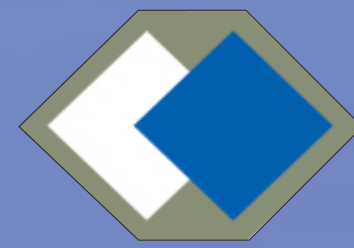


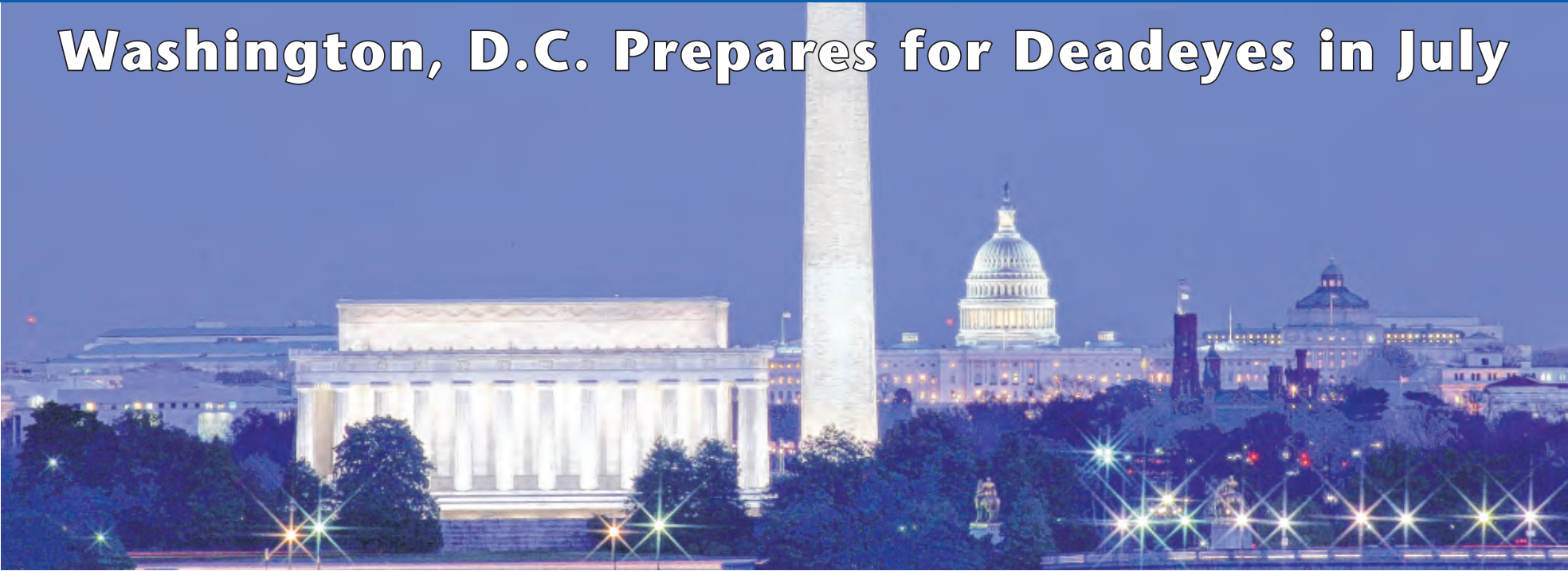
# DEADEYE DISPATCH



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

Spring, 2016

## Washington, D.C. Prepares for Deadeyes in July



### Why attend the 59<sup>th</sup> annual 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Reunion in Arlington, Virginia?

*To our very dear WWII Deadeye veterans, wives, families and friends:*

I hope this Deadeye Dispatch finds you all well and in good spirits. After a busy week of finalizing the details of the 59<sup>th</sup> annual reunion to be held at the Holiday Inn Rosslyn in Arlington, Virginia, on Thursday, July 14 through Sunday, July 17, 2016, I considered, why attend the Deadeye Reunion this year?

I could mention the location the Holiday Inn Rosslyn which offers free parking, reasonable dining, and a breakfast buffet included with the room rate. In addition to the hotel's restaurant on the top floor with the panoramic view, the hotel also has a café which offers breakfast treats, ice cream, soup or sandwiches. Within a block and a half, is a Metro station should DC's many attractions beckon you.

Naturally, there are the usual reunion events: This year's tour includes a wreath laying at ANC (Arlington National Cemetery) at the 96<sup>th</sup> monument, as well as a stop at a DC museum with lunch and a final stop at the WWII memorial. Many of us remember its dedication and the fun we had staying at the same hotel and coordinating events over breakfast each day.

There is also the Beer Bust with a performance by the incredible singing and dancing duo, Letters from Home. They bring back the music and fashion of the WWII era and interact with the audience while honoring the WWII veterans present. They are worth the trip alone.

We will also hold the annual

Memorial Service on Saturday morning, a time to remember those who have gone on before us. We will sing some favorite songs and hear inspiring words from the speaker. It is a great time to remember why we reunite each year.

