

DEADEYE DISPATCH

Official Newsletter of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association

Spring, 2013

SUNNY SAN DIEGO THIS JULY



Make plans now to join us for the 56th Annual 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association Reunion Saturday, July 27- Tuesday, July 30, 2013 in San Diego, California

The events are set, the schedule is arranged and the program is on for the 2013 reunion.

All we need is for you and your family to register. Note that our reunion will begin on Saturday, July 27, and we will bid farewell on Tuesday, July 30.

For those who wish to come early, there will be a tour of the "Only Yesterday Classic Autos and Hall of Heroes" on Friday afternoon, July 26th.

The hotel is honoring the special

group rate for three days before and three days after the reunion.

Ask your sons, daughters and grandchildren to join you for a reunion this July in San Diego. It may be the best family vacation ever.

"Once a Deadeye, Always a Deadeye" is a gift that should be offered to your children and grandchildren.

Reunion members will need to pre-register for events and tours. For the Association to get the

best price deals, it requires a commitment for a reservation count.

San Diego is California's second largest city and the United States' eighth largest, encompassing numerous charming neighborhoods and communities, including downtown's historic Gaslamp Quarter, Little Italy, Coronado, La Jolla, Del Mar, Carlsbad, Escondido, La Mesa, Hillcrest, Barrio Logan, Chula Vista.

The southern portion of the

Point Loma peninsula was set aside for military purposes as early as 1852. Over the next several decades, the Army set up a series of coastal artillery batteries and named the area Fort Rosecrans.

By 1930, the city was host to Naval Base San Diego, Naval Training Center San Diego, San Diego Naval Hospital, Camp Matthews, and Camp Kearny (now Marine Corps Air Station Miramar).

During World War II, San Diego

became a major hub of military and defense activity, due to the presence of so many military installations and defense manufacturers.

San Diego hosts the largest naval fleet in the world. About 5 percent of all civilian jobs in the county are military-related.

San Diego is renowned for its idyllic climate, miles of pristine beaches and a dazzling array of world-class attractions.

See inside for more information!

56TH ANNUAL DEADEYE REUNION HQ



Saturday, July 27-Tuesday, July 30, 2013

Location is the Town & Country Resort, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108. Online at www.towncountry.com. Reunion price per night for 2 guests cost is \$109/night (includes breakfast on July 27, 28, 29 & 30); 3 guests cost is \$129/night; 4 guests is \$149/night. This room rate is good for 3 days prior and 3 days following the reunion. Parking at hotel is \$2 per day. Call for reservations 800-772-8527. Be sure to note that you are part of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Assn. group.



MAINSTREET NEWSPAPERS
PO BOX 908
JEFFERSON, GA 30549

PRE-SORTED
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 44
JEFFERSON, GA

DEADEYE DISPATCH

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

Jimmy "Cowboy" Albert
Fitch, TX
March 12, 2012
96th Infantry
by wife, Leola

Pauline Burchfield
Houston, TX
March 11, 2012
by daughter, Jenelle Wagner

Tommy Burchfield
Houston, TX
June 10, 2011
383rd, 96th Infantry Division
by daughter, Jenelle Wagner

Kenneth Dolan
Denver, CO
April 13, 2012
96th Infantry
by daughter, Nancy Lucero

Herbert Fish
January 1, 2013
by daughter, Juanita Pinkler

Lloyd Herrold
Milwaukee, WI
August 28, 2012
96th Infantry
by daughter, Edie Herrold

Rex Hurst
Park City, KS
February 21, 2013
Co. D, 383rd Inf.
by Gordon Ryan, Troy, MI

Francis Kuhnline
Shelton, GA
November 19, 2012
96th Infantry
by brother, Joe Kuhnline

Ernest Martinez
Conyers, GA
October 28, 2012
3rd Bn Medical, Co I, 383rd Inf.
by wife, Pat

Neil Nelson
Pontiac, MI
December 6, 2012
by wife, Lois Nelson

Franklin W. Nicholson
Salem, Indiana
January 28, 2013
Co. G, 382nd Inf.
by son, Larry Nicholson

Roy F. Rowe
Hatfield, Arkansas
January 27, 2013
Co. C, 381st Inf.
by daughter, Brenda Rowe
Baldwin

Stanley Smith
Cedar Rapids, IA
Co. K, 381st Infantry
by USPS

Clarence Snyder
Shenandoah, IA
October 28, 2012
Co. I, 383rd Infantry
by wife, Elane

Frank Switzer
Danville, IL
July 19, 2012
Companys B and C, 383rd Inf.
by wife, Sylvia



Sterling R. Ryser 1916 - 2013

Submitted by Jim Collins

MG Sterling Ryser served as Commanding General of the 96th Army Reserve Command at Fort Douglas during the 1960's. While I was the commander of the 96th he attended several of our big events. He was a quiet man but was quite a soldier in his earlier life. He served in WWII and then in the Pentagon during the Korean war.

Many of you will remember CPT Josh Echols from last year's reunion in Colorado Springs. Josh and the 423rd Trans Company hosted our visit to Fort Carson. Josh sent me the obituary today. He was at the funeral service and had a 96th Flag on display.

We have lost one of the greatest of the Greatest Generation. A true decorated war hero and one of the last surviving World War II Colonels, Major General, (Ret.), Sterling R. Ryser passed away quietly at age 96 on February 23, 2013 surrounded by his children and all of his beloved grandchildren. Sterling was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, on September 8, 1916, to George Peter Ryser and Alma Johanna (Hannah) Carlson Ryser. He was the sixth of nine children. He graduated from South High School in 1933, attended the University of Utah and served a mission for the LDS Church from 1936-39 in the Swiss German and West German Mission where he witnessed, first hand, Hitler's rise to power. As a patriot with an unfiltered understanding of the Nazi regime, he enlisted in the ROTC at the University of Utah upon returning from his mission. He graduated from the University of Utah on June 6, 1941, received his commission as a 2nd Lt. Field Artillery Army Reserve and was ordered to Active Duty. He married his sweetheart, Maxine West, on March 4, 1942, in the Salt Lake Temple shortly before he was

ordered to Europe. He served with distinction, using the German language he mastered on his mission and the habits of hard work he learned in his home, rising to the rank of Lt. Colonel in less than four years before being discharged in January 1946. He was again ordered to active duty in September, 1951, serving three years at the Pentagon and Fort Meade, MD. After his second discharge from active duty, he served in the Army Reserve, eventually rising to the rank of Major General (two stars) and becoming the longest serving commander of the largest Army Reserve command in the United States, the 96th ARCOM, leading the Army Reserve in six

states for more than six years. At the same time, Sterling quietly excelled in his full-time career with the Central Intelligence Agency. Sterling was a devoted member of the LDS church, having served as the Bishop of the East Stratford Ward, a Stake High Counselor, Stake Mission Leader, teacher, home teacher, and as a church officer assigned to the Salt Lake County jail, among other callings. Sterling and Maxine volunteered as hosts for the church for over ten years and hosted many national and international dignitaries. He continued service as a volunteer at the church employment office at Welfare Square until he was 95.



