

505 R.C.T. WWII

Regimental Combat Team



973 Gladys St.  
Derby Lake  
Stanton, Michigan 48688-9122

DATED MATERIAL

# The Panther

#2  
July 2007

ITALY

CENTRAL EUROPE

ARDENNES

RHINELAND



Sicily

Holland

NORMANDY



505 PIR.



82nd A/B Div.

## 505th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

To all Members of the 505 RCT and Family & Friends:

Since the last Panther in February our committes have been busy with planning for the (October Reunion at Ft.Bragg, NC Oct 24th-28th. It will be held on Base, Moon and Hardy Halls. Most of the 82nd units will be in Iraq according to the News Reports; however there will be a few troops available for Details, such as Driving Bus etc. The 505 PIR will not be back from IRAQ until some time in November 07 and we wish them the very best.

To you who remember The Static Line Paper was the 505 RCT Paper during WWII; and was Published many times overseas. In May1967, with a big attendance of WWII Veterans in Reunion at Ft.Bragg: Don Lassen took over the Paper. He has made a good monthly News Paper out of it, with most old and new Airborne Units Represented.

*505th RCT WWII UNITS*

*\*\*\*505 PIR \* 456PFA \* B-307ENG \* 307MEDICS \* 80AA\*\*\**

On April 23,07 (Feb Issue) my Static Line arrived, and un  
be known to us the 505 RCT Column has been taken over  
by Don Lassen. He doesnt like what we havebeen doing  
about writing The History of our RCT Units. When we  
organized the 505 RCT; that was part of the deal, to find  
out the History of said Units. This is our 21st year for our  
RCT. I called and talked withLassen for 20 minutes; Bob  
Murphy has also called and talked with Don Lassen. HE  
MAINTAINS THAT ITS HIS Paper, and he will publish  
what he wants. We as the 505 RCT unit are still shocked  
at this move by him. The bottom line is we want our 505  
RCT Column BACK to use as we see fit.

He has turned our 505RCT Column over to a young man  
in Holland, who wants to write a Book about 505 Soldiers  
buried at Margration Cemetery in South Hollabnd. We  
don't feel its necessary to take our column for this  
purpose.

For all those getting this Panther; Please take a few  
moments: to call or write a note to Don Lassen expressing  
our request to have the 505 RCT column returned to the  
rightful owners.

DON LASSEN Static line p.o.Box 87518 College  
Park,Ga. 30337 Phone 770-478-5301  
Don McKeage President

From: Star Jorgensen

Re: "Static Line" Column

As is his right as owner/editor of the newspaper, Don Lassen has taken over the space and the column heading, becoming the new correspondent. Any information regarding the World War II 505 Regimental Combat Team – stories, memoirs, histories, etc – that you wish to see published in the "Static Line," should no longer be sent to me.

Dear Don and Bob,

It's a pity that it has come to this -- I do understand that I could suck it up and continue to write the column as I always have, with it appearing under a different heading - but it's not what I signed on to do - and I think I also made my points clear as to why I don't want my column under his new heading.

### **The Brotherhood**

*"I now know why men who have been in the military yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who suffered and were stripped of their humanity.*

*I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades.. Such good men."*

*Author unknown*

**Subject:** Thank you on Memorial Day

On this Memorial Day, I want to thank all of you who served in our military to protect all of us and the way of life that we enjoy. We are forever grateful for the tremendous sacrifice that you made to ensure that generations after you would benefit from the freedom and peace that your service secured for us. I and my children are among those generations.

May the peace of God go with you and your families always. I am honored to salute every one of you!

Best Wishes,

Michael Kellam  
proud grandson of Maj. Frederick C.A. Kellam

2007 505 RCT Association Reunion  
(Family & Friends of the 505 RCT Association)  
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

The Reunion Committee is, as always, headed by VP/Reunions, Bob Murphy ([a505@juno.com](mailto:a505@juno.com), 508.394.0797), and this year, Bob is aided by Star Jorgensen ([starjorgensen@hotmail.com](mailto:starjorgensen@hotmail.com), 309.454.3430), President/Family & Friends, and Ellen Peters ([eeptx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eeptx@sbcglobal.net), 214.352.7002), Treasurer/Family & Friends. With Fort Bragg as the location, retired Command Sergeant Major Ted Gaweda is the very able man-on-the scene.

Registration fee is \$75 per person and covers the cost of stocking the hospitality room, the luncheon, the banquet, and any required transportation to special events. Dates are Thursday, October 25, through Sunday, October 28. Registration Form is enclosed.

Seventy (70) hotel rooms have been reserved at Moon Hall on post, and each attendee will be responsible for their own hotel charges (estimated to be \$45 per night) at check-out. The Reunion Committee will make each attendee's hotel reservations, based on the information provided on the Registration Form. Members (veterans and honorary) of the 505 RCT Association will be given first priority in the allocation of these rooms, followed by members of Family & Friends who are current with their dues.

If you are even "thinking" about attending the reunion, please e-mail or phone one of the Committee members so that a preliminary room count can be taken. Early arrival and late departure may be limited, so unless it is absolutely necessary to do otherwise, please make your arrangements so that you arrive Thursday and depart Sunday.

If you are flying into Fayetteville Regional Airport, there will be transportation provided to post. Remember that a photo ID must be shown at the post checkpoints—especially if you are driving a personal vehicle. If you are a foreign national (and we do hope that our friends and members from England, France, Holland, and Belgium will be able to attend), you must be met and escorted to Moon Hall, so please provide that information on the Registration Form as well.

Details still need to be worked out, but it is hoped that a demonstration jump by the Liberty Jump Team, in full WWII gear out of a C-47, will take place on Friday or Saturday on Sicily Drop Zone at Fort Bragg—with a static display included.

LTG (R) Jim Lindsay has agreed to be the guest speaker for the Memorial Luncheon. General Lindsay is a former commander of the 505, the 82nd, and the XVIII Airborne Corps. Historically, the current commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team (505) is the guest speaker for Saturday night's banquet; however, the 3rd Brigade will be deployed until early November. Therefore, CSM Gaweda intends to ask another former commander of the 505, LTG Lloyd J. Austin III, to speak Saturday night. Quite an honor, as LTG Austin is the current Corps commander. We will still have some representation from the current Brigade, as there is a Rear Detachment at headquarters.

Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Committee. Let's make this Reunion "one for the record books!"

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**Subject:** Fw:Normandy 1944 - 2007

dear friends,

remeber the date, to-day it is June 5. It is a wonderful peaceful day, at least here in Nijmegen.