We will take the reunion picture at the hotel's ballroom: the veterans; the wives and widows; and finally, the group picture. Following the picture, we will be updated at a general membership meeting by Association President, Don Klimkowicz, with news of the association and Heritage Fund. Then the group will split to luncheons. The ladies' will meet to enjoy a "Walk Down Memory Lane" with Mary Eleanor Wood Smith guiding us back in time while enjoying "girl time." The ASTP group (and any other interested men) will meet as well with the same menu at a separate location to catch up on events since their last time together. Please feel free to invite your children to attend with you. A third luncheon group is available too for friends and family just wishing to have a group luncheon.

Saturday evening brings the banquet, the close to another precious reunion. Our speaker

this year is Retired MG Jim Collins. We dress to impress, taking pictures with cherished friends we see perhaps only at reunions, but very dear nevertheless. Then before we know it, we are off to bed to get ready for the next day's travel home. Should you wish to arrive early or stay an extra day or two, please contact me so I can make sure the 96<sup>th</sup> group rate applies to your entire stay.

So why attend this year's reunion, besides the events listed above? Well, for me as the daughter of a Deadeye (and former Marjorie Main impersonator), there are two very important reasons: (1) it is the one time that our family gathers every year - this includes grandparents, parents (that's us kids now), and grandchildren (now all grown) and (2) it is the time that my other family gathers - friends that have been made over the years at reunions and visits outside of reunions, and also new friends I will make this year.

Travel has become challenging for the WWII generation; for those of us in the "Sandwich Generation," life is very busy with work and family obligations; and for the younger

crowd, life is too fast with barely any time to stop or consider what opportunities (such as the reunion) will not always be available. So I urge all of you to gather once again, rehear old stories, renew friendships, make new friendships and step out of your usual routine to meet in Arlington in July to honor our WWII Deadeyes and remember their sacrifices which enabled us to enjoy the freedoms we take for granted.

I will close with some song lyrics from a while ago which came to mind while writing this article. I cannot guarantee sunny weather, but I do know attending a Deadeye Reunion is very good for your well-being! I hope to see you in Arlington in July,

Sincerely,  
Annie Moroz Duncan,  
Daughter of Mike Moroz,  
382nd, Company L  
(and 2016 Reunion Chair)

*Grab your coat and get your hat  
Leave your worries on the doorstep  
Life can be so sweet*

*On the sunny side of the street*

*Can't you hear the pitter-pat  
And that happy tune is your step  
Life can be complete  
On the sunny side of the street*



REGISTERED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
OFFICE PERMIT NO. 90  
JEFFERSON, VA

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

Edith Arlene Beeler  
Widow of Buddy Beeler  
Newaygo, MI  
September 29, 2015  
by Pat McMillan

Mathilda (Gerlemann) Birkmann  
Stony Hill, Missouri

Lowell R. Butler  
Westerville, OH  
321st Medical Battalion  
November 30, 2015  
by son, Mark E. Butler

Val Heinrich  
Sarasota, FL  
361st FA  
January 28, 2016  
by daughter, Bev McAdam

Erma Helsel  
Quitman, TX  
May 12, 2015, by USPS

William "Bill or Mouse" Hofmann  
Veneta, OR  
Co. C, 381st Infantry  
August 10, 2015  
by wife, Lorelea Hofmann

Roy Holmes, Jr.  
Memphis TN  
Co. B, 382nd Infantry  
June 11, 2015  
by John Iseli, Jr.

Ray H Lewellen  
Point Marion, PA  
November 11, 2015  
HQ Co. 383rd  
by William G Brown

William C. Porter  
Lt. Col. (Ret.)  
382nd Infantry  
by Facebook & Tina-Rae Martin

Niel Rinehart  
Roseau, MN  
Co. I, 382nd Infantry  
December 4, 2015  
by grandson, Joel Robinson

Don John "Jack" Shearer  
Glendive, Montana  
by wife, Betty

Raymond "Ray or Doc" Strenski  
DePere, WI  
Co. K, 383rd Infantry  
February 16, 2016  
by Facebook post

Mary Young  
Claremont, CA  
Widow of Deadeye, James  
Richard "Dick" Young (d. 2010)  
Co. I, 382nd Infantry  
September 28, 2015  
by daughter, Anne Wiedenmann

## 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**  
PO Box 34, Trempealeau, WI  
54661-0034  
Phone: 608-534-5141  
or 608-317-2496  
Email: ddoebrien@trivest.net

