely many of you will take advantage of the opportunity to visit more attractions during your free time. For your convenience we have listed below the sites conveniently located in the capitol complex area and easy to get to from our hotel via the metrorail system. The Hotel provides complementary shuttle service to the nearest metrorail station for its guests. The hotel's guest services will also provide you with further information on D. C. attractions and the metrorail system.

- **Arlington Cemetery**

Arlington, VA. Open daily October-March 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; April – September 8 a.m. to 7 p. m. Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier every half-hour April – October; every hour November – March.

703-607-8000 \* [www.arlingtoncemetery.org](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org)

**M:** Arlington Cemetery **D**

- **Bureau of Printing and Engraving**

14<sup>th</sup> and C Streets, S. W. Tour tickets distributed at 8 a.m. weekdays on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Admission is free. Times vary by season.

202-874-2330 \* [www.moneyfactoryl.com](http://www.moneyfactoryl.com)

**M:** Smithsonian **D**

- **Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**

Potomac Waterfront, N.W. Tours are given weekdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekends 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All tours are free of charge.

202-416-8340 \* [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org).

**M:** Foggy Bottom **D**

- **U. S. Capitol**

Free tickets are distributed on a first – come, first – serve basis at 9 a.m., Monday through Saturday at the kiosk on the Southwest lawn of the Capitol.

202-225-6827 \* [www.aoc.gov](http://www.aoc.gov)

**M:** Capitol South or Union Station **D**

- **U. S. Supreme Court**

1<sup>st</sup> Street and Maryland Avenue, N.E. Open Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Public lectures in the Courtroom every hour on the half – hour 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., except when Court is in session. (The Court is usually not in session July – September.) Admission is free.

202-479-3211 \* [www.supremecourtus.gov](http://www.supremecourtus.gov)

**M:** Capitol South or Union Station

- **White House**

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. Tour arrangements, which have strict guidelines and procedures, must be made through a Congressional office. The White House Visitor's Center is open to the public seven days a week 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. It is located on the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> and E Streets, N. W.

202-456-7047 \* [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

**M:** Mc Pherson Square **D**

- **Monuments and Memorials**

Open daily, except December 25<sup>th</sup>.

Staffed 8 a.m. to midnight.

202-426-6841 \* [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) **D**

- **National World War II Memorial**

On 17 Street, between Independence and Constitution Avenues.

**M:** Smithsonian

- **Thomas Jefferson Memorial**

South bank of Tidal Basin, S.W. Paddle boats available for rent from the Swan Boathouse.

**M:** Smithsonian

- **Korean War Veterans Memorial**

West end of National Mall, south of the reflecting pool, at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial.

**M:** Foggy Bottom or Smithsonian



# AN INVITATION TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL – CONT.

- **Monuments and Memorials**

**Lincoln Memorial**

West end of National Mall

**M:** Foggy Bottom or Smithsonian

**Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial**

West side of the Tidal Basin

**M:** Smithsonian

**Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

West end of the National Mall, north of the reflecting pool, at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial

**M:** Foggy Bottom or Smithsonian

**Washington Monument**

Temporarily closed

- **Smithsonian Institution**

The following museums are open daily 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. but may have extended hours during the summer. Admission is free.

202-357-2700 \* [www.si.edu/visit](http://www.si.edu/visit) **D**

**Arthur M. Sackler Gallery**

10<sup>th</sup> Street and Independence Avenue, S.W.

**M:** Smithsonian

**Arts and Industries Building**

9<sup>th</sup> Street and Jefferson Drive, S.W.

**M:** Smithsonian

**Freer Gallery of Art**

12<sup>th</sup> Street and Jefferson Drive S.W.

**M:** Smithsonian

**Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden**

Independence Avenue at 7<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.

**M:** L'Enfant Plaza

**National Air and Space Museum**

7<sup>th</sup> Street & Independence Ave. S.W.

**M:** L'Enfant Plaza

**National Museum of African Art**

9<sup>th</sup> Street & Independence Ave. S.W.

**M:** Smithsonian

**National Museum of American Art**

9<sup>th</sup> and G Streets, N.W.

**M:** Gallery Place

**National Museum of American History**

14<sup>th</sup> Street & Constitution Ave. N.W.

**M:** Federal Triangle

**National Museum of the American Indian**

4<sup>th</sup> Street & Independence Ave. S.W.

**M:** L'Enfant Plaza

**National Museum of Natural History**

Constitution Ave. at 10<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.

**M:** Archives – Navy Memorial

**National Portrait Gallery**

8<sup>th</sup> and F Streets, N.W.

**M:** Gallery Place

**Renwick Gallery**

17<sup>th</sup> St. & Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

**M:** Farragut West

\*\*\*\*\*  
Pre-arranged tours for groups and individuals visits to some of the more popular sites maybe scheduled in advance through your local congressman's office.

All information subject to change

**D:** Facilities for disabled persons available

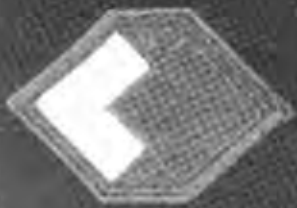
**M:** Nearest Metro station





# LOVE COMPANY

— ★ ★ ★ —  
**Infantry Combat  
Against the Japanese  
World War II**



*Company L,  
382nd  
Infantry  
Regiment,  
96th Infantry  
Division*

**Donald O. Dencker**

Due to a Publishers Clearance, the Author, Don Dencker has for sale copies of Love Company for \$12.50, postage paid. In this 355 page book there are 100 photographs, maps, drawings and documents. (The regular retail price of Love Company is \$19.95.) Royalties from the sale of this book go to the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association. To purchase Love Company, send a \$12.50 check made out to:

Donald Dencker  
1375 Musket Ridge Drive  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-3436

## **60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BATTLE OF OKINAWA TOUR** **June 17 through June 24, 2005**

Association Historian, Don Dencker, Company L, 382<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division will lead a 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa Tour oriented towards Army action during the Battle. Special emphasis will be directed towards sites of interest to Deadeye veterans, family and friends. The tour includes round trip air transportation from San Francisco, baggage handling and transfer, hotel accommodations on Okinawa, private sightseeing coach, entrance fees and breakfasts every day for \$2,500 per person.

Don led highly successful tours to Okinawa in 1995, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2004. Places the tour will visit include all major battlefield sites such as; Kakazu Ridge, Tombstone Ridge, Hacksaw Ridge and Needle Rock, Dick Hill, Conical Hill, Yaeju Dake (Big Apple) escarpment and Yoza Dake escarpment.