But 63 years ago, the world was completely different, Allies were fighting the Germans and Japanese troops. Allied troops were having a hard fight in Italy. Western Europe was still occupied, but soon it beacme something else. Normandy was subject to a big invasion. Amphibious troops were on board and on their way to the invasion beaches. Troop Carrier crews were checking the airplanes and gliders, paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions were checking their equipment, attaching the parapacks and all were eager to go, afterall they had been training for this big moment.

> In a couple of hours the engines of the C-47s were started and the planes with their passengers were enroute.

> Many veterans are in Normandy now.

> thought you wanted to remember this date, as well as to-morrow 63 years ago !, althought perhaps you wanted to forget this date

> greetings from overseas

> Jan Bos

**Subject:** John Gamon

Hi Jim, John's birthday is June 22, he will be 89 yrs, old. John was in the first, paratrooper school in the 82nd. He joined the army in Aug. 41. John made 4 combat jumps the battle of the Ardennes. I think that John would like cards from his F&F. John's address is ....

John Gamon

8 Edwards St.

New Haven Ct. 06511

Jim, John was in the 2nd Bn.Hq. His discharge said the 507 Rg. That was because of the time of his discharge. He was in St.M. E. in 06, he was in a wheelchair. I am looking forward to seeing him and all our guys at the reunion in Oct.

Elton *Heath*

**Subject:** What a wonderful book, Gavin and his daughter.

Dear Barbara and Star,

I want to thank you for sending that book I did not want it to end, I never felt ashamed the many tears I shed as various writing would effect me. I am so glad I had a chance to be in that war, but as I go through life I hate to admit it but I feel I lost a lot by missing the Bulge , the last battle, I went so far and lost out on it's end, John Perozzi carried on for me and can tell me all that happened, he is writing a book telling his part and I can't wait to read it. I knew what our General Gavin went through for his men and they loved him, I will never foret his speaches he has made from the hood of a Jeep, those clam bakes that he would refer to a combate jump, I do thank God he did see I made all four I see the extra work our Star Jorgenson put in that helped to make the book, God Bless you all. The time it has taken to put it together. I know I wrote my story when my mind was fresh, Time Out For Combat, it was not all hell and even combat I can't say was hell I recall my shoot outs worth thinking over as now and again I will wake up in the night and relive some of the action with a nice feeling I am still here. I have finally figured it out. World War Two has given me the memories of the kind of life I needed to end it, the many men I have met that would not have had there been no war. General Gavin in our corrispondence both figured. Sicily was our main jump for there is where we found our true values of what we were cabable of doing. His friendship has meant an awful lot to me. I want to thank Ellen Peters to for the many things she has done for me, God Bless you all.

All my life there has been a bible handy and I have read various parts of it from various books, I carried a Testement all through combat and never read a page but I thought I may one day be wounded and what better book would there be to read. Well some time back I did start reading the Bible, testements and all and I just have about four pages left, I feel good, God has been good to me and I feel he has been with me many times. My prayer before a combat Jump, "Oh God give me strength and wisdom to lead my men and do with me as you will." I know he answered my prayers. I never made promises I knew I would not keep. I left my wife and a baby boy when I went to war, I carried his little shoe next to my heart through out combat. I loved them both, but the call to war was mucf stronger, I was a trained soldier of over four years in the Cavalry, I just had to get back in and the Airborne was my choice, my father taught me woodcraft and I was shapshooter with the 03 Springfield rifle and other arms. I fit well into the Airborne. and belonged there. Once a Captain didn't think I was non com material but General Gavin did and I got my stripes back it was a nice feeling to know our General was behind me. I want to thank you all again for putting this book together, it is priceless.

Otis L. Sampson  
E Company 505th. 82n Airborne Division

Dearest Otis,

You cried reading the book -- I cried reading your note. How I wish I could give you a big hug right now!

Your buddies would be the first ones to tell you that they were glad you missed out on the freezing cold, the deep wet snows, the horrific artillery barrages--all of the miseries of the Battle of the Bulge.

You are a man beyond description, Otis Sampson--my life has been enriched and blessed because I got to be your friend...

God bless, blue skies and always only the softest of landings, love Star

From Deryk Wills, For the Panther.

The weather here in the UK for Memorial Day at the Madingley Cemetery was a disaster. Continuous rain, floods, bitterly cold and high winds lasting all day curtailed the ceremony and the members of the Leicester Chapter decided to cancel our arrangements to attend, much to our regret. It was reported later that we had received one month's rain in one day making driving very difficult. This was the first time we have not attended for many years, but we fully intend to make the journey to Madingley when the weather improves to place our wreath in the Chapel and pay our respects to the eleven men of the 505 who are interred there. They are:

PFC ISAAC BASARICH., PVT SHERWOOD W. BLASDEL, PFC LESLIE D. FRIES, PVT LOUIS M. KILLEBREW, PVT JAMES J. LENAGHAN, SGT HAROLD H. NICHOLS, PVT WALTER P. OLSON, PVT RALPH R. REED, CPL KENNETH A. VAUGHT, PFC ROBERT L. LEAKEY. On the 'Wall of Missing' is PFC ROBERT C. BOWMAN.

In total the cemetery holds there remains of thirty-three 82<sup>nd</sup> men. The arrangements for the service had already been confused by the change of the organizing USAAF Squadrons from Lakenheath to Mildenhall and we, like many other intended participants, never received our invitations. Everything had to be conducted by telephone at the last minute.

One member, our intrepid Sam Evans, braved the rain and attended to lay the wreath for the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. Many years ago when I was with some members of the Screaming Eagles, hearing about what we do each year at Madingley, asked us if we could do the same for their men who are also interred there. They have thirty-six men buried there and we immediately agreed, with Sam volunteering to do the honors.

In April we marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of General James Gavin's birth with a story and a photograph in the city's evening newspaper, the Leicester Mercury. We do have a local road named after him – James Gavin Way – and they used a photograph, taken in 2004, with his eldest daughter, Barbara, standing by the road sign. The name Gavin always creates a lot of interest as the 82<sup>nd</sup> are never forgotten locally, even after sixty-three years.

I am always getting inquires about the 82<sup>nd</sup> and it is getting harder to find anybody to get the right information. Only recently I had an inquiry about a Military Police Sergeant based at the Headquarters on Braunstone Park who was a Cherokee Indian and I am still searching for his name. Can anybody help?