Deadeye Dispatch

Official Publication of the
96TH Infantry Division Deadeye Association
• *Spring 2013 Edition* •

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

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

Deadeyes Online at 96thdeadeyes.org/

2013 reunion registration material is on pages 6 & 7

Watch our web site and Facebook for updates and changes.

How to submit a name for Taps

Our Taps information comes from a variety of sources, including emails, notes from family and friends and returned mail from the U.S. Postal Service. We apologize for any information that may be incorrect or incomplete.

To submit a name for Taps, please contact one of the following:

Fran Huff
6320 Woodwind Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46217
Phone: 317 784-5174

Pat McMillan
Email: pmil45@yahoo.com
4402 Chapman AV
Springdale, AR 72762
Phone: 479-200-1841

Scott Buffington
Email: scott@mainstreetnews.com
PO Box 908
Jefferson, GA 30549
Phone: 706-367-2485

Don Dencker
Email: dizzydon@aol.com
128 N. Musket Ridge Dr
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
Phone: 608-837-7479

Deadeye Mailbag... Letters from across the nation



This 50-caliber shell casing was found at Montaña de Oro.

Courtesy photo by Jim Gregory

Rehearsal at Montaña de Oro

Published November 19, 2012 in The Tribune, sanluisobispo.com, San Luis Obispo, California by Dan Krieger. Mr. Krieger is a professor emeritus of history at Cal Poly and past president of the California Mission Studies Association.

The shores of our county once bristled with soldiers training for battlefields in North Africa, Europe and the Pacific.

Today, in Times Past, Arroyo Grande High School history teacher Jim Gregory writes a tribute to these men brought to memory through an artifact found along our coast:

"Years ago, when my sons found a World War II 50-caliber shell casing near Montaña de Oro, they were waist-high.

"The base of the shell is stamped S L 43 – it was manufactured in the St. Louis Armory – and it was likely fired by a machine-gun crew from the 96th Infantry Division – a division that would fight in the Philippines and Okinawa.

"I remembered the 96th's local connection as I was reading an account of the deadly kamikaze campaign during the spring of 1945 against the Okinawa invasion fleet.

"The year before, the 96th had practiced amphibious assaults on the sand spit and beaches south of Morro Bay.

"The connections between county history and what was truly a world war are sometimes staggering.

"The 96th was one of six U.S. Army divisions that did at least part of its training at Camp San Luis Obispo. The 40th Division relieved the Marines at Guadalcanal; the 7th Division fought to dislodge the Japanese from the Aleutians; the 35th fought in the Battle of the Bulge; the 86th liberated Russian POWs from a German labor camp; and the 104th had finished its tour in Europe and was preparing to ship out to the Pacific when the war with Japan ended.

"Indeed, the Japanese submarine that had helped to bring the war to our county – the I-21, which sank the UNOCAL tanker Montebello near Cambria – would, within weeks, be sinking ships off the east coast of Australia. She disappeared sometime after her last radio report in November 1943.

"In 1945, when the soldiers of the 96th Division rode their landing craft toward the west coast of Okinawa, it must have seemed, oddly, as routine as their training assaults on the beaches below Morro Rock.

"But the Okinawa campaign began on April Fool's Day, and the commander of the island's garrison, Lt. Gen. Mitsuru Ushijima, had no interest in challenging the landings, which, on D-Day, put 50,000 soldiers and Marines ashore.

"Ushijima had instead prepared a defense in depth, one reminiscent of the tunnels and machinegun traps – many, on Okinawa, were concealed in family tombs – that had cost the Marines so dearly weeks before on Iwo Jima.

"Ushijima's troops were veterans, and he had artillery, something the defenders of Iwo Jima hadn't. The 96th would endure the most intense artillery bombardment of any battle in the Pacific campaign.

"Near the end of the battle for Okinawa, Gen. Ushijima committed seppuku – ritual suicide – but his artillery killed his counterpart, the American commander, Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr.

"The 96th, nicknamed the 'Deadeyes' for their prowess on the target range, would lose 1,625 killed in action and more than 7,500 wounded in three weeks of assaults against a network of defenses called the 'Shuri Line.'

"The Okinawa campaign would also bring the division four Medals of Honor, including one for 23-year old Chicagoan Edward J. Moskala, who silenced two machine gun nests and was credited with killing 25 of the enemy in three hours of combat. Moskala then volunteered to stay behind to defend his rifle company's wounded. That cost him his life.

"The men who survived Moskala seem to be no less heroic. It's touching to visit the 96th's Web page and read the tributes to his comrades, men who would go on to lead good lives, raise good families, and who are now fast disappearing."

Response to Article

Dear Mr. Gregory,

Thank you for writing the article about the 96th Infantry Division "Deadeyes" for the San Luis Obispo Union Tribune newspaper on 18 November 2012. Your article was well written and accurate. When the 96th departed from Camp San Luis they first landed on Leyte in the Philippines and from there went on to Okinawa. Their exemplary combat record later earned them the award of the Presidential Unit Citation.

The 96th was deactivated in 1946 and then reactivated in the US Army Reserve. The unit continued as an Infantry Division then in 1960 changed structure into an Army Reserve Command. Structure changes continued as the needs of the Army changed and today the 96th lives on as the 96th Sustainment

Brigade headquartered at Fort Douglas, Salt Lake City, Utah. They have units serving in Afghanistan now.