The tour will also visit the Brig. Gen. Claudius Easley and Col. May Monuments at the Gen. Buckner site, attend ceremonies at the Torii Station Army Base, and visit the Cornerstone of Peace Monument where the names of all who died during the battle of Okinawa are inscribed; including 14,005 killed from the United States. It is expected that there will be other 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events as yet unannounced.

Once described as a 'ghastly corner of Hell' Okinawa today is a delightfully colorful, safe and friendly place to visit. You will be amazed at the changes that have taken place since 1945.

This tour is organized by Valor Tours, Ltd. Who have conducted battlefield tours since 1977. For a brochure with details of the 2005 Okinawa Battle Tour, call or write to:

Valor Tours, Ltd.

10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965

1-800-842-4504

-or-

Don Dencker

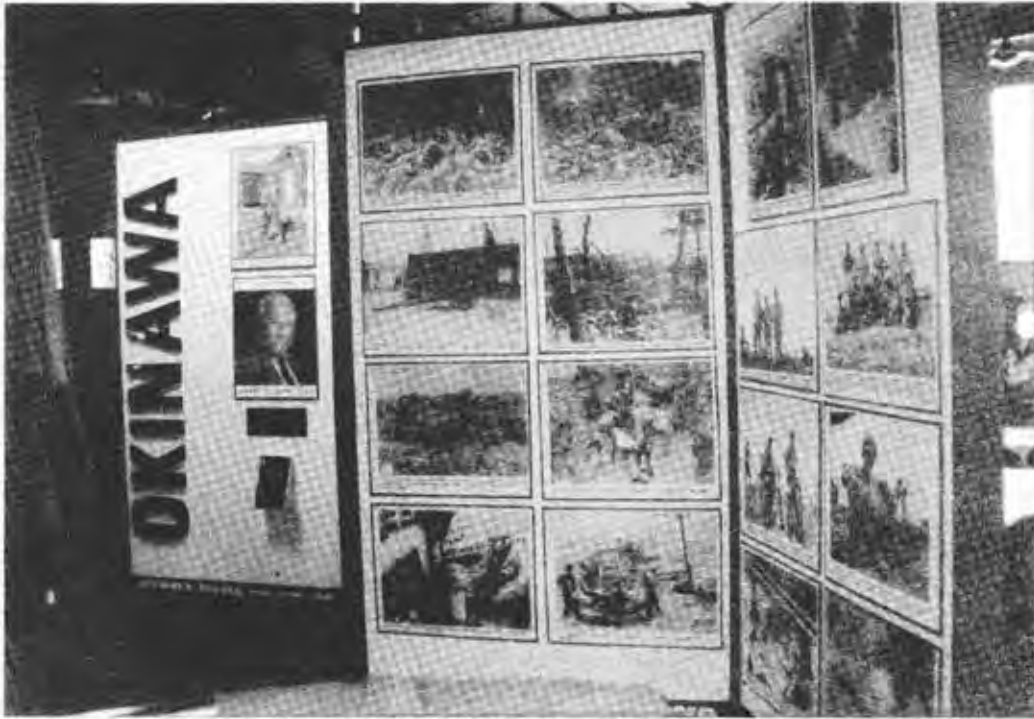
1375 Musket Ridge Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

1-608-837-7479

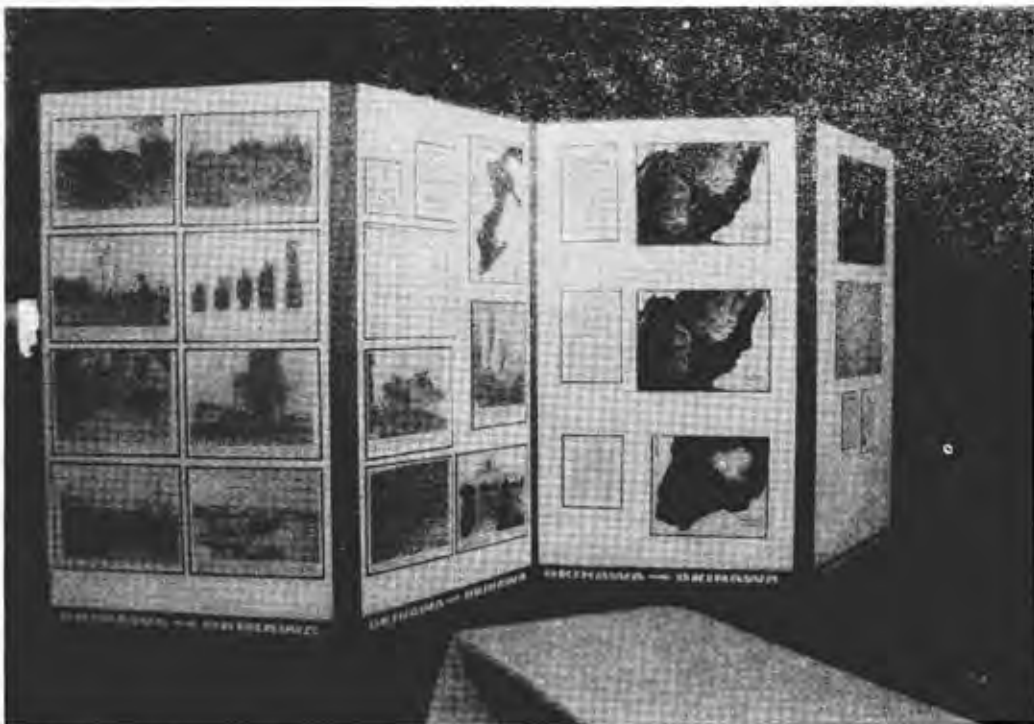
If you want to go on this last Okinawa Battle Tour, arrangements should be made with Valor Tours by May 23, 2005 to be assured of airline seating.

The 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association is not involved with this tour.

96<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
OKINAWA BATTLE EXHIBIT  
ELDRED WORLD WAR II MUSEUM & LEARNING CENTER  
ELDRED, PENNSYLVANIA - FEBRUARY 2005



