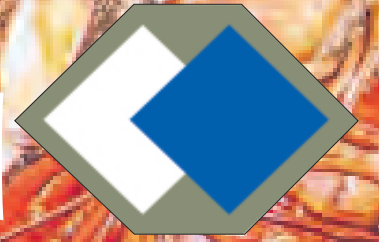


# DEADEYE DISPATCH



Official Newsletter of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association

Spring, 2015

# N'AWLINS!

*Tennessee Williams: America has only three cities: New York, San Francisco, and New Orleans. Everywhere else is Cleveland.*



## Make plans to join us for the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association Reunion Thurs, July 30 - Sun, August 2 at the JW Marriott - New Orleans

*- Submitted by Diane O'Brien, Reunion Coordinator -*

Please bring your family and friends to N'awlins and join us at the JW Marriott on Canal Street adjacent to the French Quarter. "Once a Deadeye, Always a Deadeye" is a gift that should be offered to your children and grandchildren. Reunion members need to pre-register early for this year's reunion. For the Association to get the best rates, it requires a commitment for reservation counts.

**EARLY ADVANCE RESERVATIONS FOR GUEST ROOMS AT THE JW MARRIOTT AS WELL AS THE REUNION REGISTRATION FORM ARE ENCOURAGED. YOU CAN ALWAYS CANCEL YOUR ROOMS AND REGISTRATION AT A LATER DATE IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND. NEW ORLEANS IS A VERY POPULAR TOURIST ATTRACTION DURING JULY AND AUGUST.**

58th Annual Deadeye Reunion HQ - Thursday, July 30 - Sunday, August 2, 2015

**JW Marriott Hotel Headquarters: 614 Canal Street** (NOT to be confused with other Marriott Hotels on Canal Street)

- The JW Marriott has 30 floors and 489 rooms.
- Check-in time at the hotel is 4 p.m. Check-out is 12 noon
- The hotel has a smoke-free policy and no pets are allowed.
- The hotel's front entrance faces Canal Street; however, the motor and lobby entrance and parking garage is located at 611 Common Street between Camp Street and St Charles Avenue (West of Canal Street).
- Valet parking only is available at the hotel at a rate of \$39 per night. No oversized vehicles. Cheaper parking may be available in other parking facilities around the area on a first come/first serve basis.
- The JW Marriott is across the street from the start of the French Quarter (easy walking distance). You can also enjoy other historic and festivities in New Orleans with many transportation possibilities including the Streetcar immediately in front of the hotel on Canal Street.

• **ROOM RESERVATIONS...** For guest room reservations, go to: [Resweb.passkey.com/go/96InfantryJW2015](http://Resweb.passkey.com/go/96InfantryJW2015)

Type this web address into your web browser to begin your reservation process. This special website was developed specifically for the 96th reservations and is easy to navigate. You will then receive a confirmation number as well as an email confirmation.

If you do not have a computer or have difficulty in making your reservations online, you may also call the JW Marriott at 1-800-771-9067.

**BE SURE TO TELL THEM THAT YOU ARE PART OF THE 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION GROUP. THIS IS IMPORTANT SO THAT THE 96TH GROUP RESERVATIONS ARE ACCURATE AND COMPLETE AND THAT YOU ARE REGISTERED AS PART OF**

**OUR SPECIAL 96TH GROUP RATE.** 96th reunion prices for all guest rooms is \$119 per night for all guests in your room (1, 2, 3 or 4 guests). King rooms have one bed and can be booked for 1 or 2 guests. Double double rooms have two double beds and will accommodate 2, 3 or 4 guests. The room rate is good for 3 days prior and 3 days following the reunion. The hotel is offering upgraded rooms at a higher rate if you prefer to upgrade (as noted on the 96th reservation website). Cancel by 6:PM (CDT) 72 hours prior to arrival to avoid cancellation fee.

• **TAXICAB or AIRPORT SHUTTLE to and from the Airport**

Two main options are available for your transportation from the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport to the JW Marriott Hotel at 614 Canal Street, New Orleans. The JW Marriott Hotel is approximately 15 miles from the airport and a 20-25 minute ride is average for a taxicab. The airport shuttle service stops

at other hotels along the route and this may require a longer commute time.

(1) Taxicabs - a cab ride costs \$33 from the airport to the JW Marriott for one or two persons and \$14 per passenger for three or more passengers. Taxicabs are readily available and pickup is on the lower level, outside the baggage claim area. Taxis are required to offer a credit card payment option. The taxi is the fastest and easiest option.

(2) Airport Shuttle service - is available from the airport to the JW Marriott for \$20 (per person, one way) or \$38.00 (per person, round-trip). Three bags per person. Call 1-866-596-2699 for more details or to make a reservation. Advance reservations are required 48 hours prior to travel for all ADA accessible transfers.

[www.airportshuttleneworleans.com](http://www.airportshuttleneworleans.com)

DEADEYE DISPATCH

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

David C Bowen  
Spencer, OH  
January 10, 2015  
Co. E, 383rd Infantry  
by Wanda Bowen

Roland Champagne  
San Diego, CA  
Co. K, 382nd Infantry  
December 29, 2014  
by son, Roland Champagne

Burt Cowell  
October 2012  
96th Infantry Division  
by son, Kirk Cowell

Les Dozmati  
Murrieta, CA  
March, 2014  
Co. L, 382nd Infantry  
by Diane O'Brien

Francis S, Dresser  
Goshen, MA  
August 31, 2014  
2nd Batt. HQ Company, 381st Infantry  
by daughter Kim Dresser

Rhonald H. Duncan Jr.  
Locust Grove, AR  
Sept 23, 2014  
Co. A, 381st Infantry  
by son, Wayne Duncan

Neil Grostefon  
Port Richey, FL  
March 26, 2014  
96th Div Headquarters  
by Susy, caretaker and neighbor

Robert D. Huff  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
March 12, 2015  
Company A, 383rd Infantry  
by wife, Fran Huff

Emil Janssen  
Stewartville, MN  
September 7, 2012  
Co. K, 382nd Infantry  
by Frances Janssen

Dwayne Kinser  
May 11, 2014  
921st Field Artillery Bn.  
by son Darwin Kinser

Mike Kolko  
Rochester, NY  
November 26, 2013  
Co. D, 381st Infantry  
per call from his wife

Gordon Leonard  
Ocala, FL  
by daughter Kris Stroud

Tom Roby  
Watertown, SD  
March 18, 2015  
Co. C, 382nd Infantry  
By daughter, Ann Roby

Charles Slaughter  
Lebanon, IN  
February 13, 2015  
Co A, 382nd Infantry  
by William Hill