The 96th has a rich history of service to our country and many men and women have worn the Double Diamond insignia since the Division was first formed in 1918. The Deadeye Association will have its 56th consecutive reunion next year in San Diego. The World War II veterans still tell some great stories and they take great pride in their service.

Sincerely,

James P. Collins
Major General US Army - Retired
Past President - 96th Deadeye Association

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Looking for someone who knew Donald Britton

Dear Editor:

I am looking for information on my great uncle. His full name was T/5 Donald Mathers Britton, 381st Infantry. He was born August 19, 1918 and died February 3, 1992 in Chicago, IL. He is buried at Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee, Wisconsin at Section CAA Site 343. If you knew him or have information on him, I would appreciate a response.

Submitted by Great Nephew:

Roger D. Britton Sr
3316 S. Western Ave
Chicago, IL 60608
(312) 802-7233

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Unique Orders for Japanese-American soldier during Okinawian Campaign

Dear Editor:

Below is a letter from Takejiro Higa who was a member of a 10-man Japanese-America team in the 314th Headquarters Intelligence Detachment which was a part of the 96th Infantry Division during the battle of Leyte, the interval before Okinawa, and the battle of Okinawa. Seven members of this unit, including Higa, received the Bronze Star Medal for Okinawa battle service and one additional man of this group received the Bronze Star for Leyte battle service. The Leyte awardee was Warren Higa, brother of Takejiro.

Takejiro Higa lived on Okinawa from age 2 to 16 and was educated there. Shortly after he landed on Leyte he was ordered to report to XXIV Corps Intelligence officer. The XXIV intelligence soldiers thought the funny looking concrete structures seen on many aerial photos were some kind of fortifications. Takejiro told them they were tombs and they were relieved. All Okinawa battle veterans



remember these tombs that had a top that looked like a turtle back from above.

He planned to return to his unit with the 96th, but then was ordered to stay at XXIV Corps headquarters to help out on the Okinawa battle planning which he did. He was to tell no one what he was doing which he did. Thus Takejiro knew about the 96th taking part in the Battle of Okinawa five months before the soldiers in the 96th had this knowledge.

I had sent Takejiro copies of two completed Interrogation of the Prisoner of War forms (IPW) from the Battle Leyte to see if he knew who numbers 730, 731, 732 and 733 were. The interrogators were given a number to put on these forms instead of their Japanese-American names. Since he was with XXIV Corps on Leyte he could only guess on who these numbers were.

Don Dencker

Mr. Higa's Response

Dear Mr. Dencker:

About your note and the copy of the IPW report dated 21 No. 1944, the cod no. 730 might be that of my brother Warren. He was the team leader of the group of ten of us assigned to the 96th Infantry G-2 section. Nos. 731, 732 and 733 might be those of Herbert Yanamura, Fred Fukushima and Rudy Kawahara who were assigned to the 383rd Regimental Hqs. Very unfortunately, I cannot tie the code numbers to any particular individuals.

Now a bit about myself: I was born on 22 April 1923 at Waipahu, Oahu Hawaii, a small sugar cane plantation community just a few miles north of Pearl Harbor.

In 1925, my mother took three of us, (my six years older sister, my three years older

(continued on page 10)



Deadeye Reunion 2013



Welcome To The Town & Country Resort

Located in the Heart of San Diego, America's Finest City, the Town and Country Resort Hotel encompasses the "Best of All Worlds." Our hotel is just minutes from the vibrant nightlife of Downtown San Diego, the oasis of beautiful Mission Valley, and the thrill of San Diego's beaches and attractions. It's a resort renowned for its legendary service and country feel.

Our hotel is a family-owned resort with a heritage of hospitality spanning more than five decades. The Town and Country Resort Hotel enjoys an award-winning reputation for putting smiles on the faces of vacation guests and conference attendees alike.

Whether you spend your time basking in the warm San Diego sun or in the warmth of our friendly service and hospitality, your stay at Town and Country Resort Hotel will reward you with a rich glow of satisfaction.

What makes a hotel a legend? At the Town & Country Resort Hotel, it begins with our setting, where towering palms frame the impossibly blue San Diego skies.

The scent of thousands of rose bushes and perennials waft through the pleasant San Diego climate.

A resort is not a resort unless there

are more dining options than there are days in your stay. With five exceptional restaurants, lively lounges, our own bakery and a seasonal pool-side snack bar located within the grounds, our hotel does not disappoint.

The hotel deadline for guest room reservations is July 1, 2013. The 56th Annual Reunion is Saturday, July 27 - Tuesday, July 30, 2013. Town & Country Resort, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108. More information is online at www.towncountry.com.

Reunion price per night for 2 guests is \$109 (includes breakfast on July 27, 28, 29 & 30); 3 guests are \$129; 4 guests are \$149.

This room rate is good for 3 days prior and 3 days following the reunion. Parking at hotel is \$2 per day.

Call for reservations: (800)772-8527 PLEASE BE SURE TO NOTE THAT YOU ARE PART OF THE 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION GROUP JULY 27-30, 2013.

You will be given a choice of a Garden room or a room in the Regency Tower.

Most meetings, meals and other events will be held in the Regency Tower, so most guests should select the Regency Tower guest

rooms, especially anyone with mobility problems.

The Garden rooms are away from the Regency Tower.

Reservations must be canceled at least 48 hours prior to arrival, by 6 pm, to avoid a one-night charge.

Transportation To And From The Airport:

The hotel does not offer any shuttle service to or from the airport.

Transportation to and from the San Diego Airport is through the Cloud 9 Super Shuttle Service or by taxi at the airport. The Super Shuttle is located in the "Shuttles for Hire" area of the airport and charges \$11.00 each way, gratuity not included. Reservations are not needed.

The direct line for Cloud 9 Super Shuttle is (619) 220-7478 if you have any direct questions.

After collecting your luggage, take the sky bridge or cross walk over to the ground transportation islands. Look for the island with a blue sign overhead which reads 'Shuttles for Hire'. If you do not see a Cloud 9 Super Shuttle bus, ask the airport customer service representative there. Request Cloud 9/ Super Shuttle and give your destination location (Town & Country

Resort on Hotel Drive North). The representative will call a van for you.