By the way, four days on from Memorial Day it is still raining and cold -- whatever has happened to global warming?

Deryk Wills.

> To WW!! Veterans.

> The Mayors of Aywille, Stoumont and Werbomont wish to invite WW11 veterans to attend their Independence Day celebration during the week-end of September 8 and 9. Tentative dates of the tour are September 6, date of departure, to September 18. This will allow about six days in Belgium and six days in Holland September 17, Market Garden anniversary date.

> The Belgians have welcomed the WW11 veterans for many years. It would be appropriate for us to join them to celebrate this very special event. This tour was officially organized in Normandy on June 2, 2007. COSTS: this tour is organized, so each person will pay their own expenses, meals, hotel B and B, the bus cost will be shared by each traveler. Each person will arrange his or her own plane schedule. There will not be any financial gain or profit by an agent.

> This system has worked out very well during a number of recent C-47 Club trips.

> If you are interested call 1-219-836-7974 or e-mail

<rfary@mailstation.com>

> Ray Fary



D-DAY MUSEUM NEW ORLEANS  
MAY 19 – 23, 2007

I was called by Steve Droter about a week before I left for the wonderful D-Day Museum at New Orleans. Steve had invited me to attend functions, but I was not sure that I could make it. However, when he said the Henri-Jean Renaud (son of the Ste Mere Eglise D-Day Mayor) and his wife Yvette, along with our newest 505 RCT Honorary Member, Madame Auvray, the new SME Museum manager, Patric and several others, I quickly decided to make the visit and also make some video tapes for Steve. There are many D-Day eye witness reports, video tapes and films including the airborne area of Normandy drop zones, glider landings (say crashes) and all the beaches. There is also a WW II C47 aircraft and British Spitfire hanging from a very high ceiling. Hundreds of WWII mementos.

There were many meetings and on one night a wonderful BBQ at a French family's home, with hundreds of tiny, tiny crawfish. We had a great luncheon at the New Orleans World Trade Building on the top floor. All first class. A good time to converse with all our good friends from Ste Mere Eglise. After lunch we went on a SUV tour of at least 600 private homes and businesses damaged by Katrina. It's a terribly depressing sight. Eighty percent are not repaired and unoccupied. The insurance companies have refused to pay for flood damage as, they claim, these homes were not damaged by Hurricane Katrina. I wish I was a Louisiana lawyer!

On the night of May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we all attended a "Victory Ball" and all our French SME ladies had on evening gowns, or very beautiful formal dresses or suits. The men in tuxedos. A fantastic dinner was served with all kinds of wine (and water on the rocks for me) and chocolate desert with a special take home D-Day Museum souvenir.

Henry Kissinger was the guest speaker and he stated that he came to the United State in 1939 from Germany, applied for citizenship and was drafted in 1943. He trained at Camp Croft, SC for infantry (where I did in 1942) and wound up in the Infantry. He was in the Battle of the Bulge and later Germany. Then to Harvard on the GI Bill and a life of Government Service., you all know about.

If you are ever in New Orleans, you have to spend about three hours at the D-Day museum. Well worth a visit and now they are building a new addition next door.

We all stayed at the Monteleon Hotel in the French Quarter which was not damaged in Katrina. Some great museums and old buildings there. Lots of music. I barely got back home when it was time to take off for SME on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Airborne,

Bob Murphy

Dear 505 vets and their Friends & Families:

As I started this letter and put the heading on it I thought how fortunate that we are to have had Don and Jennie Mc Keage for the many years they have worked tirelessly to keep us all together and now Star Jorgensen. Our Families and Friends organization can ensure that the Heritage of the 505 will be still known and respected when the last of we old timers of World War II and their wives have gone to join their comrades who made the supreme sacrifice or have just been the victim of old age.

It pains me that our great country is not more united in the support of the 82 Airborne Division and all of the other United States Armed Forces as they strive to bring a better world for the people of Iraq, Afghanistan and all of the other places in the world that still depend on the United States of America to lead them.

There are many good people that believe we should not be involved in all these Foreign wars, They may be right but it is my firm belief that our Armed Forces are just as dedicated and courageous as the 505 th RCT was in Sicily, Italy, Normandy, Holland, the Bulge, and East Germany however, we are all saddened by the number of good American troops that are wounded or lose their lives trying to bring freedom and a better life to people in many parts of the world. It may take longer than we ever expected. However, we can accomplish that mission if we continue to support our troops until our enemies are defeated.

United States troops are doing an excellent job, Our country needs to give the troops the military forces and equipment that are necessary to win this war with the minimum of casualties.

Unfortunately the USA is the only country in the world with the forces and ability and the will to correct the many injustices we know are happening all around us. We cannot police our entire world but in those situations where we are already involved we are in my opinion obligated to use the troops and weapons we have ready to fight. It may be only a defense but we all know that the best defense is a strong and effective offense.

God has blessed the United States with the natural resources that give us a great economy. With that economy we can support a strong military. There are going to be situations where we make mistakes but that is not an excuse to roll over and play dead.

Surely our supreme God will give us victory over the many other countries that would like to rule all of us.

Sincerely,

*E. J. Sayre*

*Hope to see you at  
the Oct reunion -*

	<b>TAPS</b>	
Bob Teague	Regt Hdqs	11-26-06
James McCool	Sv Co	12- 3-06
Bill Follmer	I Co	1- 5-07
Robt.J Veria	Regt Hdqs	1-26-07
Mis Print in Feb Panther		
Bob buried in Arlington National Cemetery		2-14-07
Samuel F. Ellis	307 Engs	2-21-07

Maxine Boswell, 82, wife of Henry "Duke" Boswell( a G - 505 4 combat jumps member) died May 29, 2007, after a long illness. She is survived by her husband,"Duke" and two sons Ralph Boswell and Jamie Boswell.Funeral is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5 2007 at 2: p.m.. at the Shrine of Remembrance.1730 East Fountain Blvd. Colorado Springs, 80910. Telephone for Duke is 719 633 3569.

Our condolences to The Families & Friends of our  
 Departed. May they rest in Peace

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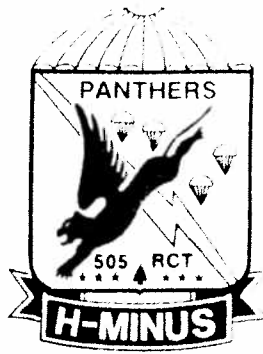
Many of our good Comrades are suffering from many ailments. We offer you a ray of sunshine,Get well soon

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Please send all death notices to our Editor  
 Don McKeage 973 Gladys St. Derby Lake Stanton, Mi.  
 48888-9122



505 PIR.



82nd A/B Div.