Kenneth Smith  
Ames, IA  
March 12, 2014  
Co. K, 381st Infantry  
by a family member

Henry Thomas Taskier  
Chevy Chase MD  
August 10, 2013  
Co. M, 383rd Infantry  
by William Hill

Lloyd Walker  
Yakima, WA

## 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:*

- Diane O'Brien      • Email: ddobrien@triwest.net      • Address: PO Box 34, Trempealeau, WI 54661-0034      • Phone: 608-534-5141 or 608-317-2496
- Pat McMillan      • Email: pmil45@yahoo.com      • Address: 4402 Chapman Ave., Springdale, AR 72762      • Phone: 479-200-1841
- Scott Buffington      • Email: scott@mainstreetnews.com      • Address: PO Box 908, Jefferson, GA 30549      • Phone: 706-621-5685
- Don Dencker      • Email: dizzydon@aol.com      • Address: 228 S Bristol St, Apt 328 - Sun Prairie, WI 53590      • Phone: 608-837-7479

## 58 Years of Deadeye Reunion Cities

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ST</u>
1958	St Louis	MO	1977	Cincinnati	OH	1996	Des Moines	IA
1959	Chicago	IL	1978	New Orleans	LA	1997	St Louis	MO
1960	Kansas City	MO	1979	Denver	CO	1998	Ft Mitchell	KY
1961	Detroit	MI	1980	Springfield	IL	1999	Denver	CO
1962	Dallas	TX	1981	Milwaukee	WI	2000	Salt Lake City	UT
1963	Little Rock	AR	1982	Dearborn	MI	2001	Omaha	NE
1964	Portland	OR	1983	Houston	TX	2002	Kansas City	MO
1965	Minneapolis	MN	1984	St Paul	MN	2003	Tulsa	OK
1966	Indianapolis	IN	1985	Oklahoma City	OK	2004	Salt Lake City	UT
1967	Omaha	NE	1986	Fresno	CA	2005	Washington	DC
1968	Chicago	IL	1987	Memphis	TN	2006	Denver	CO
1969	Des Moines	IA	1988	Peoria	IL	2007	Salt Lake City	UT
1970	Detroit	MI	1989	Rapid City	SD	2008	Nashville	TN
1971	Denver	CO	1990	Omaha	NE	2009	Branson	MO
1972	New Orleans	LA	1991	Spokane	WA	2010	Milwaukee	WI
1973	Peoria	IL	1992	Louisville	KY	2011	Columbus	GA
1974	Indianapolis	IN	1993	Sparks	NV	2012	Colorado Springs	CO
1975	Kansas City	KS	1994	Hot Springs	AR	2013	San Diego	CA
1976	Fort Worth	TX	1995	Lubbock	TX	2014	Chicago	IL



**2015 Reunion Thursday, July 30 - Sunday, August 2, 2015 New Orleans, LA**

# Deadeye Feature...

April 1, 1945 - April 1, 2015

## Battle of Okinawa – 70th Anniversary

### Okinawa: The Price Of Victory

Submitted by Don Dencker L/382/96

April 1, 2015 is the 70th anniversary of the 96th Infantry Division assault on Okinawa, Japan. To start this battle the 96th made the Okinawa amphibious landing on Easter Sunday, April 1st. This battle is called the Ryukyu campaign, Okinawa being the largest and most important island in the Ryukyus. The Okinawa battle was the last major battle in the war in the Pacific against Japan.

My information about 96th Infantry Division battle casualties comes from the 96th Infantry Division "After Action" report of the 96th Division dated July 28, 1945, Army history of the battle entitled "Okinawa: The Last Battle" and the Division history book published in 1947.

From the Army history book, Table 3: "Casualties by Tenth Army, April 1-June 30, 1945 is as follows:  
96th Infantry Division Casualties:

Killed.....	1,506
Wounded .....	5,912
Missing.....	12
Subtotal.....	7,430
Non Battle Casualties.....	2,817
<b>TOTAL CASUALTIES.....</b>	<b>10,247</b>

Non Battle Casualties are Injuries, Disease and Combat Fatigue (PTSD).

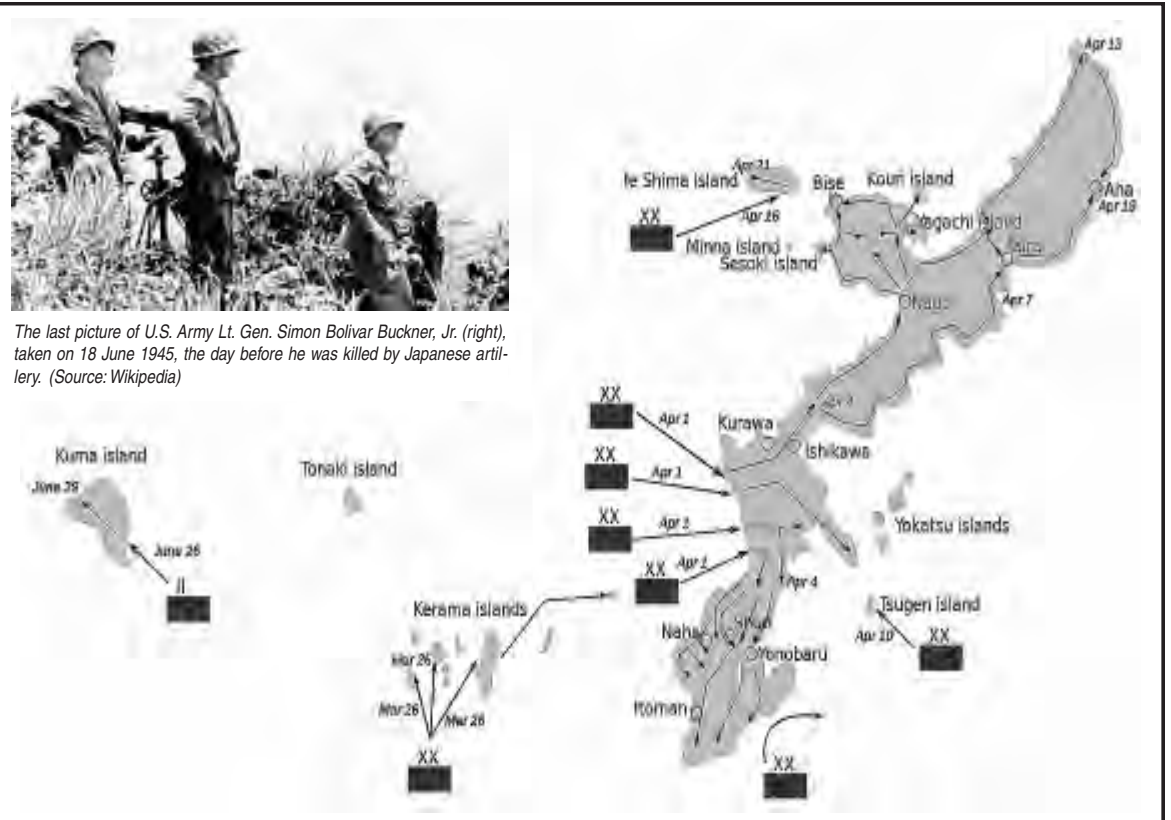
A more accurate Killed number is taken from the 96th Infantry Division history book published in 1947 and has stated 1,622 men killed. Using the 1,622 killed brings the total Okinawa casualties to 10,263. It is also likely that the wounded total is lower than actual.