A taxicab from the airport is approximately \$25 and rental cars can be arranged at the Airport or

there is an Avis Rental Car facility located at the Town & Country Resort for your convenience.

Parking at the Hotel will be \$2 per day for our reunion attendees.



Mexican Fiesta At The Beer Bust In San Diego

This promises to be a fun-filled night full of good cheer, the sharing of old memories and the making of new one. Remember to pack a festive outfit and be prepared to celebrate! We look forward to seeing you there.



Deadeye Reunion 2013

Tours & Details on the July Deadeye Reunion

TOUR #1

Only Yesterday Classic Autos and Hall of Heroes
1:00 p.m. Friday, July 26

The Skinny: Come to the reunion early to participate in this tour — tour limited to first 20 who sign up (must be at least 16 years old to participate)

Spielman's 1962 Mercedes 300SL is number 207 of 209 produced by Mercedes and contains an aluminum engine and disc brakes.

At first glance, the building of Only Yesterday Classic Autos and Hall of Heroes looks like any other industrial office establishment found riddled throughout San Diego's suburbs. However, once inside, one may feel as if they have entered a time capsule containing some of America's most beloved autos and historical treasures.

Some of the vehicles featured during the tour included a 1964 Pontiac GTO convertible, a 2010 Corvette ZR1 with a 638 hp supercharged V8 engine, and a 2010 Ferrari Scuderia, one of only 499 produced worldwide and 90 imported in the U.S. Recent additions to the classic car collection are a 1927 Packard that was made for Al Jolson, and a 1932 fire engine. And all vehicles are fully operational and taken out once a month or so for a drive!

Although it's not a time capsule, Only Yesterday Classic Autos and Hall of Heroes is more of a showroom and museum for Chuck Spielman's private stable of classic autos spanning from the 1930s to the present, along with a priceless collection of military memorabilia from throughout the last century.

Spielman, a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran and retired commercial real estate executive, opened his collection for private viewing in 1998 in New York, then moved it to San Diego in 2001 after the terrorist attacks 9/11. Deeply inspired by his patriotism and a dream to pay tribute to war veterans, Spielman privately funds his efforts as a whole. "My inspiration in creating the Hall of Heroes is due to a lifelong interest in World War II and a desire to pay tribute to its veterans," Spielman said.

The Hall of Heroes places an emphasis on WWII. Here, Spielman explained intricate details of the background of some of the military artifacts that he has collected over the years. From the fork and spoon of Eva Braun to the service uni-

form of a WWII veteran, each had a story behind it.

While Spielman's dream collection has proven its value and importance to military service members throughout the years, the Only Yesterday Classic Autos and Hall of Heroes museum is not open to the public. Having the privilege to tour Spielman's venue is limited to ages 16 years and older who have requested and been granted an appointment. This provides a small group of people the opportunity to gain a greater appreciation for America's past.

Meanwhile, the next item on Spielman's list of things to do includes completing a third phase of the Hall of Heroes. "We are currently working on several sections that pay tribute to women in the military and the Allies of the second world war," Spielman said. "We also plan on having a display of various veterans' memorabilia that includes their personal stories."

While veterans and active duty service members alike will continue to share in Spielman's dream collection, the fact remains that his tribute to the military is a reflection of genuine American patriotism.

You may contact Roland Champagne at 408-506-6168 or rchamp59@yahoo.com if you are interested in this tour or have questions.

NOTE: Tours 2 & 3 are being coordinated by San Diego Inbound Tours. They have assisted with 700+ military reunions in San Diego.

TOUR #2

USS Midway, Two Hour Harbor Excursion, with Box Lunch
Saturday, July 27

The Skinny: Departs the hotel at 9:30 am; return to hotel by 3:30 pm.

The Midway opens at 10:00 am, tickets in advance, no lines, and everyone boards the ship together. Complimentary lightweight audio sets allow the group to split up and go to their favorite exhibits. The ship is handicap-friendly with elevators and park benches. The USS Midway Museum is an unforgettable adventure for the entire family. Go to sea without leaving port! The USS Midway is striving to become America's living symbol of freedom. Explore more than 60 exhibits with a collection of many restored aircraft. Loaner wheelchairs are available at the USS



Midway.

At noon we re-board the buses and proceed a short distance to the harbor excursion for a two-hour narrated tour, passing by five military installations, and just before mooring, the bow of the Midway, for a wonderful photo op up close to the ship.

Also during the cruise everyone receives a delicious box lunch, with dessert and beverage to enjoy at their leisure, during the two-hour cruise.

The all-inclusive price per person is \$56.00.

TOUR #3

San Diego City Tour, Bali Hai Restaurant Luncheon, Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial
9 a.m., Monday, July 29

The Skinny: Departs the hotel at 9:00 a.m.; return to hotel by 2:30 p.m.

A narrated tour aboard a comfortable air-conditioned motor coach. Includes Coronado, Balboa Park, the Gaslamp with its renovated late 1800 buildings, Seaport Village, and Mount Soledad, with a stop at this beautiful one-of-a-kind Veterans Memorial in La Jolla, at 900 feet above sea level with a sweeping 360-degree view of San Diego and the blue Pacific, with time for photos.

Lunch will be at the Bali Hai restaurant with a million dollar view and several choices from the menu, coffee or iced tea and dessert included.

The all-inclusive price per person is \$52.00.



Other Opportunities to Explore in San Diego

SAN DIEGO TROLLEY... There are countless opportunities to explore the greater San Diego area on your own while you are visiting.

The San Diego Trolley is located within walking distance of the hotel and is a good alternative for exploring on your own. Often called San Diego's "moving landmark," the Trolley is also a fun way to get around. The San Diego Trolley provides convenient services from key locations crisscrossing through downtown and out to various locations and stops frequently on a continuous twenty-five mile loop. There are three trolley lines (Blue, Orange and Green) that service the downtown San Diego communities and beyond, covering 51 miles of track, and 53 stations total. Fares run from \$1.50 to \$3 one-way and trolleys run an average of every 15 minutes, 7 min-

utes during peak and 30 minutes during off-peak hours. Hop-On and Hop-Off full day ticket passes are also available. Each stop offers a unique aspect of San Diego for you to explore. When you are ready to continue your tour, simply hop on the next available trolley.