505th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

mrsMary Ann Veria

3812 90th Ln SW

Olympia, WA. 98512

Dear Mary Ann:

Sorry to hear of Bob's passing and sorry we blew the name. I remember Bob Very well, in the many trips my buddy George Ziemski always found Bob in the John Steele Hotel in Ste Mere Eglise, Normandy. Many of our 505 RCT Buddies are Buried in Arlington National Cemetery. I remember when I got this notice for "TAPS" I questioned the name. I didn't make the first mistake, but I sure did the last one, when I printed it that way. I am very sorry for this error. It will be corrected in the June Issue of "THE PANTHER". You will get the next issue of The Panther and it will be corrected. Many thanks again for contacted me about this matter. We hope your health remains. Our WWII people are leaving us very fast. Most are in their 80's. We are trying to decide how many RCT members are still alive. The very best to you always.

AIRBORNE for ever. Don Mckeage; President again and Still Editor of THE PANTHER

Don McKeage

I am looking for information regarding 2/Lt Francis G Calo of Hq.Co 2nd Battalion, 505th. He was killed in the town Square at SME on D-Day after landing on a telegraph pole. I wish to find out if any of his family are around, as each year when we go to Normandy me and a group of friends lay wreaths on the graves of one man from the 82nd and one man from the 101st. This year 2/Lt Franis G Calo is our man and we'd really love to let his family know.

Regards, Adam, UK (BERRY)

Dear Family and Friends,

My Mom, who is 86 this year, sent this email to me remembering our trip on the 60th Anniversary of D-day to Normandy. My family attended The Greatest Generation Memorial Exhibit created by Michel DeTrez. It was one of the highlights of our lives.

Michel published my Father's pictures and stories of the medics in his book titled, Doc McIlvoy and His Parachuting Medics. I feel this book has been an honor to not only the medics of the 82nd, 505th., but to all medics of all wars.

As my Father said in the writings about the medics, "War is an author's favorite subject, but it mostly relates to generals and fighting men; little is written about the medical aid man and his contribution. The exploits and lives saved by the medics were many and deserve a book of their own...A soldier, if he was not killed outright or wounded so badly that he would not live, became a human challenge. The medic felt like this soldier had every right to live, and his managing to evacuate so many of the casualties was amazing to the medical officers in both Battalion and Regimental Aid Stations. Only by his bravery, were we able to patch up and send back so many mutilated brave paratroopers to the medical teams of surgeons.... To a medic, a wounded man in need of help calls for action, irrespective of where he may be. The aid man knows the risks involved, he has witnessed fellow aid men killed and wounded, yet he will unhesitatingly and repeatedly take this risk... To them goes that highest admiration of their medical officers and those who must live or attempt to live in the front lines."

At this time near the anniversary of D-day, I want to thank Michel DeTrez for his present work and his continued work to honor the 82nd, 505th and other veterans of WW II.

My Mom, my two sisters and I hope to travel to France in 2009 for the 65th Anniversary of D-day and see Michel's museum in Carentan, The Carentan Historical Center. [www.paratroopermuseum.org](http://www.paratroopermuseum.org)

Michel's Book Store is [www.d-day-publishing.be](http://www.d-day-publishing.be) and his personal email address is [d-day@skynet.be](mailto:d-day@skynet.be)

If anyone is interested in purchasing a book, I received some from

Page 2 of 3

Michel and can send one to you. If you are interested in reading the book, I can also lend one to you to be returned to me.

Go to the Book Store website and scroll down to Figures and see the action figures he made, one of which of my Father!

Our mission in this organization is to protect and to preserve that RCT's World War II legacy and to guarantee that it is not forgotten by passing down its history to future generations. We must remember to graciously thank those who have worked and continue to work so tirelessly to achieve this same mission.

Thank you Michel DeTrez. We are forever grateful for your dedication to this mission.

Sincerely,  
Annie McIlvoy Zaya

Remember where we were 3 years ago this time of year- In France for 60th anniversary of D-Day.

What a wonderful trip and an honor for our hero - Col. Daniel B. McIlvoy - Thanks to Michel DeTrez, Pierre Verbreyt and his other helpers for the large display in museum honoring Doctor Dan. The highlight of the trip was seeing the big house (castle) close to St. Mere Eglise in the country side that was used for aid station in WWII. In Doctor's collection he had pictures of same house . Michael did lots of research.

It has been a pleasure selling the book "The Way We Were" to friends and giving speeches to interested organizations. Also my daughter, Mary Anne Zaya, devoted many hours gathering pictures and information for Michel Detrez to write the book on the medics of the 82nd Airbourne--He is a well known author.

We all hope to visit Carentan Historial Center (Log on to [www.paratrooper museum.org](http://www.paratrooper museum.org)) for more information.

Always fond memories-  
Polly McIlvoy

**From:** jsparry@comcast.net  
**Date:** 5/21/2007 7:36:09 PM  
**To:** Family and Friends 505RCT  
**Cc:** judemichelle22@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** FW: Members of my Fathers "C" company

----- Forwarded Message: ----- From: To: Subject: Members of my Fathers "C" company Date: Sun, 13 May 2007 13:24:41 +0000 > Hello, > > My name is Jude Sweeney, and My Father fought in the 505th RCT, C Company. > His name was Fred Sweeney, and he passed away in 1974. I am contacting > you to see if there are other members of "C" company that might have known > my father, and how I might be able to contact them. > > Best regards, > Jude Sweeney > judemichelle22@yahoo.com >

Turk Seelye called me a few days ago to tell me he was moving from Gary, IN to Ozark, MO . He said the area where they lived was getting pretty bad with the crime problems. His new address is 5619 N. 17th. Street Ozark, MO 65721 after June 8th. He asked me to let everyone know.

Airborne,

Friends,

On Saturday June 9th The State Of Minnesota dedicated (finaly) a Memorial to the Veterans of WW2. I had the pleasure of visiting with many of them and heard some incredible stories. I also had the pleasure to sit between two of our own, both made all four jumps--Al Larson "B" Company 505 and Clarence "Bud" Ollom RHQ 505. some other notable that were present-- Ed Haider "X" Btn 504 (they jumped in Sicily with the 505) his brother Walt who made 5 landings with the Marines in the Western Theater and Col. Delbert Kiehl (ret) who was the regimental Chaplain of the 504 who made the Waal River crossing at Nijmegen.