The 96th Infantry Division "After Action" report in the Medical Section indicates that our Medics treated 7,369 Battle casualties which probably included 122 men who died of wounds. Leaving the confusing numbers, I believe it is safe to say that at least 8,000 battle casualties in addition to 3,000 men sick, injured, or having Combat Fatigue. This would safely put 96th Infantry Okinawa casualties at over 11,000.

The 96th Infantry Division was significantly under strength when we landed on Okinawa with 12,830 men while the table of organization for an Infantry Division called for 14,253 men. A large number of replacements arrived in April and May 1945. They totaled 4432 enlisted men and 193 officers. However, the Infantry branch suffered about 90 percent of the casualties so Infantry Rifle and Weapons Companies fought the battle greatly under strength.

For example, the 382nd Infantry, which included the Company L which I was in, had an April 1st strength of 2,893 men and only had 1,676 men on May 27. The May figure would include a large number of replacements received in April and May prior to May 27. The Division received 4,537 replacements during the battle.

In light of the horrendous casualties of deaths, wounds and injuries suffered by Deadeyes on Okinawa, we should always remember the Deadeye 96th Infantry Division. We hope that our families and friends and the people of America shall always remember our efforts and sacrifices for our Country. Please don't forget the Army 96th Infantry Division and its Deadeyes..



The last picture of U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr. (right), taken on 18 June 1945, the day before he was killed by Japanese artillery. (Source: Wikipedia)

## OPERATION ICEBERG

The Battle of Okinawa, codenamed Operation Iceberg, was fought on the Ryukyu Islands of Okinawa and was the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific War of World War II. The 82-day-long battle lasted from early April until mid-June 1945. After a long campaign of island hopping, the Allies were approaching Japan, and planned to use Okinawa, a large island only 340 miles away from mainland Japan, as a base for air operations on the planned invasion of Japanese mainland (coded Operation Downfall). Four divisions of the U.S. 10th Army (the 7th, 27th, 77th, and 96th) and two Marine Divisions (the 1st and 6th) fought on the island. Their invasion was supported by naval, amphibious, and tactical air forces.

The battle has been referred to as the "typhoon of steel" in English, and tetsu no ame ("rain of steel") or tetsu no bōfū ("violence of wind of steel") in Japanese. The nicknames refer to the ferocity of the fighting, the intensity of kamikaze attacks from the Japanese defenders, and to the sheer numbers of Allied ships and armored vehicles that assaulted the island. The battle is considered one of the bloodiest in the Pacific. Based on Okinawan government sources, mainland Japan lost 77,166 soldiers, who were either killed or committed suicide, and the Allies suffered 14,009 deaths (with an estimated total of more than 65,000 casualties of all kinds). Simultaneously, between 42,000 and 150,000 local civilians were killed or committed suicide, a significant proportion of the local population.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the successful invasion and conquest of Okinawa. Our Deadeyes fought bravely and received one of only four Presidential Unit citations for their part. Our eternal gratitude goes out to these men who along with the other Army and Marine divisions fought so bravely for our freedom in the last recorded battle of WWII. Deadeyes, We Salute You!

(Source: Wikipedia)



# Deadeye Reunion 2015



Every quarter-hour, the thin peal of bells at St. Louis Cathedral calls saints and sinners, mostly the latter. They clang out a slightly off-key sound, as if they well know the offbeat rhythms of the neighborhood below them. The pulse of a circus atmosphere around the church pounds from hour to hour, as if to compete with the timbre of the sounds from the tower. The church stands sentinel, nether judging nor joining.

Inside, the aroma of ancient brick masonry greets the visitor. One thinks at once of an old French monastery, although stone is nowhere. The darkened entry gives way to a bright interior with painted surfaces everywhere. The eye is drawn to the great high Rococo altar, where gilded and fluted columns of the Corinthian order support a busy entablature. Two rows of wooden columns divide the church into nave and side aisles, with a mute upper gallery where, one imagines, crowds overflowed before Vatican II put an end to crowded churches.

The Spanish church got its stripes when the city received its first bishop in 1793. Sixty years later, New Orleans became an archbishopric, elevating the cathedral further. The present building rose then, incorporating a few bricks and lines of mortar from its predecessor. The marguilliers or church wardens had it built from plans drawn in 1849 by French-born architect Jacques N. B. de Pouilly. Its iconic, multi-stage, tapering, slate-covered triple towers are better than any that preceded it.

Today the church contains the remains of eight New Orleans bishops. Their lives reflect the story of the Church and the city. Renovated, decorated and restored over and again, repainted inside and out, waterproofed, strengthened with steel, buttresses added, foundations fixed, the church stands. Today the St. Louis Cathedral is a symbol of New Orleans and a tribute to the people and clergy who have struggled to preserve it. Most of all it is a haven of serenity from the soul-splitting life of the world outside.

Few cities in the world are so identified by a building as is New Orleans. The city is instantly recognized by our cathedral and its position overlooking Jackson Square. The Cathedral-Basilica of St. Louis King of France is the oldest Catholic cathedral in continual use in the United States.

Because of the Mass' infinite value it is a time honored Catholic tradition to have Masses said for a particular person and to provide a Mass Card to comfort relatives, friends and loved ones. The Cathedral offers Masses for loved ones or friends, either living or deceased.

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
7:30 a.m.