GENERAL VIEW OF INITIAL PART OF OKINAWA EXHIBIT



GENERAL VIEW OF LAST PART OF OKINAWA EXHIBIT



**60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
LEYTE LANDING TOUR  
OCTOBER 2004**

**96<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
VETERANS MEMORIAL  
PARK ON HILL 120,  
BLUE BEACH 1, LEYTE**



**96<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
MEMORIAL LIBRARY AT  
TABONTABON, LEYTE**



**A LEYTE RURAL SCENE,  
NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED  
IN 60 YEARS**

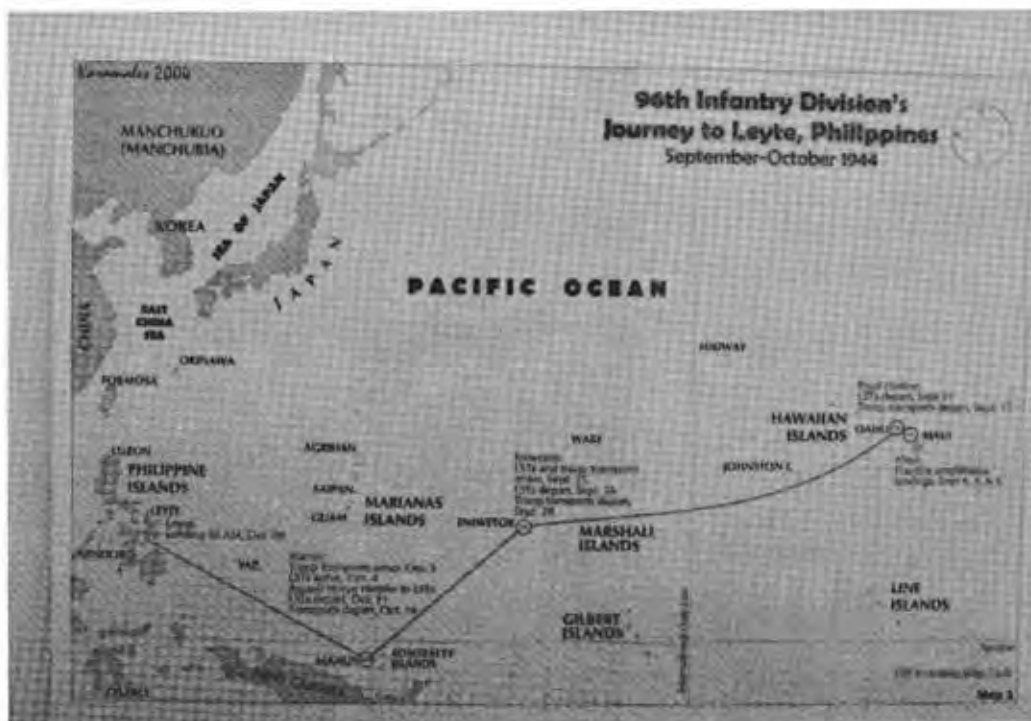




**96<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION LEYTE BATTLE HERITAGE EXHIBIT**  
**At U. S. Army 96<sup>th</sup> Reserve Readiness Command Headquarters Building**  
**Fort Douglas, Salt Lake City, Utah      February 2005**



**Exhibit Starts with Pacific War Zone Map and Proceeds Down a Long Hallway**



**96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Journey from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to the Leyte Landing**  
**20 October 1944**



## 96<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION HERITAGE FUND APPEAL

It has been decided to have one more Heritage Fund appeal to continue our effort preserve the magnificent World War II Heritage of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. The Officers and Executive Committee of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association hope that you will help preserve our cherished Heritage by contributing to the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Heritage Fund. This additional appeal will broaden our effort to additional locations, such as the Fort Lewis Military Museum. The 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was based at Fort Lewis, Washington for part of 1943.

To date we have established an Okinawa Battle Heritage Exhibit at the Fort Douglas Military Museum in Salt Lake City, Utah and a Leyte Battle Heritage Exhibit is now complete in the Headquarters Building of the 96<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command at Fort Douglas. A Heritage Exhibit is now being prepared for the Fort Lewis Military Museum and Heritage Exhibits have been established at 96<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command locations in Colorado and Wyoming.

In addition 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Heritage exhibits have been presented to Military Museums at Camp San Luis Obispo, California and at White City, Oregon, the location of Camp White. The Fort Lewis Military Museum Exhibit will hopefully to be funded by additional contributions.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all who have contributed over \$15,250 to our Heritage Fund in the past and to all who contribute to this supplementary appeal.

Donald Decker  
Association Historian

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Please Send Your Contribution to:

Robert Schmidt, Treasurer  
96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association  
1284 McKusick Road, Lane N  
Stillwater, MN 55082-4162

96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Heritage Fund Contribution:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check to: 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association      With Notation: Heritage Fund

## NOTICES

**The Buckeye (Ohio) Chapter** of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association will hold their 2005 Reunion Saturday, May 14, 2005 at the Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City, OH. All Deadeyes and attachment units are welcome. For information contact Russell Watts – 5107 Sassafras Rd., Columbus, OH 43229-5259 or James Knight – 6023 Landings Pond Pl., Grove City, OH 43123-9444, telephone 1-614-801-1775.

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**The Pacific Northwest Chapter** of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, June 5, 2005 at the Monmouth Oregon Senior Center, 180 So. Warren St., Monmouth, Oregon. Arrival and sign-in time, 9:00 – 10:00 AM. Special activities for early arrivals will be held Saturday afternoon and evening, June 4<sup>th</sup>. (Details will be found in the Spring Newsletter and Spring Deadeye Dispatch.) Planning is in progress, your suggestions are welcome. For more information please contact Richard (Dick) Haglund, 1504 Euclid, Steilacoom, WA 98388-3310, Telephone (253) 588-8310 or John Pfaff, 20 So. 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence, OR 97531, Telephone (503) 838-1854.

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### **ASTP REUNION LUNCHEON**

**WHERE:** Sheraton National Hotel, Arlington, Virginia  
Room to be announced

**WHEN:** Thursday, July 28, 2005

**TIME:** 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**WHAT:** A Time To Rehash Old Memories

**MENU:** Soup, Sandwich, Desert & Beverage

**COST:** \$17.50 inclusive. Send your check made out to:

**Arden Pridgeon**  
721 Grant St.  
St. Joseph, MI 49085-3335  
Telephone: (269) 429-0450  
E-mail: [vpriid@juno.com](mailto:vpriid@juno.com)

**ATTENTION:** We have to give the Hotel a guarantee number of those attending by Tuesday noon. Please get your reservations in before Arden leaves for the reunion on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

Keep your name current on the contact list with your change of address and info on yourself to Arden to the address above.

See you there!  
Ernest Malkewitz

# “This is a ugly, ugly war....”

*Size 9D boots finally identify Pfc. Thomas F. Vaughan*

by Ed Dakan B-381

*The Battle for Okinawa cost Company B of the 381st Infantry 51 KIA, each a tragedy for his own family, yet a hero who helped change history*

Back in the summer of 1944 Thomas Franklin Vaughan, called "T.F." for short, was 28 years old and settled down with a wife and three kids. He labored in the production of fruits and vegetables for a conglomerate-style company out of Ventura, California.

Besides, T.F. and wife, Stella, owned a cafe which they worked night and day.

All in all, for T.F. and his family the home front was a pretty good place to sweat out the duration of the war. Those horrid events were far removed by oceans on either side; out of sight and almost out of mind, but only for a moment.