SHOPPING AT FASHION VALLEY MALL... Within walking distance of the Town & Country Resort is Fashion Valley Mall (one of the best shopping malls in the area with over 200 specialty stores). Major department stores include Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Nordstrom, Macy's, JCPenney, and Bloomingdales.

Registration materials, including these tours, are on the next two pages!

REUNION REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JULY 1, 2013

Reunion members will need to pre-register for events and attractions. For the Association to get the best price deals it requires a commitment for a reservation count.

The registration cost is \$16 per person. For attendees under 18 years of age, the cost is \$2 per person. Please include a check for the total amount for all persons registering.

Name #1 (for nametag) _____

WWII Unit _____ (for nametag and Deadeye listing) # of reunions attended _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Please provide an Email and cell phone as these are important for contacting you or others in your party with any changes before or during the reunion.

Email _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

In case of emergency, contact _____

Name # 2 (for nametag) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Relationship to 96th member _____ # of reunions attended _____

Name # 3 (for nametag) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Relationship to 96th member _____ # of reunions attended _____

Name # 4 (for nametag) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Relationship to 96th member _____ # of reunions attended _____

For registering more than four people, attach a note with the addition information as indicated above.

Mail these forms with your check to: (Make check payable to: **96th Infantry Div Deadeye Assn**)

Dennis O'Brien - PO Box 34 - Trempealeau, WI 54661-0034

For questions, contact Diane O'Brien, ddobrien@trivest.net phone: 608/317-2496

		Price Per	# People	Total
Registration fee before July 1	\$16 per person	\$16.00	_____	_____
	\$ 2 under 18 years	\$ 2.00	_____	_____

After July 1 registration fee will be \$25.00

Wheelchairs MUST be pre-ordered and will be available at the hotel beginning July 27th

(\$25 total for 3 days) _____

FRIDAY, JULY 26 -- ONLY YESTERDAY CLASSIC AUTOS

TOUR 1 1:00 – 3:30 pm & HALL OF HEROES free _____ XXXXX

(LIMITED TO 20 PEOPLE AND MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE—must be at least 16 years old to attend)

SATURDAY, JULY 27 (see tour descriptions elsewhere in Dispatch)

Breakfast at hotel (provided with your hotel registration)

TOUR 2 USS MIDWAY, HARBOR EXCURSION,

9:30 - 3:30 WITH BOX LUNCH \$56.00 _____

BEER BUST 8 – 11 pm THEME: MEXICAN FIESTA \$ 7.00 _____

\$2 under 18 years \$ 2.00 _____

SUNDAY, JULY 28

Breakfast at hotel (provided with your hotel registration)

MEMORIAL SERVICE 10 am NO CHARGE

LADIES' LUNCHEON 12 noon \$25.00 _____

Theme: Letters, notes and postcards--past, present and future!

MEN'S ASTP LUNCHEON 12 noon \$25.00 _____

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2 pm NO CHARGE

Report of Association activities 2012-2013

MONDAY, JULY 29 (see tour descriptions elsewhere in Dispatch)

Breakfast at hotel (provided with your hotel registration)

TOUR 3 SAN DIEGO CITY TOUR, BALI HAI RESTAURANT LUNCH,

9:00 - 2:30 MOUNT SOLEDAD VETERANS MEMORIAL \$52.00 _____

BANQUET 6 – 7 pm Cocktail Hour 7:15 pm Banquet CASH BAR

BANQUET – Grilled Filet of Salmon \$41 _____

BANQUET – New York Steak \$40 _____

BANQUET – Chicken Piccata \$39 _____

BANQUET – Children's Menu \$25 _____

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS _____

TUESDAY, JULY 30 Breakfast at hotel (provided with your hotel registration) FAREWELL

Reunion shirts: All shirts must be pre-ordered. We will not have extra inventory at the reunion.

96th Reunion T-shirts pre-shrunk cotton white (made in America): \$18.50 each \$20.00 for XXL

Adult: #Sm____ #Med____ #Lrg____ #XL____ for XXL____ \$20 TOTAL SHIRTS _____ \$ _____

Youth: #Sm____ #Med____ #Lrg____ TOTAL CHILD SHIRTS _____ \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED FOR REGISTRATION, EVENTS AND SHIRTS:

make check payable to: **96th Infantry Div Deadeye Assn**

TOTAL \$ _____

Deadeye Reunion 2013 & News

Deadeye Photo Exchange



At the San Diego Reunion

Make your photos a part of Deadeye history

Many Deadeyes and Deadeye families are lucky enough to have saved photos taken during the service. Now's the time to get these treasures out of storage and to share them with your fellow Deadeyes!

At this year's reunion, you'll have an easy, fun way to share your treasured photos and to make sure that they're never lost. The reunion committee has reserved a room where you'll be able to gather at your convenience to share your old service photos with each other and to share the stories behind each one. Best of all, we'll have the equipment on hand so that your photos can be scanned and put on a CD that you can take with you to print copies at your convenience. Submitted photos will also be used as part of a permanent 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association photo archive. These photos will then be available for all to appreciate and enjoy—including in future issues of the Deadeye Dispatch. So start hunting down those photos today! Find those photos that depict any aspect of your service or of the special role in history that you and your fellow Deadeyes played. Then bring the best to San Diego and join us at the Deadeye Photo Exchange.

You're Invited!

LADIES' DAY

REUNION LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, JULY 28, at 12 noon

THEME:

Letters, notes and postcards—past, present and future!

Do you remember a special written message? If you do, would you like to share it at the San Diego 96th Infantry Division Ladies Luncheon?

Do you remember that note or phrase that made you smile inside and out, the news that gave you a memory of a lifetime. If you cannot be with us at the luncheon, please send the story about the note or if you would send us a copy of your note we can share it. Written words are no longer the art or the mode for communicating but what a wonderful treasure to transcend the miles and the emotions.

Deadeyes ---- You may have a note to share too...please do. As Paul Harvey would end his talks ----"the rest of the story". Letters are wonderful and what they say and do not say will do more than entertain the ladies. All of us need to be enlightened by the words that evoke all of our emotions. I look forward to hearing from you - Until we meet again!