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


## Deadeye Reunion Cities

YEAR	CITY	ST	YEAR	CITY	ST
1958	St Louis	MO	1988	Peoria	IL
1959	Chicago	IL	1989	Rapid City	SD
1960	Kansas City	MO	1990	Omaha	NE
1961	Detroit	MI	1991	Spokane	WA
1962	Dallas	TX	1992	Louisville	KY
1963	Little Rock	AR	1993	Sparks	NV
1964	Portland	OR	1994	Hot Springs	AR
1965	Minneapolis	MN	1995	Lubbock	TX
1966	Indianapolis	IN	1996	Des Moines	IA
1967	Omaha	NE	1997	St Louis	MO
1968	Chicago	IL	1998	Ft Mitchell	KY
1969	Des Moines	IA	1999	Denver	CO
1970	Detroit	MI	2000	Salt Lake City	UT
1971	Denver	CO	2001	Omaha	NE
1972	New Orleans	LA	2002	Kansas City	MO
1973	Peoria	IL	2003	Tulsa	OK
1974	Indianapolis	IN	2004	Salt Lake City	UT
1975	Kansas City	KS	2005	Washington	DC
1976	Fort Worth	TX	2006	Denver	CO
1977	Cincinnati	OH	2007	Salt Lake City	UT
1978	New Orleans	LA	2008	Nashville	TN
1979	Denver	CO	2009	Branson	MO
1980	Springfield	IL	2010	Milwaukee	WI
1981	Milwaukee	WI	2011	Columbus	GA
1982	Dearborn	MI	2012	Colorado Springs	CO
1983	Houston	TX	2013	San Diego	CA
1984	St Paul	MN	2014	Chicago	IL
1985	Oklahoma City	OK	2015	New Orleans	LA
1986	Fresno	CA	2016	Washington	DC
1987	Memphis	TN	2017	Minneapolis	MN

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**Philippine**

**Presidential Unit Citation**



Awarded to  
**96th Infantry Division**  
**United States Army**  
20 October 1944 through 1 March 1945

For acts and services of exceptional gallantry and heroism rendered by its officers and men during the Leyte Campaign, from 20 October to 1 March 1945. The 96th Infantry Division landed with General Douglas MacArthur in Leyte on 20 October 1944. Capturing the critical terrain of Catmon Hill which was fiercely defended by elements of the 16th Infantry Division of the Imperial Japanese Army, the Division advanced through deep swamps and penetrated to Tubon-Tubon which was heavily infested by the enemy. After four days of attack, counterattack and heavy losses of personnel and equipment, the Division succeeded in defeating the enemy. Again, in December 1944, the Division participated in the counterattack against the 2nd Parachute Brigade, Imperial Japanese Army which was then assaulting the airfields and supply depots in Central Leyte Valley. By these achievements the 96th Infantry Division, United States Army, greatly contributed to the success of one of the decisive battles of World War II and earned the lasting admiration of the Republic of the Philippines and its people.

OFFICIAL: FABIAN C VER  
General, APP  
Chief of Staff

BINFOAOSO L DUQUE  
Brigadier General, AFP  
The Adjutant General

By direction of the President, pursuant to paragraph 19-1, Section II, Armed Forces of the Philippines Regulations C-131-052, this Headquarters, dated 24 April 1947, to which the PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION BADGE is hereby awarded to the 96th INFANTRY DIVISION UNITED STATES ARMY

**Philippine Presidential Unit Citation**

*Submitted by  
Don Dencker,  
Deadeye Historian*

In addition to the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation, which is the highest Award given to a U.S. Military unit, the government of the Philippines awarded the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation to the 96th Infantry Division. This award was awarded to the 96th Infantry Division for leading the United States return to the Philippines by landing on Leyte, Philippines on October 20, 1944 and assaulting the occupying elements of the Japanese 16th Infantry Division.



# 2016 Deadeye Reunion

## Reunion Notes from Mary Eleanor (Sis)

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!

### 1. DEADEYE BOOK SCHOLARSHIPS

Look to your right or online at Deadeye website for details. Open to high school juniors and seniors and college or graduate level. Must have a Deadeye legacy. You can send a hard copy of this to me at the address below. It must be received by June 1, 2016. Notification will be reported to applicant after that date. Applicant, if attending 96th Infantry Reunion, will be asked to share entire or part of essay at reunion. Not required to attend reunion to receive notification. More info on page 4.

### 2. AUXILIARY OBITUARIES

Request for names of ladies and addresses that were members of Ladies 96th Infantry Division's Auxiliary who have passed during 2000-2016. Please send the name of the deceased as well as the name, address, email and telephone number of living relatives. This will allow us to compile a list for Dispatch and a list to be posted at reunion location in 2016.

### 3. SILENT AUCTION

We're requesting that you send or bring a "Love Gift" for a Deadeye silent auction to be held at the reunion in July. Monies raised will benefit the association's Book Scholarship Fund for relatives of live or deceased Deadeyes. The silent auction will be held during the July reunion, at the Beer Bust or in the Hospitality Room. Notification, payment and gift pick-up will be done before Saturday's Banquet. This will offer plenty of time for people bidding to have gift in hand before packing to leave the reunion.

### 4. RECIPE REQUEST

We would like all association gentlemen and ladies to send their favorite food recipes. We want to compile a small recipe booklet for the association members and friends. When sending

**ENTRY FORM FOR  
DEADEYE SCHOLARSHIP**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Deadeye Connection \_\_\_\_\_

His Regt. \_\_\_\_\_

His Company \_\_\_\_\_

Plans for Future Education:

College \_\_\_\_\_

Tech School \_\_\_\_\_

Career Education \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*The applicant should present a 3-7 typewritten page essay that could be printed in a local newspaper or given as a speech to educate non-Deadeyes on the influence of the men who served their country in military service and then as productive members of their individual communities.*

**Here are some questions which could be answered via the essays:**

- Do you know the reason for the term "Deadeyes"?
- Where did they fight?
- Can you find those sites on a map?
- Can you describe their strategic importance?
- What was their importance in the ending of the war in the Pacific?
- Are you aware of any "buddy" friendships your Deadeye maintained over the years?
- Can you relate a story that your Deadeye shared with you or your family?
- What are the ribbons and medals these soldiers received?
- What does the Presidential Unit Citation mean?
- How would you express, in one sentence, your appreciation to these men?