The Vaughan's contented world turned upside down in a field of cabbage when a dustup over working conditions left him jobless. No longer did he have deferment as an essential farm worker. Selective Service got the word and took T.F. away in a blink.

With few prelims the system hustled him

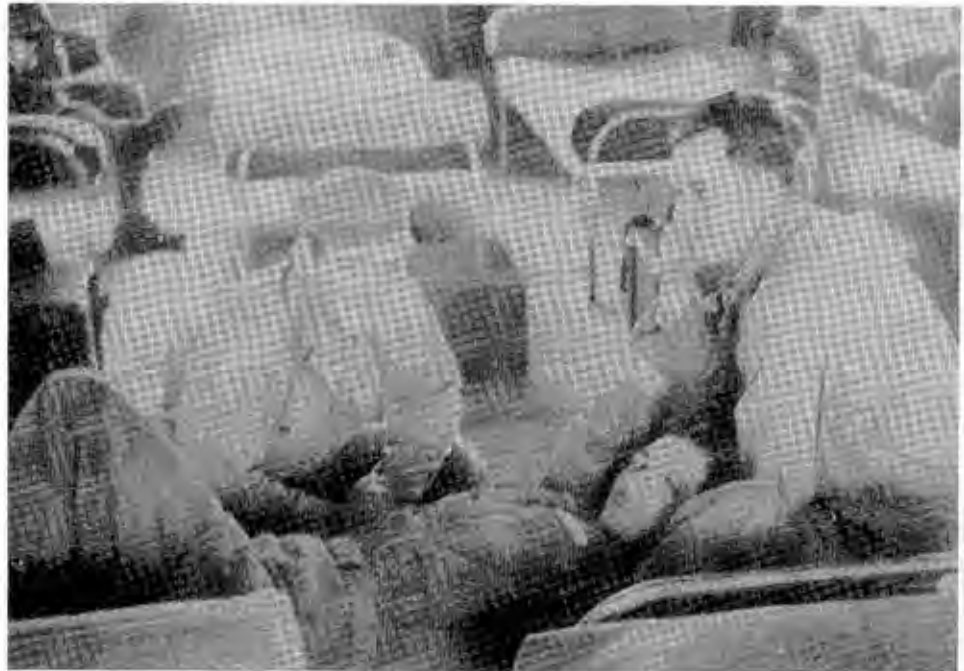


Stella and T.F. Vaughan circa 1944. He was drafted in October and by May '45 was fighting against the Japanese on Okinawa where he was killed.

off to Camp Edwards, California, for induction, then on to Camp Roberts, a Replacement Training Center - Army. The 17-weeks period of basic training functioned like clockwork to transform a civilian into a infantryman.

(Continued next page)

Just horsing around in this snap, a unidentified draftee (w/cap), Thomas F. Vaughan (right), and Frank Rodrigues (stretched out and wary) killed time in their off-hours of Army life. Vaughan and many of his barracksmates completed their 17-weeks of basic training at Camp Roberts then sailed for a unannounced destination which turned out to be Okinawa, a place close to hell on earth. Their arrival bolstered the 96th Infantry Division which was practically fought out. Nowise could anybody imagine the awful days and nights directly ahead.





"This is a ugly, ugly war...." (Continued)

For T.F. there was a letup when his little daughter Brenda, just 2½, became sick and died. The Army granted him leave for the funeral, then back to the grind.

None of T.F.'s letters revealed uneasiness. From the start there were no complaints, not even when he shipped out. Always after the greeting, "To my darling sweet wife", he would share whatever he was allowed to say about the goings-on, small talk or nonsense. One of his funny stories happened during the long haul on the way to Saipan. T.F. and his traveling companions listened to an announcement on the ship's bullhorn, "...this coming Sunday there will be a fish fry and beer to go with it." Too good to be true for during the night the dateline was crossed. Sunday didn't happen. There was no fish, also no beer.

T.F. never failed to close with, "How are you? I am fine. Don't worry about me. I love you forever and ever."

Saipan was a gathering place before the move up to Okinawa. Still several hundreds of miles away from that godforsaken island the reports were grim and sobering. All news was bad news. The four Army divisions in the XXIV Corps were hurting from the desperate fighting through the month of April. Worst of all the 96th Infantry Division was used up and worn to a frazzle.

By early May a convoy of troop transports was off-loading thousands of replacements onto the same Hagushi beach where the assault waves had come in. The shooting war had moved south-

ward into the hills just over the horizon. Rifleman T.F. Vaughan took time-out to write a letter to his family back home. Seeming to be surprised, he wondered, "...they say there are a lot of Japs on this island, but I haven't seen any yet."

From among the 4,000 replacements which were parceled out to the 96th Infantry Division, the lot of 125 greenhorns, including Vaughan, was cast with Company B of the 381st Infantry. The idea was to rebuild the company into a semblance of its former trim by blending the new into the old. To start with there was patrolling behind the lines, then within a few days the company would be back in the fight.

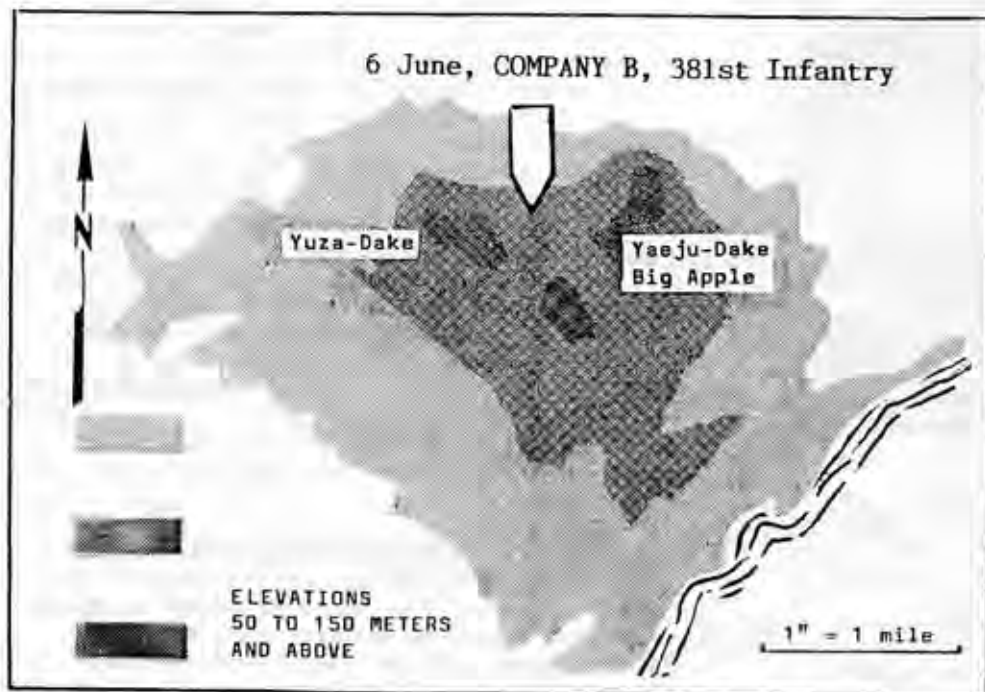
When T.F.'s letters stopped coming Stella guessed that he might be too busy like he said, "I am on the front-line and may not be able to write for a long time." That same letter was appended, "I can't tell you. This is a ugly, ugly war ...."