Sincerely, "SIS"

Mary Eleanor Wood Smith

2104 Slash Court

North Augusta, South Carolina 29841

Email: mewoodsmith@gmail.com

Registry of the American Soldier

By Jim Collins

The National Museum of the U.S. Army recognizes the service and sacrifice of the American Soldier at home and around the world, at war and during peace.

The Registry of the American Soldier provides an opportunity for anyone who served in the U.S. Army to have his or her name and service history placed on record at the Museum. If you served, you need to be in the Registry!

You may also register the name of a family member or friend, if they currently serve, or have served in the U.S. Army, or submit someone from the past.

The Registry will be on permanent display at the Museum, and it will be accessible via the internet for those who cannot visit in person.

The Registry of the American Soldier is a publicly submitted listing of those who served in the U.S. Army. There is no fee for submitting a Soldier's name or photo to the Registry. The Registry is not an official document of the U.S. Government. Download a form to print out, complete and submit in the mail by going on line to usrarmyregistry.org

This is a great way to record the service of our 96th soldiers!



A Note from the President

DON KLIMKOWICZ, PRESIDENT
96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association

The 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association is in good financial health. Your board is working to make sure you are served exceptionally. The Dispatch is intended to keep you informed on our activities.

This year's reunion is shaping up to be an event to remember! We have a wonderful location and activities that will hopefully impress you and make for a memorable time. In addition to our normal items, we have added a couple items that will help enhance your sharing of memories.

I am excited to see everyone and wish you all good health and safe travels. See you in July!



Old Town San Diego

The FOUNDING of CALIFORNIA

Just south of Mission Valley and known as the birthplace of California, Old Town teems with a lively, authentic atmosphere, boasting 17 museums and historical sites including the Whaley House, which tops Travel Channel's America's Most Haunted list.

Quaint boutiques, mouth-watering restaurants, colorful art galleries and festive theatres populate Old Town, making it a not-to-be-missed hot spot for tourists and locals alike. Mexican cuisine is the specialty in Old Town, where you'll find authentic fare at any of the many cantinas. Just follow the aroma of freshly made tortillas and take a seat outside. Enjoy the sounds of local mariachi as you sip on the best margaritas in town.

Old Town San Diego is considered the "birthplace" of California. San Diego is the site of the first permanent Spanish settlement in California. It was here in 1769, that Father Junipero Serra came to establish the very first mission in a chain of 21 missions that were to be the cornerstone of California's colonization. Father Serra's mission and Presidio were built on a hillside overlooking what is currently known as Old Town San Diego.

At the base of the hill in 1820's, a small Mexican community of adobe buildings was formed and by 1835 had attained the status of El Pueblo de San Diego. In 1846, a U.S. Navy Lieutenant and a Marine Lieutenant raised the American flag in the Old Town San Diego Plaza.

In 1968, the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation established Old Town State Historic Park to preserve the rich heritage that characterized San Diego during the 1821 to 1872 period. The park includes a main plaza, exhibits, museums and living history demonstrations. Come visit the original and reconstructed buildings and furnishings that illustrate the ambiance of 1800's San Diego . . . where California began!

Deadeye News & History



Dencker Interviewed in TV Documentary

Don Dencker, a veteran of the 96th Infantry Division, was interviewed for a television documentary which aired on the Military Channel this past March.

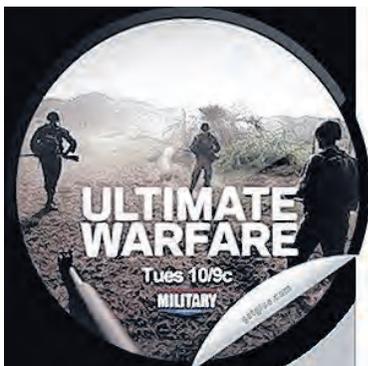
Dencker, who also serves on the board of directors of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association, was flown from his home in Wisconsin to Lincoln, Nebraska for the interview.

The documentary on the battle of Okinawa was shown on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 and Dencker had a significant part in telling of the efforts of the division.

"Early last fall, I was interviewed by Arrow Media by phone from London for over four hours," Dencker stated. "Arrow also requested that I make recommendations for more veterans to be interviewed for this program. I suggested two Deadeyes and Jim Kottas from the 77th Infantry Division. Jim was selected as the second Army veteran.

"Arrow Media flew me to Lincoln where I was interviewed for over two hours on October 11 and Jim was interviewed after I was."

Dencker is the association historian and served in Company L, 382nd Infantry. He resides in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.



INSIGNIA OF UNITS OF THE 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION

(Taken from the 96th Infantry Division History book published in February, 1947)

Insignia pins worn on Overseas Caps, Dress Uniform Coats or Jackets and sometimes on Fatigue Caps.



381st Infantry Regiment



382d Infantry Regiment



383d Infantry Regiment



321st Medical Battalion



Hq. & Hq. Battery, 96th Division Artillery



321st Engineer Combat Battalion



361st Field Artillery Bn.



362d Field Artillery Bn.



363d Field Artillery Bn.



921st Field Artillery Bn.



96th Military Police Platoon



96th Signal Company



796th Ordnance Company



96th Quartermaster Company



96th Reconnaissance Troop



96th Division Band

Deadeye News & History...

Amphibious Landings against Japan during World War II

By Don Dencker

During the War in the Pacific against Japan, there were three four-division assault landings. These three 4-Division landings were:

- October 20, 1944 on Leyte, Philippines
- January 9, 1945 on Luzon, Philippines
- April 1, 1945 on Okinawa, Japan

Taking part in the four-Division landings were ten Army Divisions and two Marine Divisions. Participants in these four-Division landings were:

- Leyte: 7th, 24th and 96th Infantry Divisions and the 1st Cavalry Division (all Army)
- Luzon: 6th, 37th, 40th and 43rd Infantry Divisions (all Army)
- Okinawa: 7th and 96th Infantry Divisions and the 1st and 6th Marine Divisions

Close inspection of the book put out by the U.S. Navy on March 17, 1955 entitled "United States Naval Chronology, World War II" confirms that the U.S. Army made considerably more amphibious landings in the Pacific than the U.S. Marine Corps. This does not include Army landings in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Normandy and Southern France.



- Deadeye Mailbag (continued from page 3) -

brother and me, just two years old at that time) to Okinawa, Japan to meet with our grandparents for the very first time. While we were in Okinawa, my father remained in Hawaii and operated a small grocery store in Waipahu.