*Entries should be sent to:*  
Mary Eleanor Wood Smith  
2104 Slash Court  
North Augusta, SC 29841

*(Contributions to the Scholarship Fund are welcome).*

recipes, please include what you serve with the food selection.

### 5. HOW-TO ADVICE

We would also like to have your best home remedy or "how-to" advice. When you are brainstorming, think about things like time-tried remedies for the younger generation. What to do for bee stings, how to clear

water marks on a crystal vase, how to survive and remain a loving relationship with your spouse, child room safety, what makes a good, inexpensive gift for folks over 65, etc.

Any and all of this information can be brought to the reunion or mailed to me at this address:



## Friday's Reunion Tour

- Arlington Cemetery
- Air & Space Museum
- World War II Memorial

We will be offering a tour on Friday that will begin in Arlington Cemetery at the 96th Infantry Division memorial. The memorial was placed in 1999 with a living tree, which has become quite prominent.

We had a wreath laying ceremony in 2005 when we last had the reunion in Washington and are honored to participate in a wreath ceremony again this year.

Afterward, we will tour the area to view as many other iconic monuments as we can from the bus. This will be followed by a visit and lunch stop at the National Air and Space Museum. Plan to eat lunch on your own here at the food court and view our many national artifacts on display.

Finally, we plan to visit the World War II Memorial where we will see the solemn splendor of the monument that represents the most significant event in modern times: the Allied victory in World War II over the Axis powers. No other event has done so much to shape the time that we live in, even to this day.

The price of the tour is for transportation only. The Air and Space Museum entry is free and lunch at the food court is on your own and not included in the tour price.



Following this we will return to the hotel to rest up and get ready for dinner and the Beer Bust.



**Mary Eleanor Wood Smith  
2104 Slash Court  
North Augusta, SC 29841**

**Or email me at:  
mewoodsmith@gmail.com.**

**Remember, God is always Good!  
Mary Eleanor "Sis" Wood Smith**





## Lou Groza: A noted NFL Star... and a Deadeye

Lou "The Toe" Groza was the rare combination of offensive lineman and kicker. He was also a Deadeye.

In 1943, Groza enlisted in the U.S. Army as WWII fighting and battle theatres intensified. After joining the Army Service Training Program, he was sent with the 96th Infantry Division to serve as a surgical technician in Okinawa in 1945.

While at war, Groza received a package from then Ohio State football coach, Paul Brown. It contained footballs and a contract to play on a team Brown was coaching in the new All-American Football Conference - the Cleveland Browns.

While Groza would eventually be known for revolutionizing the kicking position, he spent the majority of his 21-year career as an All-Pro offensive tackle.

Groza died in November, 2000. Today, the Lou Groza Award is presented annually to the top College Football Placekicker in the nation.

### ONLINE 96th SITES

- The name of our website is: "96th Infantry Division Deadeyes Association" and the address is: [www.96thdeadeyes.org](http://www.96thdeadeyes.org)
- The name of the Facebook Group is: "96th Division Deadeyes."
- Another good site that has a lot of historical information is: "Remember The Deadeyes" and the address is: [www.rememberthedeadeyes.com/](http://www.rememberthedeadeyes.com/)

On our Association website, the best source is the Home Page. There are numerous links in the "History of the 96th Infantry Division" section on the upper left side of the page. It provides details about the battles and other WWII info. Below the History Section is a link to "Recommended Reading" which is a list of books Don Dencker compiled that are related to the 96th. Also on the Home Page is a link to "Soldiers' Stories" which is mostly individual recollections.

## Deadeye Dispatch Change of Address Form

Clip and mail to:

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

OLD ADDRESS	NEW ADDRESS
Name _____	Name _____
Address _____	Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____	Phone _____
Email _____	Email _____

## Let's honor and support the 96th Division Deadeye Dispatch

We have not heard from many members of our Deadeye families for a long time! We currently have over 1,000 names on our mailing list and spend over \$1,200 per year sending out the Deadeye Dispatch. The Association is seeking donations to support the Dispatch mailings; your support is always welcome and appreciated.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Please include email address) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

*(Phone and email will only be used if we need to contact you --The 96th Infantry Division Association is committed to respecting and protecting the privacy of its membership)*

**Please accept my donation to help cover the cost of the Dispatch and the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please designate if this gift is in honor/memory of one of our beloved Deadeyes:**

• **In Honor or Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

*Checks should be made payable to the:*

**96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association**  
c/o Dennis O'Brien  
PO Box 34  
Trempealeau, WI 54661-0034

**THANK YOU!!**







# 2016 Deadeye Reunion

## Deadeye Reunion 2016 - Hotel Information



- 2016 -

96th Infantry Division  
 Deadeye Association Reunion  
 Arlington VA



- **Dates: Thursday, July 14, through Sunday, July 17, 2016**

- **Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge**  
 1900 North Fort Myer Drive  
 Arlington VA 22209

- **SPECIAL DEADEYE RATE IS \$119.99 PER NIGHT**, which includes a buffet breakfast. *(The tax rate per room, per night is 13%.)*

- **MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATION** under the **BLOCK CODE I96** or block name 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association.