In the latter two weeks of May the war was swamped by dreadful weather. Rain and more rain, there were no gains to speak of by the troops sloshing in ankle-deep mud. Around 30 May the rains ended and the ground began to dry out.

Again, time to go take another hill.

Nearest the Big Apple was the 381st Infantry. The obstacle that faced them was a V-shaped ridge, open to the north and anchored on two rocky plateaus. Yaeju-Dake on the left and Yuza-Dake on the right.

(Continued next page)



The 381st Infantry was the first to launch an assault on the Yaeju-Dake hill mass known as "Big Apple" because of its shape. Together with Yuza-Dake the two escarpments formed a great wall across the southern end of the island. The highest point on this 4-mile long cliff was Yaeju-Dake Peak which rose 290 feet above the valley floor. Here the Japs chose to make their last stand after a surprise withdrawal from Shuri. Company B came up against the enemy's defense where automatic weapons were emplaced.

"This is a ugly, ugly war...." (Continued)

On the morning of 6 June the 1st Battalion commander, Maj. Virgil H. Thompson, leapfrogged his companies through Yunagusku and sent Company B, under Capt. John E. Byers, forward to test the escarpment wall at Yaeju-Dake. Three squad-sized patrols crept through bands of fire from machine guns, some of which were so far inside caves that they could not be knocked out with grenades. After the patrols reached the lower of the two escarpments, the rest of the company followed.

Company C moved abreast and to the left of Byers' men. It was midafternoon, and the first attempt at penetration of this largest escarpment on Okinawa was proceeding with promise of success. Company C started across open rice paddies at the base of the cliff, and Company B clambered up a trail leading to the intermediate level of the escarpment.

The Japanese waited to open up until both companies were in the belt of pre-registered fire from an estimated 60 machine guns and 20mm dual purpose guns.



Shelli Vaughan - Monsour, granddaughter, with her mother Betty Vaughan, daughter of Thomas Franklin Vaughan, came to the 2004 DEADEYE reunion in Salt Lake City, Utah, hoping to talk to anyone from Company B, 381st Infantry who may have known T.F. Secretly and with a late start more than two years before, Shelli had been following up every lead pertaining to her grandfather's service in the Army.

Major Thompson organized a withdrawal and employed 10 battalions of artillery to place smoke shells in front of the position. Even this was inadequate and many of the troops did not return until after dark.

Company C lost 5 men killed and as many wounded.

Company B withdrew as best it could. Casualties in the company totalled 43, including 14 missing. Among those missing was Pfc. Thomas F. Vaughan who happened to be farther ahead into the trap where death and confusion raged. The handful of men who got out of there said T.F. died while crawling for water. He was cut down by a Jap sniper hiding in a tree.

Three others were dead also. Two returned the following morning. Three more of the trapped men were subsequently killed by friendly or enemy fire, and the remaining 5 stayed in enemy territory until the morning of 14 June.

The first telegram received in the Vaughan home seemed to allow some hope that T.F. might be all right; he was "missing in action". Stella Vaughan, in tears, explained to daughter Betty, about 7 years and son Thomas 2 years old, "They can't find daddy". The implications of her mother's comment escaped Betty. In her childish way she fantasized that her daddy was lost somewhere in a strange place. One day he will be coming back. "Yes, he will!"

Nearly three months passed before a second telegram cleared up the limbo. The War Department corrected itself with regrets and facts that Pfc. Thomas F. Vaughan had been killed on 06 June and buried 18 June.

The letters which Stella had been sending out since June were returned in a bundle signed by Captain Byers.

The reality of T.F.'s death changed life for his survivors. For war widow Stella the loss of her man brought sadness that she could not shake. For a while she continued operating a cafe with friends. A second marriage did not last. At the time of her death in 1983 she had been employed in a dry cleaners store.

Betty grew up remembering that her daddy was a good man, kind of funny, who had to go to fight to protect "our" country. "I never had a dad - it was just me, my mom and my brother", she said. Later years, though describing herself as a frustrated actress and singer, she did perform with notable success in many Broadway and TV productions. Her own family includes three children.

Thomas, the son, never really knew his daddy, who was replaced by a stepdad. The missing male example may have made him more independent early on. Always mechanically inclined, that aptness led him into the industrial repair business, Vaughan, Inc., Cerritos, California. He has two children.

(Continued next page)

"This is a ugly, ugly war...." (Continued)

SUMMER 2003

Ventura, California

Two of the second and third generation descendants of Thomas F. Vaughan, Shelli and her teenaged daughter, Blair, were idling away a evening at home. Their chitchat turned with the playing of a sad and sweet country song on the radio.

"Why don't we know anything about (great) grandpa Vaughan? What was he like? How did he die?" Blair asked.

Shelli choked. Too many years gone; she knew nothing more than the sorrow and hurt having to do with the war so long ago. Even the handed down stories had faded. In her mind, a real live man - the soldier who died a hero - simply had to have his place in their family history. A footnote would not be enough.

She had to begin someplace and her computer was at hand, Shelli looked up the name Pfc. Thomas F. Vaughan (found entered as T.F. Vaughan).

More searching through websites and chat rooms at odd hours and night after night, she turned up a entry on the National World War II Memorial and the Registry of Remembrances being erected in Washington, D.C. And Thomas F. Vaughan's name was being honored by Johnny Johnson.

Johnny Johnson? The name was not familiar.

The VA forwarded Shelli's inquiry, but the reply was discouraging. Dad was deceased, his son said.

A side issue bugged Shelli. How did grandpa die? None of her relatives knew the answer.

At the war's end, mainly to avoid paperwork, the government supplied bare details to next of kin. Then the Freedom of Information Act opened up records, though the public in general did not know how to deal with the system.

While talking with the VA, Shelli found a sympathetic lady who suggested that a full copy of T.F.'s personnel file might be had. Not knowing the hassle she faced, her first request was turned down because the Records Center had burned years ago.

Persistence paid off. Shelli kept on demanding until she got the entire document. There in black and white were skeletal diagrams of fractures, together with dental records. Size 9D boots proved his identity.