What an Honor to see them all..

Steve Anderson

**Chaplain's Corner. 505 RCT. June 2007**

**The worst of all wars in the world was in 1941-1945 and we pray that we will never have another like it. The only thought that I have is that God was on our side. I am including the Fact Sheets of World War II. If anyone sees this who has never seen it before they will be shocked by the number of dead and wounded.**

**In Ernie Pyle's Walk on the Battlefield he was able to portray the real life of the soldier when many others have failed. He had a way of describing a battlefield so vividly that it would make you feel that you were on the scene. He wrote "When we leave here for the next shore there is nothing we can do for the ones beneath the wooden crosses, except to pause and murmur: 'Thanks, Pal' ."**

**Dear God we thank you very much for the privilege of being a paratrooper in the 505 RCT. We are all proud to have served with the best. We are so grateful for the outstanding leadership of the Troopers, Family and Friends. Many thanks for the unity and love that binds us together in a great friendship. We thank everyone who fills our ranks. Our special prayer for those who fell in battle and to those who have finished their earthly journey.**

**May they rest in peace.**

**Airborne all the way,**

**Jesse Crews**

HERE TO THERE

by

Tim Dyas

Phases

by

Tim Dyas

As I sat in the VA waiting room  
Studying my fellow veterans  
I knew they'd not be here  
If they hadn't been there  
"There" you ask, where is there?  
It was everywhere they fought  
For our flag from the Pacific  
To the continent of Europe,  
On land, air, and sea  
In WWII, Korea, and Viet Nam  
For Iraq had not arrived yet  
But we had a bond of steel as warriors.

Battle -

We saw our comrades die.

Return -

We came back home with relief and joy.

Impact -

We were saddened to find family members had died and even, in some cases, childhood friends had died in battle. This was to be a deep part of our psyche for life.

Living -

We went to school, married, and had children while carving out a career.

Ending - We saw our battle survivors who'd lived full lives called to God and that sorrowful psyche came to the fore.

Dedicated to the  
memory of  
Don Sweet

3 March 2007

22Feb.07

The Savannah Hilton Head Island Chapter is proud to announce their 2007 Memorial Day Program. The Chapter will be honoring all fallen paratroopers at the Beaufort National Cemetery in Beaufort, South Carolina on May 28, 2007. The Chapter will be marching in the Beaufort Memorial Day parade and participate in the community program at the cemetery. Following the community program, at approximately noon, Chapter members will move to the grave of Col Ben Vandervoort where they will conduct a brief wreath laying ceremony. We expect members of the Vandervoort family to be present along with a Color Guard from the 505PIR and various noted authors and troopers that served with "Vandy" during WWII. Following the program we will move to a local AMVETS Post for a lunch and reception. All paratroopers are invited to attend and to be a part of the ceremony. For additional information you can contact Chapter Chairman Bill Eberle at 843-682-4171 or [weberle@earthlink.net](mailto:weberle@earthlink.net).

William L. Eberle

Fraternally,



## D-DAY 2007 STE MERE EGLISE - 63 YEARS LATER

My journey to Ste Mere Eglise began on May 31<sup>st</sup> out of Boston with arrival on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 AM in Paris airport. Bill Sullivan Hq1/505 met me at the airport and picked up our Europcar car for a one week rental. The Paris traffic at 9:00AM was terrible and the directions given us were wrong. We were lost several times. The route numbers are absolutely crazy and very difficult to understand (even for a Pathfinder). We finally arrived in Ste. Mere Eglise about 4:00pm at the famous "Stop Bar" for our "check in". No passport necessary! Then on to our LaFiere Manoir B&B where Bill and I have been staying for many years. Move the clock ahead six hours time difference.

Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> was the American Airborne event with about 75 U.S. Special Forces troopers jumping at the La Fiere DZ on a great sunny day. They are Army active duty stationed in Germany. The usual 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division jump was cancelled as most of our troopers are in Iraq or Afghanistan. The LaFiere DZ area was crowded with several thousand visitors watching the jump and attending the memorial services and placing flowers at the Airborne Iron Mike statue overlooking the 1/505 LaFiere Manoir and bridge battleground.

To finish off June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Liberty Jump Team members with (former French paratrooper) Dom Lunay, husband of Jill (F&F), had a great jump at Carentan. That team later jumped at three other towns from 2-9 June. They used a C-47, painted as they were in WW II.

The Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mass at the most famous ancient Ste Mere Eglise church was well attended with Father John D. Bolderson, Jr. and his brother David on the alter assisting the Pastor with Mass. Father John Bolderson, Jr. and David are the sons of the A Company bazooka man, John D. Balderson, who was awarded the DSC for knocking out the German tanks along with comrade Lenold Petersen and his assistant Marcus Heim and Gordon Pryne. My book, "No Better Place to Die", describes this battle in detail and these heroic men. The Bolderson brothers said that they have a most cherished memory for standing on their father's battleground.

On the afternoon of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Yvette Renaud and I had a "kids party" for about eleven children between 3 and 9 years old. I brought all the little girls bracelets, necklaces and watches. For the older girls (5-9) a pocketbook. One boy had his special presents. Yvette provided all the ice cream and goodies. It was a most happy time for me to be with these children who hold the future of democracy in their hands.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, Bill Sullivan and I spent a good part of the day at the high school talking about "Operation Democracy" and a program to exchange kids from France, USA, Jordan and other countries. This is an organization originally started between Locust Valley, Long Island, NY and Madame Simone Renaud, wife of the SME D-Day mayor. Cathy Salvias and Kay Weninger are determined to spread the word of democracy

and those valiant men and women who gave their lives for freedom. Cathy and Kay have attended Static Line Awards at Atlanta, the New Orleans D-Day Museum Victory Operation last May 19-23, and now to SME for a week. Maurice Renaud is also very much involved in Operation Democracy.

A busy day on June 5<sup>th</sup> with a splendid dinner party at Henri-Jean & Yvette Renaud home. Then fireworks at the SME church at midnight. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, there were many memorial services at the nearby towns where many men of the 82<sup>nd</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> fought and died. All our veterans and Family&Friends drove to the Omaha Beach Colleville USA Cemetery by 10:00 AM on a beautiful day. The USA Secretary of Defense Gates gave an excellent speech about D-Day, the beginning of the end of monster Adolph Hitler. The French Minister of Defense also gave a good address on the liberation of France. I met him afterwards and requested a copy of his speech. There were only about 25 total D-Day veterans attending. We veterans are not getting any younger.