- **SIMPLY CALL THE IN-HOUSE RESERVATIONS** system to speak with Cynthia; the phone number is **703-807-2000 or 1-800-368-3408**. Should you require a handicapped room, please mention this when making your reservation.

- **TAKE NOTE** of the following IMPORTANT DEADLINE: You will have until JUNE 13, 2016, to make your reservation under the Deadeye block. After June 13, reservations will be accepted at regular hotel rates, if available.

### Hotel Details:

- Free Car Parking Available
- Health/Fitness Center On-Site
- Indoor swimming pool
- Free Internet
- Within walking distance to a Metro Station





# REUNION REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JULY 1, 2016

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 1 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 2016 REGISTRATION FORM

Mail this completed form with your check to: make check payable to 96th Infantry Div. Deadeye Assn.

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

For questions contact: Annie Moroz Duncan at (302) 594-0715 or via email at anniemorozduncan@gmail.com

Description	Price Per	# People	Total
<b>Registration Fee before July 1</b>			
Registration Fee before July 1 - 18 yrs old and above, \$16.00 per person	\$ 16.00	# _____	\$ _____
Registration Fee before July 1 - under 18 yrs old, \$2.00 per person	\$ 2.00	# _____	\$ _____
After July 1, the registration fee will be \$25 per person	\$ 25.00	# _____	\$ _____
Wheelchairs must be pre-ordered and will be available when you arrive at the hotel - fee is for three-day rental	\$ 65.00	# _____	\$ _____
<b>Friday, July 15, 2016</b>			
DC Tour, ANC wreath-laying, National Air & Space Museum, WWII Monument (tour cost for transportation; lunch will be out-of-pocket for attendees)	\$ 25.00	# _____	\$ _____
5:30-6:30 pm Pre-Beer Bust Buffet Dinner, "Southern Picnic" - \$36 per person includes fried chicken or baked ham, salad, vegetable, beverage & dessert	\$ 36.00	# _____	\$ _____
7:00-10:00 pm Beer Bust - Patriotic Theme - pls wear red, white & blue! Live entertainment; cash bar	\$ 7.00	# _____	\$ _____
Beer Bust adult admission \$7 per person; under 18 \$2 per person	\$ 2.00	# _____	\$ _____
<b>Saturday, July 16, 2016</b>			
10:00 am Memorial Service; followed by group picture (same location)	NO CHARGE		
11:30 am General Membership Meeting	NO CHARGE		
1:00 pm Ladies' Luncheon	\$ 20.00	# _____	\$ _____
1:00 pm Mens' ASTP Luncheon (others are welcome to join)	\$ 20.00	# _____	\$ _____
1:00 pm Please check if you are not part of either group listed above, but would like to participate in a group lunch. You will receive informaiton at registration		# _____	
6:00-7:00 pm Cocktail Hour - cash bar			
7:15 pm Banquet			
Banquet - Chicken Marsala	\$ 40.00	# _____	\$ _____
Banquet - Flounder stuffed with MD Crabmeat	\$ 40.00	# _____	\$ _____
Banquet - London Broil	\$ 44.00	# _____	\$ _____
Banquet - Vegetarian - cheese tortellini with pesto sauce	\$ 28.00	# _____	\$ _____
Banquet - Childrens meal (under 12 yrs & under) - spaghetti & meatballs	\$ 20.00	# _____	\$ _____
<b>Reunion T-Shirts</b>			
Adults - sm-med-lrg-xlrg \$15.00 Sizes 2XL and higher \$17.00 Child \$13.00			
Adults - # sm ____ #med ____ #lrg ____ #xlrg ____ Other size ____ Total Shirts # ____	\$ _____	# _____	\$ _____
Child - # sm ____ # med ____ # lrg ____ Total Child Shirts # ____	\$ 13.00	# _____	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED FOR REGISTRATION, EVENTS &amp; SHIRTS:</b>	\$ _____		

**Pls make check payable to 96th Infantry Div. Deadeye Assn., Dennis O'Brien, PO Box 34, Trempealeau, WI 54661-0034**

# Deadeye Reunion 2016

2016 Reunion Events...

## Entertainment by "Letters from Home" to highlight Beer Bust

Letters From Home, otherwise known as America's Bombshell Duo, started in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in 2010, and is now one of the fastest growing musical groups in the United States. The duo of performers (Erinn Diaz & Amanda Newman) sing in harmony and tap dance in their incredibly comedic and moving patriotic performances.

The group started at the suggestion of Pat Dearth, a Coast Guard veteran who loves the 1940's-style music. With their mission to honor veterans, active military and their fami-

lies through the music and spirit of the 1940's, the group has toured in over 20 states including North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington D.C., New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Idaho, Rhode Island, Oregon, Washington, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Kentucky, Texas and Alaska.