MARCH & APRIL 2004

Shelli in the Hunt

T.F.'s old letters had been gleaned for names of men who were together at Camp Roberts and afterwards, some of them in Company B.

For all of these many weeks of her effort with few responses, yet she was obsessed. She even dreamed of grandfather T.F., so she kept going on.

Shelli was on a chat trip and there were 248 messages. At 3:00 a.m., nearly two-thirds done, she was drowsily reading. The message said: My name is Mark Rodrigues. I and my father, Frank Rodrigues, are searching for the family of T.F. Vaughan, I have pictures and information about him. He was my father's best buddy. Please contact me."

Unbelievable, yet right there a shocker, Shelli started crying. Somebody is joking, she thought to herself. Rechecking, the message had been written in 1999, five years before. Her e-mail to the gentleman went incorrect.

Meantime, Betty had learned about her daughter's project. The excitement kept on building. She was dumfounded, too.

On a last chance effort while hoping against hope for finding the man, Shelli mailed out letters with her phone number to every one of 16 Frank Rodrigues in the local zip code.

Providence may have played a part in the phone call. "Is this Shelli? This is Frank Rodrigues' son, Mark." After that their talk became garbled by the crying at both ends of the line. The looking for and the finding of a man who could help with the reconstruction of a near - forgotten personality had become emotional.

For sure, Frank Rodrigues and T.F. had even depended on each other for haircuts in a pinch for too often their primitive situation left no option.

Shelli discovered the 96th Infantry Division website, also American Vets. com - more stuff to sift.

There was a message from Marvin Arnold, Odessa, Texas. He and T.F. were hit in the same fight.

William (Bill) Burland's name was mentioned because he saved Marvin Arnold's life.

Messages such as these sparked Shelli's interest. She read everything she could find about the Army and Marines in the battle for Okinawa,

JULY 2004

DEADEYE Reunion - Salt Lake City, Utah

This is the 47th annual reunion of a family affair. The gathering crowd of hundreds from across the United States jam the hallways and eating places in the hotel. These once - young, now old soldiers, are enjoying the renewal of their comradeship which dates back to World War II in the Pacific and before that.

Daughter Betty Vaughan with granddaughter Shelli, here from California, have a mission. Maybe someone from Company B will show up. Their name badges make them welcome and the socializing begins. The two newcomers are strangers no more.

(Continued next page)

"This is a ugly, ugly war...." (Continued)

Just mingling, they run into Jim Causey, Company C, 391st. from Liberty, Mississippi. He recollects the whole disasterous affair on Yae-ju-Dake because he was there. Here is the phone number of Charley Case whose twin brother was indeed with T.F. the day he died. Their call brings more tears.

Betty spends the night sobbing, grieving.

After that comes more of the getting to know people.

The reunion continues for three whole days and nights, winding up with a banquet - all of this despite the stress.

Back at home life goes on. Shelli picks up her studies to become a forensic psychologist.

There is no happy ending to this odyssey. Through her daughter's search, Betty got to know her father better. "I am so grateful that at this time in my life I feel more resolved. Many in the 96th have been so kind to us and tried to help us. It is like a miracle."

END

Home Address  
Mrs. Shelli Vaughan - Monsour  
458 S. Seaward  
Ventura, California 93003  
Shelli458hotmail.com  
(805) 641-0735

## Epilogue

by Shelli Vaughan - Monsour

I cannot accept credit for taking up the project because I feel that T.F. and God were pushing me. The more I learned about my grandfather the more appreciation I have gained for my own life. While us younger Americans may gripe over trifles we can be thankful for men such as my grandfather and his comrades who suffered - not only suffered, but believed in America. I feel humble and grateful to be alive.



**You are needed!**

Join the fun by becoming part of the Thursday evening  
Kickoff Party's Welcome Night Program

Please contact Annie Moroz at (856) 235-8591  
or by email at [deadeyemk@wmconnect.com](mailto:deadeyemk@wmconnect.com)

Can you sing, dance, tell a joke, be part of a skit, etc.?

The possibilities are endless - *no prior experience required!*



# 96<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION DEADEYE ASSOCIATION

## \*\*\* MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION \*\*\*

Membership is open to 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division "Deadeyes", its Association Auxiliary and current and past members of the Regional Readiness Command; their families, friends and members of the general public who support and are interested in promoting and perpetuating the legacy of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

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-----  
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## HOTEL REUNION RESERVATION INFORMATION

### *Reunion Planning Committee*

Occasionally the Sheraton National Hotel's reservation system will tell the caller that all rooms reserved by our Association for the reunion have been filled when, in fact, this is not the case. Our room block for Monday, July 25, has been filled for some time because, normally only a few of our members arrive this early in the week so understandably we reserved fewer rooms for Monday. However, there are rooms available for the remaining days of our reunion, at least at the time of this writing. If you are told that our Associations room block is filled when calling for a reservation insist on having the reservation clerk check with the hotel to verify that there are no vacancies.

In the event that the demand exceeds our reserved room block Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. will make every effort to secure overflow accommodations as near to the Sheraton as possible.



## JOIN US IN THE 2005 USO ROOM!



You are cordially invited to the 2005 – 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry USO Room for REST and RELAXATION Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, July 30, 2005. The room is located to the right of the open area off the Main Lobby of the hotel.

Please bring a favorite snapshot of your buddies, spouse, or yourself. The wall of pictures the last two years have been so much fun. They add to the Bond that the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry men, women, and families have shared over the last sixty years. The snapshots provide new connections for the veterans, families and friends.

The USO Room will offer coffee and hospitality at 1960 prices. A SMILE AND A QUARTER STILL WORKS! It will also be the home for 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Reunion merchandise and souvenirs and will have entertainment information and information for those who need ground transportation. The hotel will have information to share as well. A special addition to the USO will be an on sight representative for the future 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry group, The 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association. The representative will field questions and accept new memberships from all interested persons from age 1 to 101.

The USO room is the way to honor the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry and keep the camaraderie alive. 96<sup>th</sup> wives, sons, daughters, grandchildren and family friends please encourage YOUR Deadeye to find and bring those special snapshots to the reunion. We want to see them! If you have any addresses, e-mail addresses and or telephone numbers of Deadeyes that we have not seen in the last 3 years PLEASE bring them !!! Don't you wish every one was notified about the continuation of a GREAT Legacy. *See you in D.C.!*

Contacts: Harriet Nichols, Sam Wood, Jr., "Sis" Mary Eleanor Wood Smith & Janet LeMeire.