Later on the 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM a formal ceremony at the SME church was held with all military and town folks. Father Bolderson, with priestly vestments, recited some memories of his father. The annual flower memorials were at the Hotel de Ville (Town Hall) and the Liberation Pylon outside the church. Mayor Marc Lefevre and Executive Joe Leprieur are hereby congratulated for their marvelous flower formal ceremonies. Mayor Mark attends every functions and is a loyal supporter of the airborne soldier providing excellent events and meals.

On the afternoon of June 6th, we had a wonderful and important ceremony at the SME Museum where I presented 505 RCT Association Honorary Membership Certificates to Comte (Count) d'Aigneux and Madame Jeanne Auvray, who are respectively the President and Secretary of the Museum. There have been some great changes and additions to this Museum as well as a very good book and souvenir shop. Henri-Jean Renaud spends a great deal of time helping upgrade the museum. The new Director-Curator Patrick, Henri-Jean and staff do a splendid job and it is obvious.

Our noted 505 RCT member, Howard Manoian and SME/Chef du Pont resident was joined by his son Chris (former 82<sup>nd</sup> trooper) and his lovely wife Gena for D-Day week. Howard is our 505 veteran man on the scene in SME. His close friend is Roger Coueffin, the owner and famous Stop Bar, where every Army trooper, Air Force crew, and veteran enjoy a beer, or two, or three all week. Maybe a shot of Calvados, alias dynamite

I was in Paris from June 8<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> with my very good French skydiver friend, Yves Tariel. Yves and I made many free fall jumps over SME annually. My last skydiving was in 1994. John F. Lee Hq 2/505 and I started the first SME jumping in

1964, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. We brought over our own chutes and Madame Renaud arranged all the details and a small plane. John and I had the required International parachute licenses. Two of my most memorable jumps, 1944 and 1964, when it all started in SME. And for many years thereafter.

For a four days I Paris, I visited the Museum d'Orsey, the French Legion of Honor Museum, noting history and battles all the way back to Napoleon. An afternoon of the Hop On –Hop Off bus visiting the famous Paris sites and a ride on the Bateaux Mouches boat along the Seine River. It is a must do if you or your family visit Paris.

By next October 24th I should be well rested for our 505 RCT and F&F's Association Fort Bragg Reunion. CSM Ted Gaweda will do a splendid job, as always, and General Lindsey will be our Banquet speaker. Star Jorgensen, our Family and Friends President and Don McKeage, our 505 RCT President will see to it that you all have a wonderful Fort Bragg visit. Make your reservations now. Remember, time (and health) marches on. Keep in step. Make a commitment to meet your comrades at the home of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. And our Family and Friends who will carry on for us over the years.

Bob Murphy, Vice President 505 RCT Assn.,  
Trustee, Family & Friends Association.

#### Put Your Car Keys Beside Your Bed —not a joke

Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside Your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic Button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue To sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies. This tip Came from a neighborhood watch coordinator. Next time you come home for

The night and you start to put your keys away, think of this: It's a Security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no Installation. Test it. It will go off from most everywhere inside your House and will keep honking until your battery

Runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. It Works if you park in your driveway or garage If your car alarm goes off When someone is trying to break in your house, odds are the burglar or Rapist won't stick around... after a few seconds all the neighbors will Be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the Criminal won't want that. And remember to carry your keys while walking to Your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there.....This Is something that should really be shared with everyone. Maybe it could Save a life or a sexual abuse crime.

P.S. I am sending this to everyone I know because I think it is Fantastic. Would also be useful for any emergency, such as a heart Attack, where you can't reach a Phone. My sister has suggested to my Mom that she carry her car keys with her in case She falls outside and she doesn't hear her. She can activate the car alarm and then we'll know there's a problem.

Don McKeage, President  
505 RCT Association WWII  
973 Gladys Street, Derby Lake  
Stanton, Michigan 48888

09 April 2007

Mr. McKeage

My name is Arnold W. Peterman, Jr., I am the older of two sons of an original member of the 505 RCT. My father's name is Arnold W. Peterman and was assigned to I Co, 505 RCT and made all four combat jumps with the Regiment.

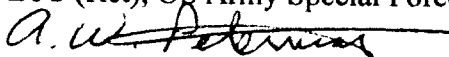
He and my mother are currently living in an assisted living center in Sands Springs, OK and receive the Panther. He is 91 years old now and is almost completely blind, has a pace maker, and has had two heart bypasses. Due to his health problems he has not been able to attend a 505 RCT reunion since the early 90's. He has asked me to write you this letter for a couple of reasons. First, he wanted to send the inclosed check for \$100.00 as a contribution to the 505 RCT Association, and to find out how many of the original members of I Co, 505 RCT are still alive. He wants very much to attend this year's reunion at Fort Bragg but I doubt that he will be able to.

Both of my sons are third generation paratroopers. My youngest son is an active duty SFC assigned to the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group and just recently returned from his second combat tour in Iraq and has one combat tour in Afghanistan. As an E-4 he was assigned to C Co, 3<sup>rd</sup> of the 505<sup>th</sup> RCT, which use to be the old I Co, 505 RCT during WWII. My oldest son is a CPT in the USAR assigned to the 501<sup>st</sup> Tactical PSYOP Co. and has completed one combat tour in Iraq and is a Federal Law Enforcement Officer with the US Border Patrol in his civilian life. I completed 25 years of active duty service (1970-1995) and retired as a LTC. I served as a 2<sup>nd</sup> LT in 3/325<sup>th</sup> PIR during the early 70's and upon returning from Vietnam in 1971, was assigned to the 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group and spent the rest of my military career in Special Forces/Special Operations Assignments. I am currently a Department of the Army Civilian assigned to the United States Army Special Operations Command at For Bragg.

If it is possible to provide my father with the names of living, original members of I Co, 505 RCT he would greatly appreciate it.

Thanks for your help.