The duo performs in theaters, for air shows, cruise ships, schools, patriotic celebrations, schools, military bases, VA hospitals, VFWs, American Legions and many more. The

group's manager is Nelson Diaz.

They will dazzle you with their tap dancing. They will fill your memories with their voices.

They will charm you with their personalities.

They will touch your hearts forever with their patriotism.

THE MISSION OF LETTERS FROM HOME is to travel the country, honoring our nation's veterans, active military heroes and their families by reviving patriotism through music.



Other "on-your-own" reunion event possibilities....

## Free Military Pageant to be in Washington, D.C. on July 20

Twilight Tattoo is an hour-long, live-action military pageant featuring Soldiers from The 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) and The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own."

Experience a glimpse into American history through performances by The U.S. Army Blues, vocalists from The U.S. Army Band Downrange and U.S. Army Band Voices, The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, and The U.S. Army Drill Team.

The 2016 Twilight Tattoo showcase will begin May 4 and run through August 3, every Wednesday with the exception of July 6 and 13. There will be no Twilight Tattoo scheduled for July 6 and 13.

All Twilight Tattoo performances begin at 7 PM, with pre-ceremony pageantry starting at 6:30 PM, Twilight Tattoo will be performed on Summerall Field from May through August.

Wednesday, July 20 at 7 p.m. Summerall Field, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall

This performance is free and open to the public. For more information on group reservations, contact the U.S. Army Military District of Washington at (202) 685-2888 or email us.





# Deadeye News & Features

## Combat Narrative: 96th Infantry Division in World War II

The division arrived in Hawaii 23-31 Jul 44, and trained on Oahu where it prepared for operations on Yap. The division moved to Eniwetok Island 11 Sep 44 and was informed its participation in Yap operations was

canceled 15 Sep 44, whereupon it was diverted to Leyte Island, Philippines instead. The division remained afloat at Eniwetok Anchorage until departure 28 Sep 44 for Manus Island, where it arrived 3 Oct 44 and there

remained afloat until leaving for Leyte 14 Oct 44. The division landed near Dulag 20 Oct 44 and took San Jose and advanced inland across swampy terrain against pillboxes; the 381st and 383rd Infantry fighting at Catmon Hill

21-29 Oct 44 and completing mop-operations there 1 Nov 44, and the 382nd Infantry taking Tigbao 22 Oct 44 and then fighting the Battle for Tatnauan 26-28 Oct 44. The 383rd Infantry pushed across the Guinarona River despite supply difficulties, and the 382nd Infantry attacked toward Bloody Ridge west of Dagami in 2 Nov 44, repulsing Japanese counterattacks 4-5 Nov 44, and battling on the ridge 5-7 Nov 44 with clearance completed 10 Nov 44. The division

of Bishi River on Okinawa against light resistance on 1 Apr 45 and drove down the western coast toward the Uchitomari area by 4 Apr 45. The 383rd Infantry fought the Battle of Cactus Ridge 5-7 Apr 45 as Uchitomari fell; and then tackled Kakazu Ridge commencing 8 Apr 45, a surprise attack storming the ridge 9 Apr 45 but the next day it was forced off. The 381st and 383rd Infantry attacked up its slopes again 10 Apr 45 and the division was subjected to major

engaged in the battle for Maeda Escarpment, 29-30 Apr 45. The division was rehabilitated 1-8 May 45 and relieved the 7th Infantry Division at the eastern end of the Shuri Line on 10 May 45. The 383rd Infantry fought the Battle for Dick Hill Mass 11-18 May 45 as the 381st Infantry fought the Battle of Sugar Hill 18-21 May 45. The 383rd Infantry fought the Battle for King Hill 19-20 May 45 and then the Battle for Love Hill 22-30 May 45. The 382nd and 383rd Infantry fought the battles for

### 96th Infantry Division organization chart, 1944-45

Submitted by Don Dencker

With respect to this chart, the three rectangular boxes on the left represent the three infantry regiments in the division. They are the 381st, 382nd and 383rd infantry regiments. The boxes, top to bottom in the middle, are the 361st, 362nd and 931st artillery battalions which were equipped with 105 millimeter howitzers, while the 363rd battalion had the larger 155 millimeter howitzers.

On the right are the other units of the 96th as follows, top to bottom:

- 321st Engineer Combat Battalion
- 321st Medical Battalion
- 96th Reconnaissance Troop
- 96th Signal Company
- 96th Ordnance Company
- 96th Quartermaster Company
- 96th Military Police Platoon

In addition, there were division and infantry regimental headquarters companies, plus infantry regimental antitank, cannon and service companies and medical detachments.

Units at times attached to the 96th Infantry Division are on bottom left of chart: 763rd Tank Battalion, 593rd Joint Assault Signal Company and parts of the 88th Chemical Mortar Battalion with 4.2 inch mortars.