\*\*\* SOME WHO ENJOYED THE "2004" USO ROOM \*\*\*



*The following article was written by the Steve Thomas family. Steve is an Honorary Life Member and the son of Jesse R. Thomas who was Company Commander of E Company, 383<sup>rd</sup> Regiment. Jesse was wounded on April 26, 1945 and passed away December 7, 2002.*

## THE CASE

### A Child's Tribute to the 96th

from  
The Thomas Family

I rose early, like most weekend days, and plodded through the routines that start my morning. The heat was turned up, the mini-blinds opened, and the sacred ritual of making coffee was completed. The newspaper would not be delivered for several more hours, so that would have to wait.

With coffee finally in hand I shuffled off to the computer room. I was raised calling this the den or rec room but things have changed and the new technology demands a place of its own with a reference that suits its importance in our lives I suppose. It was Saturday morning and time to pay the bills neatly stacked on my old desk. I pulled out the desk chair and settled in for some quiet time with my coffee and latest monthly debts. This was one of the few places left in the house I could still call my own and nestled in here with my checkbook and calculator, before the house came alive, still gave me some unexplained male satisfaction.

I was well into the second bill when I heard the rapid thump of tiny feet beating it down our short hallway. They usually passed by the computer room and faded slightly before coming to a halt only inches from the television in the next room, but not today. The thumps stopped at my room and I peeked Graham, still in his pajamas. My six year old son had decided to stop and check in on his Dad. We exchanged "Good Mornings" and I got one of those million dollar hugs that puts a smile on your face and leaves the lingering smell of those fruity kids' shampoos. He then began hunting through the pile of videos stored in the computer room closet and I turned back to the business at hand.

I looked up several moments later, having been lost in a daydream and my check writing, and realized that the house was silent. Expecting the worst, I turned to get up and found Graham several feet away. He had dragged up another chair and was sitting with his knees on the seat and was peering over the back of the chair at the closest wall. He was staring at the case.

He was fixed on our family display case of his grandfather's army medals. The moment I had patiently waited six years for had come and now I was anxious to see his reaction. I had worked hard to get a complete history of my father's army career and design a display case that would be accurate and properly honor his decorations. It was, however, really built for Graham. It is a large wood and glass shrine that has always served as the centerpiece of the room. But now, with Graham's first inquiry just moments away I wasn't sure I would be up to the challenge or had the skill to translate what this all meant to an innocent child. My fatherly pride was melting into an embarrassing uneasiness.

“What is this?” Graham said still staring straight ahead.

“Your Grandpa’s army medals,” I replied, thinking ..... just keep this simple.

In a flash he pointed to the top of the case and said “What is this one?”

He was pointing to Grandpa’s Bronze Star Medal with valor device.

“Well, its kinda complicated,” I responded, figuring the short attention span he was notorious for would help end my sudden discomfort.

“Tell me,” he said as he turned the chair towards me and sat down crossed-legged.

I had never seen him this interested before ... even when his favorite cartoons were on. So I began, expecting my story to be ended abruptly once his interest drifted back to the television.

“That medal is from World War Two,” I said. “Our country was attacked in 1941 and Grandpa went across the Pacific Ocean to help defend the United States. The men in the war were divided up into groups like teams. His big team was the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.” Graham’s eyes seemed to say go on and don’t stop, though I really didn’t know if he was following me. I decided to go ahead and launch into the whole story. I figured he would just jump up and leave, like most children, when he had heard enough.

I told him his Grandpa was in charge of a smaller group of men called a company and how they had sailed across the Pacific Ocean in 1944 and landed in the Philippine Islands under attack. I made sure to tell Graham that Grandpa had left his Grandma and his Uncle Gary, who was just a baby then, to go serve his country.

“How bout that medal Dad ?” Graham blurted out, obviously growing impatient with my long adult explanation.

So I jumped past the rest of the details and went straight to the Battle of San Vincente Hill. I told him that about six days after Grandpa landed in the Philippines his company was ordered to check for enemy locations near an area called San Vincente Hill. While they were moving through that area they came under a fierce attack from three sides. They were fired at by mortars, machine guns, and rifles. They fought back but they were outnumbered and many of his men were killed and wounded.

During the battle and still under heavy fire several groups of men began bringing back the wounded and equipment. Grandpa’s group found a sergeant who had ben shot through the hip and was in serious condition. They loaded him up on a stretcher and all five men headed away from the shooting. While rushing the sergeant to safety one man was shot in the foot and a mortar round also landed near them lifting another man up into the air but not seriously wounding him. They continued on and when one man had to stop or was wounded another one took his place. Eventually they reached a safe area, away from the fighting, and turned the



sergeant over to the medics. That is why many of these men and your Grandpa were awarded that medal.

I had no idea if this made any sense at all to Graham but nervously waited for some response.

He sat quietly in his chair pulling on the ends of his socks and then asked "Did the sergeant live?" I told him he did and that I met him at a company reunion in 1990. Graham grinned from ear to ear.

Graham sat there for several seconds and then remarked "They were really brave men weren't they Dad?" I smiled and he hopped out of the chair, grabbed a video, and headed for the TV. I decided to finish the bills later and just go warm up my cup of coffee. It had gone better than I had expected.

Not long before Grandpa died we went back to visit Graham's grandparents. Grandma made one of her famously delicious dinners that night and afterwards we all retired to different parts of the house. I was sitting with Grandpa in the living room, catching up, when Graham appeared and shyly shuffled up to Grandpa. As usual, he had Grandpa's full attention all at once.

Graham looked up at Grandpa and whispered "I think you and your war friends were very brave. Thanks for helping us." Grandpa then got one of those long million dollar hugs that put a huge smile on his face and brought a tear to his eye.

Grandpa has been gone for quite some time now but Graham and I still meet in the computer room once in awhile on quiet Saturday mornings to visit and talk about the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and the precious contents of the case.

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# 96<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

Our Association Website is easy to find at:

<http://www.96th-infantry-division.com>

Our site continues to average 1,050 visits per month

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO:

Keep Informed on our Reunions, Heritage Exhibits and Battlefield Tours

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Please View Our "Guest Book" and Help Deadeyes and Others Locate Deadeyes and provide 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Service Information, or just Communicate with other Deadeyes.



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These plates are made of a special outdoor plastic, 12" by 6" by 1/8". They have blue background with white lettering. If your state only requires one license plate this can be used in place of a second license plate. Price of each is \$13.00 plus \$3.00 shipping/handling, totaling \$16.00.

*The Executive committee authorized me to make the "96th Infantry Div. Assoc. plated available for the Association and Auxiliary members.*



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To insure prompt delivery of your **Deadeye Dispatch** and other information, please complete the address change form and send it to **Robert Schmidt, 1284 McKusick Rd. Lane N., Stillwater, MN 55082-4162**, or telephone **1-651-4309274**, or e-mail: **Schmidtprs@aol.com**.