**SATURDAY**  
7:30 a.m.

4:00 - 4:45 p.m.  
Sacrament of Penance

5:00 p.m.  
Vigil Mass

**SUNDAY**  
9:00 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.





# Deadeye Reunion 2015

## INFORMATION --REUNION REGISTRATION

**PLEASE READ ALL INFORMATION BELOW PRIOR TO COMPLETING THE REGISTRATION FORM**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JULY 7, 2015**

Information – Diane O'Brien – [ddobrien@triwest.net](mailto:ddobrien@triwest.net) 608-317-2496

**A BIG PRIORITY IS ADVANCE RESERVATIONS FOR GUEST ROOMS AT THE JW MARRIOTT AS WELL AS THE REUNION REGISTRATION. YOU CAN ALWAYS CANCEL YOUR ROOMS AND REGISTRATION AT A LATER DATE IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND. NEW ORLEANS IS A VERY POPULAR TOURIST ATTRACTION DURING JULY AND AUGUST....SO I ENCOURAGE EARLY ROOM RESERVATIONS AND REGISTRATION.**

- (1) Reunion members will need to preregister for all events and meals (of their choice) on the registration form. For the Association to get the best price deals it requires a count for the tour and all food orders prior to the reunion. Please choose your preferences – all meals and tours are optional.
- (2) 96th reunion prices for all guest rooms are \$119 per night for all guests in your room (1, 2, 3 or 4 guests). King rooms have one bed and can be booked for 1 or 2 guests. Double double rooms have two double beds and will accommodate 2, 3 or 4 guests. The room rate is good for 3 days prior and 3 days following the reunion. The hotel is offering upgraded rooms at a higher rate if you prefer to upgrade (as noted on the 96th reservation website). **Cancel by 6:PM (CDT) 72 hours prior to arrival to avoid cancellation fee.**
- (3) For the convenience of our Deadeyes and their families, a deluxe continental breakfast is being offered by the JW Marriott at a rate of \$18 per person inclusive per day (in a separate private room for our group). This deluxe continental breakfast is being offered for Friday, Saturday and Sunday (July 31, August 1 and 2). The regular hotel restaurant will accommodate up to 100 total people, but the hotel has 500 rooms so we may be competing with many other guests for space in the restaurant. Advance reservations for our special continental breakfast are required for an accurate count for the catering staff. This is an alternate choice for your convenience only if you are interested in this option; the continental breakfast may be cancelled if we do not receive enough interest.
- (4) The tour to the National World War II Museum is offered on Friday, July 31st with a tour bus departing the hotel at 9 a.m. and returning to the hotel at 2 p.m. The tour will include the bus fare, admission to the Museum, 4D movie "Beyond All Boundaries", and a lunch. WWII Deadeyes receive free admission to the Museum. All other charges apply to all attendees (see registration form for price breakdown). From the beaches of Normandy to the sands of Iwo Jima, the National WWII Museum's exhibits are a blend of personal accounts, artifacts, documents, photographs and original film footage.
- (5) Preparing and Scheduling your Oral Interviews at the National World War II Museum: Some of you have indicated an interest in being interviewed. For anyone interested in being interviewed, the contact person is Seth Paridon at 877-813-3329 ext. 312. The interviews will be conducted when you schedule it. (See "Preparing and Scheduling your Oral Interviews" elsewhere in this Dispatch).
- (6) A special "On the Bayou" buffet is being offered on Friday night at 6:30 p.m. to be catered in a separate room for our convenience. This will include a blend of New Orleans specialty dishes at a discounted rate of \$40/person inclusive for our group.
- (7) Our "Mardi Gras" Beer Bust will follow the buffet on Friday night, July 31st. This will be a good chance to socialize with our Deadeyes and their families. A cash bar and light snacks will be offered for this social event from 8 – 11 p.m.
- (8) Our Saturday events include the continental breakfast from 7 – 8:30 a.m., Memorial service at 10 a.m., General membership meeting at 11:30; Ladies and Men's ASTP luncheons at 12:30 p.m., photos taken in front of the Deadeye banner at 5:30 p.m., social hour from 6-7 p.m., and farewell banquet at 7 p.m.



# Deadeye Reunion 2015

## REUNION REGISTRATION

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JULY 7, 2015**

Reunion members will need to preregister for events and attractions. For the Association to get the best price deals it requires a count for all tours and food prior to the reunion. After July 7th registration fee will be \$25.00

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 on this form as well as for the events. For registering more than four people, attach a note with the additional information as indicated below.

Name #1 (for nametag) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Email and cell phone are important for contacting you with any changes before or during the reunion.**

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Name # 2 (for nametag) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to 96<sup>th</sup> member \_\_\_\_\_ # of reunions attended \_\_\_\_\_

Name # 3 (for nametag) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to 96<sup>th</sup> member \_\_\_\_\_ # of reunions attended \_\_\_\_\_

Name # 4 (for nametag) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to 96<sup>th</sup> member \_\_\_\_\_ # of reunions attended \_\_\_\_\_



# Deadeye Reunion 2015

Mail this form with your check to: make check payable to: 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Div Deadeye Assn  
 Dennis O'Brien - PO Box 34 - Trempealeau, WI 54661-0034  
 For questions, contact Diane O'Brien, [ddobrien@trivest.net](mailto:ddobrien@trivest.net) phone: 608/317-2496

	Price Per	# People	Total
Registration fee before July 7	\$16 per person	\$16.00	# _____ \$ _____
	\$ 2 under 18 years	\$ 2.00	# _____ \$ _____
After July 7th registration fee will be \$25.00			
Wheelchairs must be pre-ordered and will be available when you arrive at the hotel (\$50 total for 3 days) \$ _____			
<b>FRIDAY, JULY 31</b>			
7-8:30 a.m. Deluxe Continental Breakfast (catered in separate room)	\$18/person	# _____	\$ _____
WORLD WAR II MUSEUM TOUR		# _____	\$ _____
9:00 – 2:00 All-inclusive price for this tour (including bus transportation, admission, 4D movie and lunch) \$39 (WWII Deadeyes); \$68 adults; \$63 seniors (65+); \$58 K-12; and \$18 (5 and under). (see tour description elsewhere in Dispatch)			
6:30 p.m. "ON THE BAYOU" DINNER BUFFET	\$40/person	# _____	\$ _____
Special selection of New Orleans specialties for your dining pleasure			
8 – 11 p.m. 'MARDI GRAS" BEER BUST w/cash bar & snacks	\$ 7.00	# _____	\$ _____
	\$2 under 18 years	\$ 2.00	# _____ \$ _____
<b>SATURDAY, JULY 26</b>			
7-8:30 a.m. Deluxe Continental Breakfast (catered in separate room)	\$18/person	# _____	\$ _____
10:00 MEMORIAL SERVICE	NO CHARGE		
11:30 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	NO CHARGE		
12:30 LADIES' LUNCHEON	\$25.00	# _____	\$ _____
12:30 MEN'S ASTP LUNCHEON	\$25.00	# _____	\$ _____
5:30 PICTURE IN FRONT OF 96 <sup>TH</sup> BANNER			
6:00 – 7:00 Cocktail Hour	7:15 pm Banquet	CASH BAR	
BANQUET – Pork Tenderloin	\$42.00	# _____	\$ _____
BANQUET – Pan Seared Gulf Shrimp	\$41.00	# _____	\$ _____
BANQUET – Stuffed Chicken Breast	\$40.00	# _____	\$ _____
BANQUET – Children's Menu	\$25.00	# _____	\$ _____
PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS _____			
<b>Reunion shirts:</b> All shirts must be pre-ordered. We will not have extra inventory available at the reunion.			
96 <sup>th</sup> Reunion T-shirts: Adult Sm-Med-Lg \$14.00 - Adult XL or larger \$16.00 Child: \$13.00			
Adult: #Sm _____ #Med _____ #Lrg _____ Other (indicate size) _____	TOTAL SHIRTS _____		\$ _____
Child: #Sm _____ #Med _____ #Lrg _____	TOTAL CHILD SHIRTS _____		\$ _____
<b>SUNDAY, AUGUST 2- FAREWELL</b>			
7-8:30 a.m. Deluxe Continental Breakfast (catered in separate room)	\$18/person	# _____	\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED FOR REGISTRATION, EVENTS AND SHIRTS:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ make check payable to: 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Div Deadeye Assn – see mailing address above