### 96th Infantry Division World War II - Pacific Theater

Commander.....MG James L. Bradley - Aug 42

Casualties: Killed in Action.....1,563

Casualties: Wounded in Action.....7,181

Casualties: Died of Wounds.....473

completed the relief of the 7th Infantry Division in the Tanauan-Dagami-Dulag sector about 4 Nov 44 and assumed responsibility for its defense. It patrolled and mopped up, securing the western Dagami heights and Alto Peak by 25 Dec 44. On that day Leyte Island was declared secured, but the division continued mopping up operations and relieved the 11th Airborne Division of tactical responsibility on Leyte 14 Jan 45. Two battalions were sent to Samar to relieve the 1st Cavalry Division of garrison duty at Catabalogan. On 10 Feb 45 the division was relieved of all combat duty in the Philippines and trained for Okinawa operations. It embarked 14 Mar 45 and made landing rehearsals near Vincay 17-19 Mar 45 and departed for Okinawa 25-27 Mar 45.

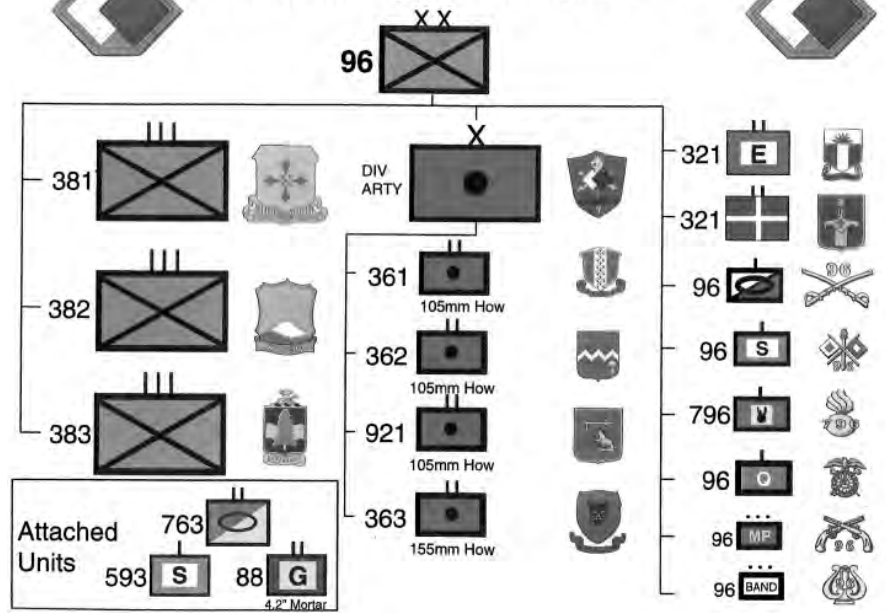
Japanese counterattacks 12-14 Apr 45, after which the 27th Infantry Division took over the battle. On 17 Apr 45 the division was moved to a new zone of action on the Tanabaru-Nishibaru defenses. The 381st Infantry pushed through Kaniku 19 Apr 45 and fought the Battle for Nishibaru Ridge 19-24 Apr 45 as the 382nd Infantry fought on Tombstone Ridge 19-20 Apr 45. Task Force Bradford was formed from three divisions to destroy the Kakazu Pocket, and the division secured the high ground in the Tanabaru-Nishibaru area against opposition by 24 Apr 45.

The 381st and 383rd Infantry attacked Maeda Escarpment assisted by flamethrowing tanks on 26 Apr 45 and met strong opposition on the reverse slopes. The division was relieved in line, still

Oboe Hill and Haen Hill 21-30 May 45. By 31 May 45 the division had cleared its zone north of the Yonabaru-Shuri-Naha Road and started pursuit operations.

The division cleared opposition near Chan on 1 Jun 45 and drove southwest. The 381st Infantry fought the Battle for Yaeju-Dake Escarpment 6-14 Jun 45 and took Yuza-Dake Peak on 16 Jun 45. The 383rd Infantry was engaged in the Battle for Yuza 11-12 Jun 45. The division attacked into the Aragach-Medeera area 18-22 Jun 44, when Okinawa was declared secure, and turned to mopping up operations on the island. On 1 Jul 45 it moved to Kamizato for rehabilitation, and then left Okinawa 22 Jul 45. It arrived in Mindoro Philippines 1 Aug 45 where stationed at the end of the war.

96th Infantry Division, 1944-45



The division landed south



# Deadeye News & Features

## Deadeye Bill Hill spends Veterans' Day at schools

*Indiana Deadeye, Bill Hill, spent last year's Veterans' Day keeping the history of the 96th Infantry Division alive by visiting classrooms near his home in Indianapolis. Here are some scenes from his visits:*



*At St. Susanna, a Catholic School in nearby Plainfield, Indiana*



*At Cardinal Elementary, a public school in Brownsburg, Indiana*



## Veterans' Day 2015

*by William Richard Hill, Deadeye*

Americans are proud of their veterans!

I have a beautiful memory of the day.

It was my personal pleasure to tell parts of my WWII story to the students of four schools on this Veterans' Day. There was a mix of students in first, fourth and eighth grades.

My presentation was for the most part respectful of their ages. In each school students, sang with me a few lines of the famous song, "My Buddy," honoring those who sacrificed their lives for their country.

Students were very respectful and I received many personal messages thanking me for my presentation and service to our country.

Over 300 students honored Veterans' Day 2015 with me!