In 1928, I am told, my father asked his trusted and very good friend to run the small store while he went to Okinawa to bring the family back to Hawaii. But when he got to Okinawa, he found my mother sick with pleurisy and no longer able to return to Hawaii. After much family discussions, the decision was made that my father will return to Hawaii with my sister and brother and I was to remain with my mother in Okinawa and lived with our grandparents.

I grew up in Okinawa and went to school there. In the summer of 1939 I returned to Hawaii. Actually I "ran away" from Okniawa, Japan and returned home because there were "dark clouds hanging over the Pacific" and the possibility of trouble and I did not want to be caught in Japan. Now you know why and how I returned to Hawaii in such a hurry.

As you may know by now or read about it, that on 20 October 1944 our Navy's carrier-based planes executed very intensive bombing missions over the Okinawa Island. After the bombing, the scouting or the reconnaissance planes took thousands of pictures of the Okinawan hillsides. What the 24th Army Corps G-2 officers saw frightened them. They believed them to be some sort of fortifi-

cations.

I forgot the exact date, but I believe it was the last couple of days of October or the first couple days of November 1944, Colonel Adrian M. Lindsey, the 96th Infantry Division G-2 officer, ordered me to go to the 24th Army Corps Hqs. There I saw many photos of the funny-looking structures the G-2 officers, believed to be some sort of fortifications.

When I explained to them, very much in detail, what they were, they felt very much at ease and at that moment they ordered me to assist them with the top secret plan - the coming invasion of Okinawa. I was put under very strict orders not to reveal what I was doing at the 24th Army Corps Hqs. To ANYONE except on "need to know basis." Which meant I was allowed to talk ONLY to Colonel Adrian M. Lindsey and later on to the assistant division commanding officer Brigadier General Claudius M. Easley.

Because I was at the 24th Army Corps headquarters' office, I knew the landing beachhead and what units (two Marine divisions and two Army divisions) were involved at least five months before the Okinawa invasion. Two things I did not know: (1) that the 77th Infantry was to land on March 26, 1944 at the Kerama Island, and (2) the actual landing at Okinawa main island was scheduled to be April 1, April Fools' Day.

To keep my mouth "shut" for nearly five months was a really difficult

"assignment." And, after I used to dream about my "blood relatives" who lived in the area just a few miles inland across from the planned beachhead. I had a very difficult time falling asleep at

night.

A warm "aloha" and "sayonara" from Hawaii,

Takejiro Higa



OKINAWA MUD

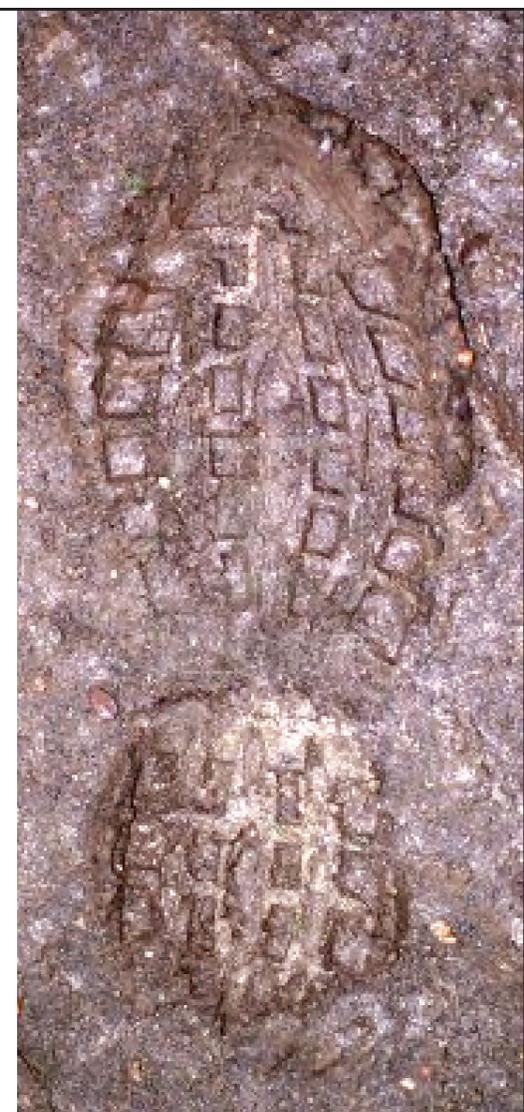
The thoughts below were put together by Tom Martin about his dad Woody who was on the front lines. Calling in the shells from the cruisers offshore into the Japanese lines. Taken from his blog.

One might ask just why it is, that a Tech 5 is hanging out with an officer, hardly the normal chain of command in that Okinawa mud, but the answer is really quite simple.

The liaison forward artillery observer was blown to smithereens the first day or two on the line, and was never replaced; that left the NCO, who simply disappeared one day, never to be seen again, possibly blown to smithereens, or had wandered off somewhere in a daze from the constant shelling, never to be found again.

No one had time to really care, leaving this Tech 5 and his lieutenant, along with a couple of young wire men, no more than kids themselves, to settle all accounts on the line, bringing in the 16 and 18 inchers from battleship row far offshore.

Such was life in the Okinawa mud.



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Deadeye Dispatch Change of Address Form

Clip and mail to:

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

OLD ADDRESS

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

NEW ADDRESS

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

**Now is the time to...
 Join the Deadeyes!**

**96th Infantry Division Deadeye
 Association Membership Application**

Membership is open to 96th Infantry Division "Deadeyes", their families, friends and members of the general public who support and are interested in promoting and perpetuating the legacy of the 96th Infantry Division from its beginning in World War I up to the present day 96th Sustainment Brigade.