Arnold W. Peterman, Jr.  
LTC (Ret), US Army Special Forces



Arnold W. Peterman  
4402 South 129<sup>th</sup> W. Ave.  
Apt 204  
Sand Springs, OK 74063-2275

April 16,07  
Arnold W. Peterman Sr.  
4402 S.129th W. Ave Apt 204  
Sand Springs, Ok. 74063-2275

Dear Arnold:

I have received a letter from your son, Arnold Jr.; with a \$100.00 Check for the 505 RCT. We are very happy to hear you are still among the living. All of our WWII men are in their 80s & 90s as you well know. and we thank you very much. It will be added to our Fund and used for printing and mailing of the Panther, which goes out three times a yr. As you expect we have lost many of our great comrades. Willard Follmer, your early Company "I" Commander, passed away in January 07. Our long time Treasurer of the RCT LLYN ROHDE has suffered from two heart attacks and surgery this past yr. He is unable to continue on as our Treasurer. As you may have read in the Panther, we have started a Family & Friends organization to help us out. Their treasurer Ellen Peters of Dallas ,Tx. Balance of Funds will be used to help keep The Panther Coming. I was elected our First President of the Rct in 1986 & 1987. In 1988 . In 1988 I took over Editor of the Panther. This past yr I was elected President once again and have promised to Publish The Panther as long as I am able.

At this point of time, our Family & Friends are helping us find out how many Veterans we have left in the RCT. We should have this info to me sometime in May; So the June Panther will have this info listed. I will send you anew RCT Roster with the still living Veterans. As you well remember The 505 RCT is the only Regiment to have four Combat jumps in WWII. Our October 07 Reunion will be held at Ft. Bragg , NC. October 24-28. We thank you for your great Airborne Family, that you started back in 1942. First, Second and third Generation Paratroopers. I was

elected National President of The 82nd A/B Div Assoc at the New York Convention in 1970 (eighteenth President) In August 45 the 82nd moved to Berlin, Germany. In mid November we moved back to France to get processed for heading home. Landed in New York city Jan 3, 46 Pulled the WWII Victory Parade down 5th Ave, What an Honor. I was discharged on January 17th 1946. Spent 37 yrs in th construction Industry. Retired August 1, 1983. Jennie and I will have 60 yrs of marriage on Flag Day June 14th 2007. Three daughters, three Grand children, and four great grand Children. I served in the 505 2nd Bn. "F" Co. John Steele hung on the church Steeple in Ste Mere Eglise on D-Day Jump. John lived thru this and we buried him in May 1969 from cancer. Again we thank you and your Airborne Family. Best Always and Airborne for ever. We hope to meet your son Arnold Jr. while at Ft. Bragg in October.

CC: LTC Arnold W. Peterman Jr.  
Donald W. McKeage

Dear Don:

Great to hear from you, and pleased that you are "fighting through" the leg problems.

I, too, have issues with my legs--the knees are giving out. Tomorrow I am going to start the process to get my left knee rebuilt....It's got me hobbling like a gnome, throwing me off kilter. Too much running and parachute jumps, plus wrestling in high school and at West Point with out knee pads....that was when we were indestructable, eh?

I was asked to come back and teach math for one more year. Had the weekend that was originally set for the reunion open for the 505 reunion. Then it was moved to the end of October--and I have a conflict with the school's parent's weekend and the reunion, which I would very much like to attend. I think I can get out around noon on Friday, 26 October and drive down to Bragg and make the Friday evening and Saturday events. Hope so, anyway.

You may still be getting returned email--but be assured, I am receiving it. Got to figure out what is sending the msg back to you (and so others) that tells you that it was undelivered.

In the interim, send email to my wife's address: [amekman@earthlink.net](mailto:amekman@earthlink.net). That should fix the problem for the near term.

Things go well here. Keep in touch.

Airborne regards,

Mike *EKMAN*

From: Star Jorgensen  
President/Family & Friends of the 505 RCT Association  
[starjorgensen@hotmail.com](mailto:starjorgensen@hotmail.com)  
309.454.3430

Re: F&F Status Report - June 26, 2007

As I sit, staring at the monitor, fingers poised over the keyboard, my first thought is, "What am I going to say?" The first thing I want to say – and the most important – is THANK YOU. What a blessing it is to be a part of such a marvelous group. It has been an honor to serve you.

Reunion – most important. A Registration Form and all pertinent information are within the Newsletter. I hope that many of our F&F members are able to attend. For those of you who have not had the experience of being at Fort Bragg, it is something to put at the top of the "to do" list, trust me. After all, to be with the WWII veterans of the Combat Team on their "hallowed ground," gives the membership the opportunity to learn firsthand the legacy that the Association is dedicated to perpetuating.

Website – John Sparry, grandson of Mark Alexander, is doing a tremendous job as the webmaster. Check out the site at [www.505rct.org](http://www.505rct.org). But we still need someone to complete the history – any volunteers?

Cyber-group – thanks to Jim Blankenship for continuing to be our "postman" for the [ff505rct@charter.net](mailto:ff505rct@charter.net) gathering. Please continue to share stories, ask questions, begin discussions, etc.

Memorial – The Association has made the commitment to donate a minimum of a few hundred dollars to the active-duty 3rd Brigade (505) to benefit the families of troopers killed in action. This donation will be made to the Brigade upon their return to Fort Bragg from their current duty in Iraq (expected to be early November 07). Anyone wishing to make a personal contribution, to increase the donation, is more than welcome to do so. Please send a check payable to Family & Friends of the 505 RCT Association, indicating "Trooper Memorial" on the check, to our Treasurer, Ellen Peters. Ellen's address is: 3630 Townsend Drive, Dallas TX 75229-3805.

A long-term memorial project is also being discussed: the establishment of a small memorial park area at the new Brigade headquarters (shortly under construction). This park area will be dedicated to all those members of the Brigade Combat Team, from WWII to the present, who have made the Ultimate Sacrifice. Costs, design, etc. have yet to be determined, and the Association is working with the Panther Association on this project. Further details will be provided in the future – and discussed at the F&F general membership meeting at the Reunion. Personal donations are also welcome.

Dues – annual dues of \$10 need to be paid by July 6. World War II veterans and honorary members of the 505 RCT Association are exempt, but we need everyone else to step up. Checks are payable to Family & Friends of the 505 RCT Association and should be mailed to Ellen Peters (address above) – thank you.

Keeping this to one page! God bless, blue skies and always only the softest of landings, Star

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

We have no way of knowing if an address is no longer viable, as undeliverable newsletters are not returned. They are "thrown away" by the Post Office. Please help to keep the records current (and the mailing costs down). If you move, send a Change of Address card to Don McKeage or use the following:

MOVING? Complete the following and mail to Don McKeage,  
973 Gladys St SW, Stanton MI 48888

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Hello Don,

I hope all is well with you and Jennie.