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.....

## UNIT ROSTER

To obtain a roster of your unit, (Company, Regiment) please complete the following form and mail it along with your check for \$5.00, payable to **Steve Melnyk** and mail to his address at **7634 Fielding Ave., Detroit, MI 48228-3232**.

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.....

## 96<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY CAPS

To obtain a new 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry cap please complete the following form and mail it along with your check for \$6.00, payable to **Douglas Burton** and mail it to his address at **11279 S. Fowler Ave., Selma, CA 93682-9619**.

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**Lt. Col. James O. McCray** – I am looking for anyone who knew him. I don't know his service! He was killed during the Battle of Catmon Hill on Leyte, Philippines, Oct 26, 1944. Contact: W. McCray, 507 N. Kurzwel Rd., MO. 64083, (816) 322-2740.

---

Hello,

I received your email address from Leonard Deutsch. He thought you may be able to point me in the right direction to learn more of what happened to my Cousin Roy E. Fidler of the 383<sup>rd</sup>, Co. G who died 07 April 1945 on Okinawa. Mc. Deutsch was also in Co. G but in a different Platoon.

I have searched the internet for names of Co. G veterans in hopes to possibly contact any of them and see if they had any memories of him. I have been unable to determine which Platoon Roy was in to further narrow down living veterans to try and contact. I am documenting what I can of my family, for future generations and would be most grateful for any help you might be able to provide in this endeavor.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Fidler

---

Robert Schmidt,

Thank you for your expression of Sympathy for Paul. Paul was so proud to be a member of the 96<sup>th</sup> Division and to be a WWII Veteran. He was proud of his uniform. Enclosed is a picture of Paul in his uniform taken just weeks before his death. He was a wonderful person, husband, father & friend to everyone. He will be missed by all who knew him.



Thank you!  
Betty Bartunek

## In Memorium...



# “Taps”

God in his infinite Wisdom, has summoned more “DEADEYES” who have 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.

Bartunek, Paul –  
Per wife Betty

Burk, Troy – 381 Co E  
Per D. Burton – 12/4/04

Burnes, Philip – 382 2<sup>nd</sup> BT  
Per S. Melnyk

Carlson, Harry –  
Per Wife – 10/25/04

Caravello, Stephen J. -780<sup>th</sup>  
ATB Per D. Dencker -  
11/18/04

Dobson, Donald  
Per J. Confer

Freeman, J H. – 921<sup>st</sup> FA Bn  
Per wife Marion – 7/17/04

Frawley, Roy – 383 Co B  
Per Wife – 4/9/04

Gately, Frank – 321 Med Bn  
Per Wife – 8/04

Glassman, Robert  
Per R. Siefert – 1/05

Hoffman, Hubert  
Per Daughter – 1/05

Huff, Leonard – 382 – Co K  
Per E. Wright – 12/16/04

Kleinschmidt, Walter (Abe)  
Per T. Roby – 12/7/04

Langfield, Milton  
Per Mike Martz – 2/1/05

Lindler, Woodrow  
Per Wife – 11/24/04

Pacyna, Thaddeus  
Per E. Dewitt

Peckrul, Wm. F -381 Co M  
Per son James – 10/18/04

Pipoly, Martin  
Per S. Melnyk

Store, Edward – 383 1 B HG  
Per E. Wright – 3/2/04

Strauss, Gilbert  
Per P.O.

Thrash, Jack – 361 FA  
Per Wife – 8/30/04

Trainor, Wesley  
Per Wife – 8/30/01

Updegraff, Thomas

Per Wife – 6/6/04

Wacker, Norbert  
Per Wife – 10/20/04

Warminiski, Albert-383 Co K  
Per son Tony - Tony

Woolary, William – 381-Med  
Per Eleanor Long – 12/27/03

Young, Arthur – 383 Co K  
Per Daughter 0 4/10/04

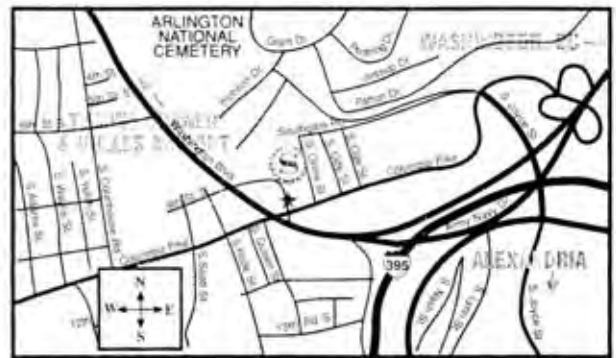
### Around the Corner By Henson Towne

*Around the corner I have a friend, in  
this great city that has no end.  
Yet days go by and weeks rush on, and  
before I know it a year is gone, and I  
never see my old friend's face;  
For life is a swift and terrible race. He  
knows I like him just as well as in the  
days when I rang his bell and he rang  
mine. We were younger then –  
And now we are busy, tired men –  
tired with playing a foolish game;  
tired with trying to make a name.  
“Tomorrow,” I say, “I will call on  
Jim, “Just to show that I’m thinking of  
him.” But tomorrow comes – and  
tomorrow goes; and the distance  
between us grows and grows. Around  
the corner! – yet miles away... “Here’s  
a telegram, sir.” “Jim died today.”  
And that’s what we get – and deserve in  
the end – Around the corner, a vanished  
friend.*



# SHERATON NATIONAL HOTEL

Arlington, Virginia



900 S. Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204  
703 521-1900



**From North:** Take I-395 South to Exit 8 Washington Boulevard. Travel in the far right hand lane for 1/4 mile and take the Columbia Pike/Navy Annex exit. This will place you directly across from our hotel.

**From South:** Take I-95 North to I-395 and take Exit 8A — Washington Boulevard. Travel in the far right hand lane for 1/4 mile and take the Columbia Pike/Navy Annex exit. This will place you directly across from our hotel.

**From East:** Take I-95 South to I-495 West to George Washington Parkway. Follow the Parkway for 8 miles to I-395 South/Route 27 (Lyndon B. Johnson Exit). Stay right at the fork and take the exit for Route 224 West (Columbia Pike/Navy annex). The hotel is on the right.

**From West:** Take I-66 East to Route 110/Pentagon Boulevard. Stay in the right lane and take the Washington Boulevard exit to the Columbia Pike/Navy Annex. Our hotel will be directly in front of you.

**If you are flying into Ronald Reagan National Airport, we do provide courtesy shuttle service every 30 minutes from 6AM until 11PM. Call the hotel from the courtesies phones at each terminal for shuttle pick-up.**

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or call 800-325-3535  
or fax us at 703-521-2122



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