M E M B E R S H I P D U E S		
<i>Those that previously served in the 96th DIV/ARCOM/RSC/RRC and are not currently assigned to a unit:</i>		
1 year.....	\$18	2 years.....\$34
		3 years.....\$48
<i>Those currently assigned to a unit in the 96th Sustainment Brigade or those assigned to another command that previously served in the 96th Sustainment Brigade:</i>		
1 year.....	\$8 (yearly renewals are the same amount)	
<i>Family members or friends of former 96th Soldiers (WWII or Desert Storm):</i>		
1 year.....	\$10 (yearly renewals are the same amount)	

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

(Detach and return with Payment)

LAST NAME _____ **FIRST NAME** _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP CODE** _____
PHONE NUMBER _____
EMAIL _____

Please check one of the following that represents your status:

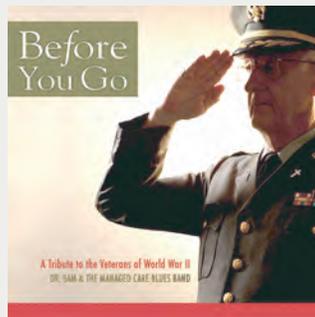
- 96th Veteran - Previously served in the 96th Div/ARCOM/RSC/RRC
- Current member of a 96th unit
- Prior service in a 96th unit and still on duty
- Family/Friend of the 96th

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$ _____
DONATION \$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make check payable to : 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association
Mail application to:
 Dennis O'Brien
 PO Box 34
 Trempealeau, WI 54661-0034

96TH INFANTRY DEADEYE ASSN. ITEMS

Coming Soon..... These and other items will be available at 96thdeadeyes.org!



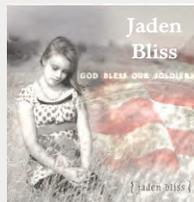
"Before You Go"

A Tribute to WWII Veterans

www.managedmusic.com

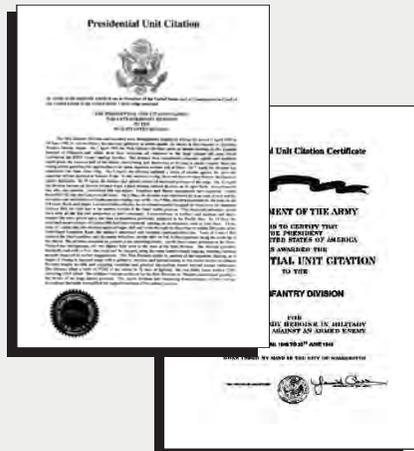
Check out this touching tribute to the veterans of World War II. The song can be purchased from the web site or by calling Managed Music toll-free at 1-888-426-7529. Their address is Managed Music, 6 NE Fisher Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33483.

Bless Our Soldiers



Jaden's CD, God Bless Our Soldiers Tonight, can be ordered online (blessoursoldiers.com) through PayPal for \$10 plus shipping and handling. Or call toll-free 1-888-893-7193.

Jaden sang at the Dining Out in Salt Lake City



96TH Infantry Division Presidential Unit Citation Documents Available

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

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

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

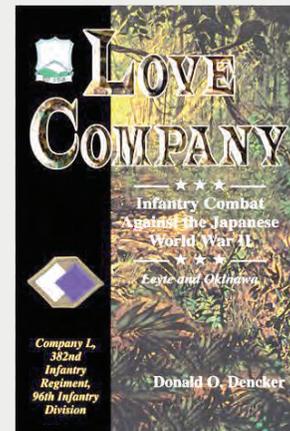


Deadeye Caps

(above art not an exact depiction)

Cost: \$10

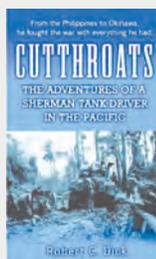
To obtain a new 96th Infantry cap, please send your mailing information, along with your check for \$10 payable to Douglas Burton, 11279 S. Fowler Ave., Selma, CA 93682-9619



Love Company Book

Author Don Dencker has sale copies of Love Company for \$14.00, postage paid. In this 355 page book, there are 100 photographs, maps, drawings and documents. The regular retail price of Love Company is \$19.95. Royalties from the sale of this book go to the 96th Infantry Deadeye Assn.

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



Cutthroats

The Adventures of a Sherman Tank Driver in the Pacific

By Robert C. Dick, Co. C. 763rd Tank Battalion, 96th Infantry Division

Available at

Amazon.com or Barnesandnoble.com

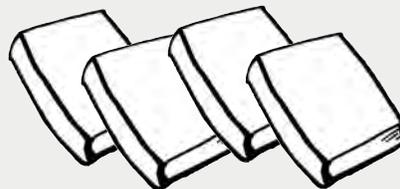
REUNION NOTE



Join Your Buddies At The

Mexican Fiesta At The Beer Bust In San Diego

This promises to be a fun-filled night full of good cheer, the sharing of old memories and the making of new one. Remember to pack a festive outfit and be prepared to celebrate! We look forward to seeing you there.



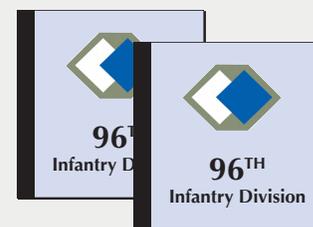
New WWII Book

A WWII book that will feature Deadeye stories is being compiled by Ed Phillips. He can be reached at: 14111 Capital Blvd. Wake Forest, NC 27587. He can be reached by phone at 919 554 7870 or by internet: mailto:ephillips3@hotmail.com



Words of Wartime Memories America and Abroad

Just off the press is a hard back 384 page anthology, *Words of Wartime Memories America and Abroad (Volume 3)*, published by Park Tudor School, a distinguished college prep school in Indianapolis. Included are twenty three pages of narratives taken from video interviews of Deadeyes from central Indiana. The anthology also includes stories from the Civil War, The Philippine American War, The Mexican Border War, WWI and WWII. These stories were extracted from diaries, journals and unpublished letters from men and women. Order by check to: Park Tudor School, Kathryn W. Lerch 7200 N. College Avenue. Indianapolis, IN 46240. Single copy is \$22.00 plus \$6.00 shipping. Mention Volume 3.



96TH Infantry Division CD's

Cost is \$10 each

All visual - no audio.

All income above CD cost and mailing to go to the Deadeye Association Monument Fund

CD #1:
Battle of Leyte (73 screens)

CD #2:
Battle of Okinawa (91 screens)

CD #3:
Training in the US and Hawaii, Mindoro Island and return to the US and disbandment (86 screens)

CD #4: NEW!!
96th Infantry Division Monument and Memorials (78 screens)

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

(Revised-April, 2007)