# Deadeye Reunion 2015

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – 96<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION REUNION

(TENTATIVE AS OF THE DATE OF PRINTING THE DEADEYE DISPATCH)

### THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2015

Arrival for most people at the **JW MARRIOTT** @ 614 Canal Street, New Orleans  
PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS THE **JW MARRIOTT** ... NOT THE OTHER MARRIOTT  
HOTEL LOCATED ON CANAL STREET.

(just a reminder that the JW MARRIOTT Hotel honors our group rate for 3 days prior  
and 3 days following)

4 – 8 p.m. WELCOME DESK AND REUNION WELCOME PACKETS FOR 96<sup>TH</sup>  
GUESTS

7 – 9 p.m. 96<sup>TH</sup> BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Other events and touring on your own on Thursday

Website for possible events on your own: <http://www.experienceneworleans.com/>

### FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2015

7 – 10 a.m. WELCOME DESK AND REUNION WELCOME PACKETS FOR 96<sup>TH</sup>  
GUESTS

7 – 8:30 a.m. DELUXE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST ----Must pre-register  
(PRIVATE ROOM FOR THE 96<sup>TH</sup>)

9:00 a.m. BUS TRIP TO THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM  
Departing hotel at 9:00 a.m. – returning by 2:00 p.m.

6:30- 8:00 p.m. "On the Bayou" Buffet----Must pre-register  
(PRIVATE ROOM FOR THE 96<sup>TH</sup>)

8 – 11 p.m. BEER BUST----Must pre-register

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2015

7 – 8:30 a.m. DELUXE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST ----Must pre-register  
(PRIVATE ROOM FOR THE 96<sup>TH</sup>)

10:00 a.m. MEMORIAL SERVICE

11:30 a.m. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

12:30 p.m. LADIES LUNCHEON – Must pre-register

12:30 p.m. MEN'S ASTP LUNCHEON -- Must pre-register

5:30 p.m. GROUP PICTURE IN FRONT OF BANNER

6 – 7 p.m. SOCIAL HOUR PRIOR TO BANQUET

7: 15 p.m. BANQUET -- Must pre-register

8 – 11 p.m. PROGRAM & SOCIALIZING

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2015 - FAREWELL

7 – 8:30 a.m. DELUXE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST ----Must pre-register  
(PRIVATE ROOM FOR THE 96<sup>TH</sup>)



# Deadeye Reunion 2015



## NEW ORLEANS STREETCARS

Other cities have trolleys, here in New Orleans we have streetcars and they are as much a part of the city as red beans & rice on Mondays. Here they are as much of a tourist destination as they are a means for commuters to get to and from their office.

The Canal Streetcar runs directly in front of the JW Marriott Hotel, so hop on board to see some of the sites of New Orleans.

### Information About Riding The Streetcars

Price is just \$1.25 per ride or you can buy an all-day pass for a bargain at \$3. This \$3 pass can also be used on all bus lines.

### History of New Orleans Streetcars

The New Orleans streetcars date back to 1835 and have the distinction as one of the first passenger railroads in the United States and one of the oldest continuously operating street railways in the entire world.

The first streetcars to travel through the suburbs or as we like to call them the fabourgs ran on steam. After the Civil War, an ex-Confederate general leased the streetcar line and replaced the steam locomotives with horse power. It was a step back technology-wise and less efficient, but they were quieter and ended

up staying around for twenty years before they were replaced.

There were attempts to replace the horse drawn streetcars with ammonia powered engines, steam dummy engines and electric batteries, however it wasn't until 1893 that electricity replaced horse power. It's the power system that's still used today.

As the city grew, so did the network of streetcars. Throughout the history of New Orleans, Canal Street has been an important route of travel. Mule-driven carriages were the first form of public transit along this line, but in 1910 they were replaced by streetcars.

Bus lines started to replace streetcars in the 1960s and residents started to worry that all of the historic streetcars would disappear.

In many cases their fears were realized. In May of 1964, the streetcars were completely removed from Canal Street. Luckily, in 1973, preservationists succeeded in adding the St. Charles line to the National Register of Historic Landmarks. Because of that Historic status, the St. Charles streetcars look and run as they were in 1920. After being absent for forty years, in 2004 the Canal Street line was brought back to life.

### Canal Street Line

The Canal Street Line travels almost six miles, starting at the Mississippi River and following Canal Street into the middle of the city. It brings riders to historic cemeteries or via a spur to City Park and



the New Orleans Museum of Art. It also brings visitors within walking distance of the Fairgrounds Racetrack that features horse racing many months of the year and is the home of the annual Jazz & Heritage Festival every spring.

This line is popular with locals traveling to work, as well as visitors exploring the city. Along the way, it passes by art galleries, entertainment venues, numerous shops and dozens of delicious restaurants.

Unlike the St. Charles Line, the fleet on this line is a bit more modern, yet hasn't

lost the historic touch that is New Orleans. You'll notice the difference especially in the summer months, these streetcars have air conditioning.

### Riverfront Line

The Riverfront Line was a dream come true for New Orleans business owners, developers and streetcar fans. It connects locals, conventioners and visitors to points along the Mississippi River. The Riverfront Line travels 1.5 miles past the legendary French Market, to the Aquarium of the Americas, shopping at the Riverwalk and the Ernest M. Morial Convention Center.



## REUNION NOTES FROM SIS

- New Orleans Tip... a handicap parking permit is nearly the only way to let people out of a car at any building-hotel in New Orleans. Less pressure on the driver and Deadeyes.