Special thanks go to Carol Ford, Glenn Hine and Stephanie Gessner for making these presentations possible. They have served as guardians on the Indy Honor Flights and are special people in my life.

*Note: Bill also has an extensive web site with items from the 96th Infantry Division and Association. Visit the site at [RememberTheDeadeyes.com](http://RememberTheDeadeyes.com).*



Remember  
the **DEADEYES.COM**  
96TH INFANTRY





# Deadeye News & Features

## Oldest Army jeep finally gets some TLC

By Mark Phelan,  
Detroit Free Press

Seventy-five years after it impressed the Army, the oldest known jeep is getting some much needed attention.

GP-No.1 is on display in the Veteran's Memorial Museum in Huntsville, Ala. The museum and the Historic Vehicle Association just finished verifying its history and documenting that GP-01 is one of five original test vehicles — two from Ford, two from Willys Overland and one from American Bantam.

Originally called the "Pygmy" and built and tested by Ford engineers in Dearborn and Detroit, GP-No.1 is the only one of those prototypes known to still exist in North America. The GP designation is believed by many to have hatched the name "jeep."

The Pygmy had features that remain prominent on Fiat Chrysler's Jeep brand today,

including the upright grille with vertical slots that are literally the brand's trademark, Historic Vehicle Association president Mark Gessler said.

"The government didn't really know what it wanted," when jeep development began, Fiat Chrysler historian Brandt Rosenbuch said. The Army began work on specifications for a light four-wheel-drive reconnaissance vehicle in 1937 with American Bantam of Butler, Penn.

"Bantam deserves the vast majority of the credit for developing the basic concept and capabilities that became the Jeep," Gessler said.

Henry Ford was a staunch pacifist with little interest in the war brewing overseas, but he thought a little four-wheel-drive vehicle could be useful for agriculture, one of his passions. His more globally minded son Edsel used that opening to spearhead the GP-No.1 project, begin-



ning a process that would see Ford become a vital supplier of wartime equipment.

"It's an icon of World War II and a symbol of wartime production by the auto industry," said Matt Anderson, transportation curator at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn. "It's also the grandfather of all

SUVs. It's very rare to be able to trace a whole class of vehicles to a single one, but this is where it all began."

Willys built 362,894 wartime Jeeps, all at its headquarters plant in Toledo, Ohio. Ford built 285,660, initially at the Rouge plant in Detroit that today produces F-150 pickups. Ford later added Jeep production in several other plants around the country, including Louisville, Kentucky, where it still builds pickups and SUVs.

American Bantam got the short end of the stick, building just 2,676 Jeeps. The Army threw the little company a bone with a contract to build the trailers that hauled equipment behind Jeeps.

*When soldiers from Headquarters Company, 15th Infantry come to a bad spot with their "Blitz Buggies," they just picked them up and move them. The Jeep was the latest in battlefield equipment early in World War II. (Photo: Army)*

The Jeep remained in military service for decades, but it was popular with civilians before the guns of World War II even fell silent. Willys got special permission to begin building civilian Jeeps months before other automakers were allowed to switch from wartime production and resume their usual businesses.

"It was initially marketed as a farm vehicle," Rosenbuch said. "That's why the government allowed civilian production, to help get the economy up and running after the war."

Henry Ford donated GP-No.1 to the museum that bears his name in Dearborn in 1948. It remained there, getting surprisingly little attention, until the museum sold it and some other "minor" items from its collection in 1982.

History buff Randy Withrow of Huntsville snapped it up.

"It gave me a chill," he said. "I couldn't believe they'd auction it off."





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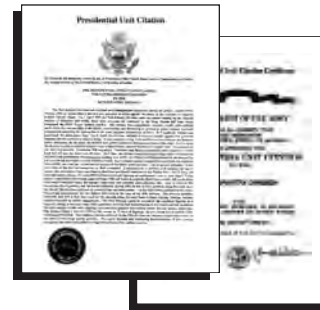
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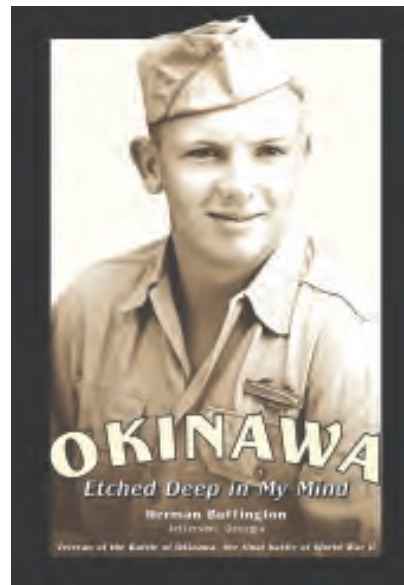
## 96<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Division Presidential Unit Citation Documents Available

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,  
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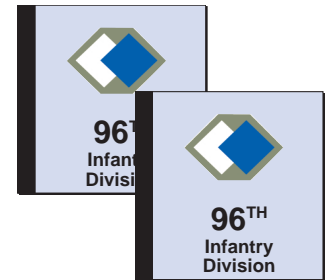


## "Okinawa Etched Deep in My Mind"

*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.



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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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