- Deadeye Book Scholarship... look on line at Deadeye Website for details. Open to High School Juniors and Seniors and college or graduate level. Must have a Deadeye Legacy.

- Love Table in New Orleans... bring anything that you can pack, that you can give or re-give (new or old) that a 96th person might want to purchase to add to the 96th Scholarship fund. Silent auction item.. An item that would make some really happy to give 5-10 or more for something that is valued more if purchased in a store. The items are for the love and money for the future of the 96th to promote our Deadeye heritage.

- Ladies' Luncheon... be a part of the celebrations, traditions, and recipes! Please bring anything that could be used to show and tell. Bring a picture, a small item, a written recipe - anything of interest to fellow lady Deadeyes. We will have fun and share Memories!!! Looking forward to seeing you there!

## Deadeye Dispatch Change of Address Form

Clip and mail to: Diane O'Brien, PO Box 34, Trempealeau, WI 54661-0034 or email to [ddobrien@trivest.net](mailto:ddobrien@trivest.net)

### OLD ADDRESS

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### NEW ADDRESS

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Deadeye Association Past President, Tom Roby Passes in S.D.



Tom Roby

Former Deadeye and Division Association President, Thomas E. "Tom" Roby, age 90, of Watertown, South Dakota passed away Thursday, March 19, 2015 at Jenkins Living Center in Watertown. Funeral mass was held on March 25 in Watertown.

Roby was very active in association matters for decades and served on numerous committees through the years.

He was born on October 25, 1924 to Raymond Joseph and Marie Z. (Clemens) Roby in Aberdeen. He grew up in Hecla and Watertown. He attended grade school at the Immaculate Conception School and Watertown High School, graduating in 1942. He also attended 1 1/2 years of college at St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.

He enlisted in the United States Army on March 11, 1943 and served with the 96th Infantry Division and invasions of

Leyte, Pacific Islands and Okinawa during World War II. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, Good Conduct medal, and Bronze Service Arrowhead. He was honorably discharged on January 20, 1946.

Following his military service, Thomas returned to Watertown and married Ernestine Gayle Evans on August 16, 1947 at the Immaculate Conception Church in Watertown. Tom and Ernie lived in Watertown where they raised their five children.

Thomas was employed for 14+ years with Swift & Co., Watertown Commercial Department, and then became owner and operator of Roby Agency insurance and real estate sales since 1962. He served as mayor of Watertown from 1964-1970. He then served as Republican Codington County State Senator from

1982-1986.

He was a member of the Rotary and Elks Club, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Chamber of Commerce, Associations of Realtors and Associations of Independent Insurance Agents of South Dakota and America.

Thomas served on the boards of directors of Children's Care Hospital and School, Industry and Commerce Association of S.D., Jenkins Living Center, (member and Executive), State and National Association of Realtors Vice President, and Independent Insurance Agents of S.D. In 2012 Thomas was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Watertown Realtor's Association.

He enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles, politics, pheasant hunting and traveling.



# Deadeye Reunion 2015



## THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM - NEW ORLEANS -



On Friday, July 31, 2015 at the Deadeye Reunion in New Orleans, we will be touring the National World War II Museum. The bus will depart from the hotel at 9 AM that morning and will return by 2 PM.

See the registration material for more tours and more information.

The museum opened on June 6, 2000, the 56th anniversary of D-Day. The museum has a large atrium where aircraft including a Supermarine Spitfire, Messerschmitt Bf 109, Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bomber, and Douglas C-47 Skytrain are suspended from the ceiling. The building is several stories high and consists of two multi-level sections which are connected only by the main floor atrium. The museum does not solely discuss the invasion of Normandy, but also represents the Allied strategy of island hopping, culminating with nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

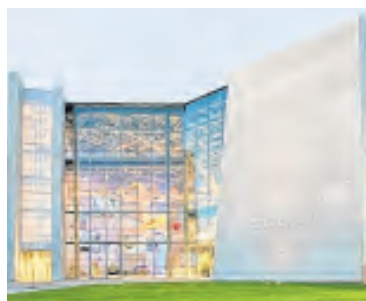
The museum has several permanent galleries, including the Home Front, Planning for D-Day, The D-Day Beaches, and Pacific D-Days galleries. The third floor of the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion includes an observation deck for viewing the hanging aircraft. The second floor has reserved space for visiting exhibits and for special exhibits that change every few months. In January 2013, the museum opened its newest exhibit, The US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center, which is the largest building on the museum campus.[5] The collection in the US Freedom Pavilion includes a B-17E Flying Fortress bomber, a B-25J Mitchell bomber, a SBD-3 Dauntless, a TBF Avenger, a P-51D Mustang, Corsair F4U-4 and an interactive submarine experience based on the final mission



of the USS Tang. The B-17E is the airplane dubbed My Gal Sal, famous for having been lost in a mission over Greenland and recovered 53 years later. The US Freedom Pavilion was paid for with a \$15 million donation from the Boeing Company and with a \$20 million grant from the US Department of Defense with Congressional approval. Two other pavilions are under construction or planning as of 2013.

Visitors to the museum are encouraged to allocate roughly 2 1/2 to 3 hours to tour the museum. An award-winning 4-D film, Beyond All Boundaries, gives the visitor an overview of the war on every front. A variety of other multimedia displays are part of the museum's exhibits, notably dozens of video oral histories conducted with veterans by museum staff.

Beyond All Boundaries, showing exclusively in The National WWII Museum's Solomon Victory Theater, is a 4D journey through the war that changed the world. Narrated by executive producer Tom Hanks, Beyond All Boundaries features dazzling effects, CGI animation, multi-layered environments and first-person accounts from the trenches to the Home Front.



### Preparing and Scheduling your Oral Interviews at the WWII Museum

**What is oral history?:** Oral history is the systematic collection and recording of individual memories as historical documentation. An oral historian collects memories in the same way a museum collects artifacts. The practice of collecting oral history has been around for a long time. The so-called father of history, Herodotus, used oral sources to compile his early Greek histories. Today oral history continues to be a popular and fruitful technique for historians to capture the "voice" of a person who actually experienced an event or time period. From these individual accounts, historians can often draw larger conclusions about historical eras, geographical areas, and specific events.

WWII veterans often think that they do not need to provide an oral history because they did not serve in combat, or they do not feel that what they did was of great importance. That is not the case, because the history of World War II continues to be written today. In the coming decades, historians will be asking new and different questions about the Second World War. Many of those questions will probably relate to the contribution of those who did not directly participate in combat. So now, more than ever, it is of crucial importance to preserve the history of all who served during World War II.

Some of you have indicated you are interested in being interviewed. The questions below will help you be prepared to give a good interview. The interviews will be conducted when you schedule it. The contact person is:

Seth Paridon  
Manager of Research Services  
The National WWII Museum  
504-528-1944 ext. 312  
Toll free 877-813-3329 ext. 312  
Seth.paridon@nationalww2museum.org

We always thank you for your service, and now we thank you for sharing your experiences.

#### Sample questions.

What is your full name? When and where were you born? What were you doing before the war? Were you married or single? Where were you when you found out about Pearl Harbor? Did you enlist or were you drafted? What was your branch of service? (USA? USN? USMC? USCG? USMM?)

When did you enter service? (month-day-year) Where did you enter service? Where did you receive your basic training? Describe basic training. What weapon(s) did you qualify on during basic training? (M1903 rifle? M1 rifle?) What qualification level did you achieve? (Marksman? Sharpshooter? Expert?) What was your military specialty? (Infantry? Artillery? Airborne? Armor? etc.) Describe the people you trained with in basic training.

When did you deploy overseas? What theater of operations were you in? What was your port of embarkation for deployment? How long did it take for you to reach your theater of operations? Did you receive any training after you were deployed overseas? What type of equipment were you issued before you were deployed overseas?

Were you involved in any invasions? (please describe) Were you ever taken under enemy fire? (please describe) Did you return fire? (please describe) What was the food like? Did you admire your commanding officer? Did you admire the people you served with? Were you wounded? Did you get enough sleep?

Where were you on VE-Day? Where were you on VJ-Day? When did you return to the US? How long did you serve overseas? What are some of your most memorable experiences during WWII? Did your service in WWII affect the rest of your life? If so, how?

What lessons for today's generation would you like to pass on? Is there anything I forgot to ask you about your service during WWII?

**Attention All 96th Infantry Division Association Deadeyes, Families, and Friends**

We have not heard from many of you for a long time! We currently have over 1,100 names on our list, many of whom have not paid dues in several years. We spend over \$1,500 per year sending out the Deadeye Dispatch. If you would like to maintain your membership and continue to receive the Dispatch, please complete the membership form located below. Your financial support of the Deadeyes is always appreciated.

**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.

MEMBERSHIP DUES			
<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	2 years.....	\$18
		3 years.....	\$24

**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



**70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
Okinawa Battle Tour**

*Submitted by Don Dencker*

Valor Tours has scheduled an Okinawa Battle Tour for June 19 to 26, 2015. This 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa tour will cover critical battle areas experienced by the 96th Infantry Division while also fully covering this climatic battle of World War II.

In the past, many 96th Division Deadeyes have visited Leyte or Okinawa with a Valor Tours group. We have found Valor Tours to be a very responsible tour operator. In the past period, 1990 to 2007, I led 13 Valor Tours to Leyte or Okinawa.

To obtain an Okinawa tour brochure, call Valor Tours at 1-800-847-4504.

**THANK YOU**

*Many thanks to the people who have contributed towards the restoration of the 96th Infantry Division Monument which were badly damaged by a typhoon that struck Leyte, Philippines Hill 120 at Blue Beach 1. Restoration underway.*

*Don Dencker*



# Deadeye Feature

## World War II Jeep Fulfilled Life-long Dream for Deadeye Herman Buffington

Submitted by Helen Buffington

Deadeye Herman Buffington often thought about how much he'd like to have a Jeep like the one that had hauled him off the Okinawa battlefield when he was wounded.

But he was busy going to school, working, courting a young lady, starting a family and launching a business. Both time and resources were limited and the idea of a Jeep had to be put on the back burner. At one point, his wife got him a miniature Jeep but that didn't really fit the picture!!!

By the 1990s, the Deadeye began putting more thought into his dream of owning a real World War II Jeep. When he told his son Scott about his dream, the son began doing some research. Before long, they had found one that seemed just right and by spring 1995, a partially-restored 1943 Jeep was parked in the Buffingtons' yard.

A great deal of work was yet to be done but that is what Buffington wanted, a Jeep on which he could do some restoration himself. However, unfortunately, it was about this time that his vision began to fail. He was suffering from ischemic optic neuropathy. The vision loss was not total so he was able to continue with some aspects of the restoration, aided by his sons, Scott and Mike, and friends who also were Jeep aficionados.

They bought such things as wheels, tires, a new top, a shovel and an axe. Buffington subscribed to military vehicle magazines, studying them to find out exactly how such a Jeep should be outfitted. A unique feature of his Jeep, however, is that he labeled it with the 96th Division logo and displayed the name of his outfit, Company K, 383rd Regt., Third Bn. The United States flag and the flag of the 96th were mounted at the front, one on either side.

Eventually, the Jeep was in top-notch shape. Buffington bought an 18-foot long trailer for hauling the vehicle. They took it to military vehicle shows across North Georgia for several years. The Jeep was also decorated and driven in Christmas parades in his hometown of Jefferson, Ga. As the three grandsons became older, they began driving the vehicle about town and occasionally to school. After his lone granddaughter landed the Jeep in a ditch, she declined invitations to join the boys in driving the Jeep! The stick shift seemed to be a challenge.

Buffington's health began to fail in the 2000s and he became largely bedridden in 2012. But the Jeep was parked in his carport and when he was able, family members pushed his wheelchair out so he could touch and sit by the Jeep. It seemed to give him great pleasure just to see his Jeep.

Buffington passed away July 13, 2014. When his military final rites were held atop a hill in his hometown, Buffington's Jeep was parked nearby, put there by his grandchildren as a loving tribute.



*FAMILY & DEADEYES... These were the two primary passions of Herman Buffington's (Company K, 383rd Infantry, 96th Infantry Division) purchasing of a World War II era Jeep. He is shown above with grandson, Martin Buffington, shortly after the restoration project was completed.*



*PARADES and FINAL RUN... Even after he lost his vision in the late 1990's, Buffington was still able to oblige requests to ride in his Jeep during Christmas, Memorial Day and Fourth of July Parades around Jackson County, Georgia (above left with his three grandsons). His grandchildren parked the Jeep on a rise near his final resting place last July at his funeral (above right). Note the 96th Infantry Division flags, emblems and other Deadeye markings on the vehicle.*



Twice each year, the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association produces this newsletter. The association would like to find someone to help lay out and design the Deadeye Dispatch. If you have computer design skills and want to volunteer some time and be part of this effort, please contact Scott Buffington at [scott@mainstreetnews.com](mailto:scott@mainstreetnews.com) or 706-621-5685.

# Deadeye Feature

## Deadeye Bill Hill makes Veterans' Day Presentation to Middle Schoolers in Indiana



In honor of Veteran's Day, a presentation was made to the students at the Brownsburg East Middle School in Brownsburg, Indiana on November 10, 2014 by William R. Hill of Indianapolis.

He is a decorated member of the US Army 96th Infantry Division and saw combat in WWII on Okinawa. He and his daughter Janet Wharton have a contemporary website: [www.rememberthedeadeyes.com](http://www.rememberthedeadeyes.com). This web site has Mr. Hill's complete story as well as handouts given to the students, items of interest to all age groups, and his latest feature; Deadeyes: Queen of Battle.

The video presentation can also be seen on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxF8xPa1w\\_E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxF8xPa1w_E). Or, just go to YouTube and search for "William Hill Deadeye."



William R. Hill  
Indianapolis, Indiana

### Notes from Hill's presentation:

My Buddy  
Nights are long since you went away, I think about you... all through the day,  
My buddy.... My buddy.....Your buddy misses you.

America  
My country tis of thee... sweet land of liberty  
Of thee I sing.  
Land where my fathers died.  
Land of the pilgrim's pride.  
From every mountain side let freedom ring

- War is a terrible way to solve problems, but it is sometimes necessary to defend our way of life.
- If you desire to join one of the Services consider it an honor to serve your country.
- Cadence: It is used while marching. Step off on the left foot and shout: I left, (space) I left, (space) I left my wife and forty eight kids with nothing but gingerbread left; your right (space) your right. Time it just right while marching and do it all over. I left etc.



Your speaker this afternoon is William R Hill. He is from Indianapolis and served his country in WWII. He has spoken to groups several times and has also interviewed several times. His experiences in the service and especially Okinawa are well recorded on his website, which has been on-line six years. The father-daughter team shown here is William on the left and Janet Wharton of Grand Lake, Colorado on the right.



There are other notable Hoosiers covered on this site. Famous Actress Margery Main from Action, Indiana was the Deadeyes Pin-up girl. She met them in San Francisco when they came home.

Another very famous Hoosier is Ernie Pyle from Dana. He was a war correspondent for Scripts-Howard in both the European Theatre of operations and the Pacific. He was killed by a sniper on the Island of IE Shima just west of Okinawa in April, 1945 while with the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.



The heavy cruiser The USS Indianapolis was a real menace to the Japanese Navy in the South Pacific having earned six battle stars. While on duty near Okinawa a Japanese suicide bomber crashed into it causing much damage and so it was sent back to the States for repair. When the repairs were completed the Indianapolis delivered parts for the Atomic bomb to the Island of Tinian. It was later sunk. There is a fine memorial to this famous ship on the canal in Indianapolis.

Mr. Hill's unit was the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, and was also known as the "Deadeyes" for their marksmanship. General Easley shown here shows correct firing form.

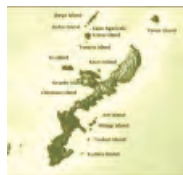


The official Deadeye shoulder patch is shown here.



The 96<sup>th</sup> Division participated in two major battles. The first battle was for the Island of Leyte in the central Philippines. It was needed to regain the initiative and to secure a foothold in that area against the Japanese. The Island was invaded in Oct of 1944.

The second island; Okinawa was needed for a base of operations to attack mainland Japan. It was about 325 nautical miles south of Japan proper. 300,000 Americans were involved in that battle, and many Americans died. Mr. Hill joined the Deadeyes in May of 1945 as a replacement. He was in M Co.



Infantrymen in WWII were called Dogfaces. They often lived in "pup tents", were too often treated like dogs and wore dog tags on their necks for identification. Here is an original art piece created for our Website for your amusement.



Infantrymen are also known collectively as Queen of Battle, and Artillery as King of Battle. Please visit the Deadeye site for a very detailed explanation.



An amusement in WWII was Kilroy. He was seen everywhere. Mr. Hill first saw this comic personality at Camp Atterbury and all places he traveled in the service. We have a complete and interesting story waiting for you on site.

Kilroy is even engraved in the WWII Monument in Washington D.C. as shown here in granite.



If you have any questions about the Deadeyes, please contact us by using the "Contact Us" button on the first page of [www.rememberthedeadeyes.com](http://www.rememberthedeadeyes.com).

A Handout from William (Bill) Hill's Address to Indiana Middle Schoolers

# Deadeye Feature

## Scenes from Minnesota Monument Dedication last July

- Photos submitted by Barb Schmidt -



### 96th Infantry Division Honored at Fort Snelling Monument Dedication

The 96th Infantry Division, which was one of the premier fighting units in the Pacific Theatre during the war, was recognized at a monument dedication ceremony at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, MN in July 2014. The division has received the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism, and four of the men received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Col. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr., a chaplain, wrote the dedication address.

The division was popularly referred to as the Deadeyes because of their marksmanship. They have been the subject of documentaries, books and articles.

Don Dencker, a Deadeye himself, who did the dedication, says "our opposition was tough, so we had to be tough to beat them."

Other Deadeyes attending the ceremony described the monument as "fitting."

"I think it's a fitting ending to the memory that we have and that the country should have of the people, particularly of the guys that were killed and were casualties during the battle," said Bob Siefert, another member of the 96th Infantry Division. He and his wife unveiled the monument.

The new monument at Fort Snelling will complete the series honoring the 96th Infantry Division at various locations across the country.

Courtesy of Jennie Olson, KSTP-TV





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## Deadeye Caps

*(above art not an exact depiction)*

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

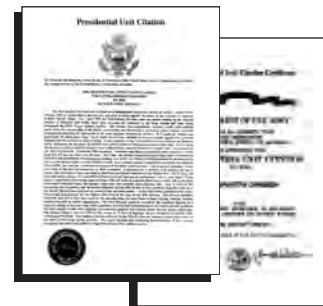


## "Okinawa Etched Deep in My Mind"

*This book by Herman Buffington is again available in a limited quantity.*

Buffington, who passed away in 2014, was a combat infantryman in the last battle of World War II, the Battle of Okinawa. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army's 96th Infantry "Deadeyes" Division and this book is his personal recollection of the battle.

Price is \$10. To have a book mailed to you, send a check for \$13.70 (\$10 plus tax & shipping) to Helen Buffington, 162 Jett Roberts Road, Jefferson, GA 30549. For more information, call 706-614-4354.



## 96<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Division Presidential Unit Citation Documents Available

Two color photo copies: Presidential Unit Citation Certificate and Presidential Unit Citation Text  
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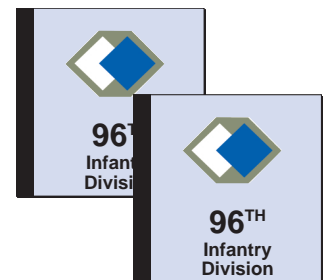
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## Love Company Book

Author Don Dencker has sale copies of Love Company for \$15.00, 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.

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