Yesterday, I spoke with Dennis O'Laughlin's (E Co.) niece. She said Otis Sampson told her about the newsletter you do and she asked me if I could ask you to put Dennis on your mailing list, if he is not already on it. His address is: Dennis O'Laughlin

P.O. Box 1496  
Seeley, MT 59868

She said he is living in an old milk truck in Montana, but that is the way he wants it. Otis has always said he was a true Montana mountain man. She said he loves reading things about the 82nd and would love to get the newsletter. At 88, he is still sharp as a tack, but doesn't hear too well.

Thank you, Don,  
Ellen



# The Veterans and their families of the 505th Regimental Combat Team support our Troops 100%, where ever they may be. OUR HEART FELT THANK YOU TO ALL.

**Subject:** Our Panther Brigade in Iraq - Colonel Owens' Update

Panther Team,

As we enter the ninth month of our deployment in Iraq, the Panther team is busier than ever. Before I mention a few words about what our battalions have been up to, I would like to talk about the activities we have planned for All-American Week in Iraq. Unfortunately due to our daily mission requirements, we will not be able to celebrate our heritage as Paratroopers the way we usually do. Instead, on Saturday, May 26, 2007, we will celebrate All-American Day here at Contingency Operating Base Speicher. The day will begin with combat skills competitions and will end with a BBQ at the Brigade Headquarters. We will reflect on our pride as Paratroopers and the memory of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice here in Iraq and throughout the history of our great Division.

The situation in Iraq continues to be complex and ever-changing. Although we have had major breakthroughs, there have also been set backs. The key to our success lies in our ability to provide security for the Iraqi population in Salah Ad Din Province, develop the Iraqi security forces, and to assist the provincial government in the reconciliation process between the Sunnis in the province and the largely Shia central government.

In April, Secretary Gates announced all active duty soldiers deployed to the CENTCOM area of operation will have their tours extended to 15 months. The extension will guarantee that the Brigade will spend 12 months back at Fort Bragg before its next deployment. The Paratroopers in the Brigade, along with everything else they do, took this news in stride and went about doing what they do best - accomplishing the mission.

The Paratroopers of 1-Panther have had a great deal of success in putting a dent into the oil smuggling activities at the Bayji Oil Refinery - the biggest refinery in Iraq. Bravo Company, led by Kwenton Khulman with ISG Green by his side, has made a huge impact in turning the oil refinery around. Al-Qaeda has reacted violently to our efforts to cut one of their main sources of funding, but 1-Panther remains vigilant and continues to make progress everyday.

The Paratroopers of 2-Panther are working harder than ever trying to revitalize Samarra. Members of Al-Qaeda have been trying to assert their control over Samarra for the past two years and in the process have made life very difficult for normal Iraqis. Recently, these terrorists blew up the Police Station and killed the police chief - one of the most competent and courageous Iraqis we have worked with during our time in Salah Ad Din. However, the Paratroopers in 2-Panther, especially Charlie Company located at Patrol Base Olsen inside the city, have worked hard to restore order. The Iraqi government has decided to rebuild the Golden Mosque inside Samarra and we are working hard with our Iraqi partners to make this dream a reality. As you recall, on February 22, 2006, Al Qaeda destroyed the Golden Mosque and this terrorist act set off a spiraling escalation of sectarian tensions throughout the country. The rebuilding of this

Mosque will go a long ways in healing the sectarian divide in Iraq.

In Tikrit and surrounding areas, Task Force Loyalty has done a great job clearing out many insurgent and Al-Qaeda cells. In late March, the Paratroopers conducted an operation to clear the entire town of Ad-Dawr, just east of Tikrit, of all terrorist elements. The operation was dubbed "Operation Hershey." Terrorists in this town had tried to assert their control by destroying the police station, and intimidating anyone who worked with the Provincial Government and coalition security forces. Over a two week period, Paratroopers from TF Loyalty and their Iraqi counterparts, cordoned and cleared the entire town. As a part of our new focus on population security, they established a new operating base by Ad Dawr. Patrol Base Woodcock was named after one of our fallen heroes from Bravo Company, 2-Panther, part of Task Force Loyalty.

Our recon squadron, 5-73 Cav, has had a great fight on its hands in Diyala. Along with 3BCT, 1st Cavalry Division, these Paratroopers have been fighting some of the most extreme elements of Al-Qaeda and the Sunni insurgency. They have established several new Joint Security Stations to be closer to the Iraqi population and as a result have put themselves in a much more dangerous environment. Our Paratrooper's tenacity and courage has come to be known throughout Diyala and among the members of the other American units they serve with.

Since my last report 5-73 Cavalry has paid a heavy price. They lost 17 great Paratroopers fighting some of the most ruthless terrorists in Iraq: PFC Orlando Gonzales, SPC Jason Nunez, SGT Jason Swiger, PV2 Anthony White, SPC Ebe Emolo, CPT Jonathon Grassbaugh, SPC Levi Hoover, PFC Rodney McCandless, 1LT Kevin Gaspers, SPC Jerry King, PFC Garrett Knoll, SSG Kenneth Locker, SGT Randell Marshall, SSG William Moore, SGT Brice Pearson, SPC Michael Rodriguez, SGT Michael Vaughn (5-73). 3-8, the Combined Arms Battalion, attached to us from 3rd BCT, 1st Cavalry Division lost two officers; 1LT Philip Neel and 1LT Andrew Bacevich. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the family and friends of these brave Warriors. These losses have only strengthened our resolve to accomplish our mission. We will continue to take the fight to the enemy and to provide security for the Iraqi people.

We are disappointed that we won't get a chance to see our "Old Timers" this year, but look forward to seeing you when we get back!

All the Way!!  
H-Minus!!  
Panther 6

### THE ORIGIN OF HOO-AH

"Hoo-ah" (Hough), the familiar army sentiment which roughly means "can do" or "good job", has its origins with the Second Dragoons in Florida in 1841. In an attempt to end the war with the Seminoles, a meeting was arranged with Chief Coacoochee. After the meeting a banquet ensued. Officers of the garrison made a variety of toasts, such as "here's to luck!" and "the old grudge," before drinking. Coacoochee asked Gopher John, an interpreter, the meaning of what was said. The interpreter explained that "It means, How d'ye do!", whereupon the chief with great dignity, lifted his cup and, elevating over his head, exclaimed in a deep guttural, and triumphant voice, "Hoo-ah!" (Source: Stephen J. Allie, AFTB Smart Book)

To the Family & Friends of the 505 RCT Association:

Have a safe and blessed weekend with families and friends, and though I know that all of you understand how sacred this weekend is, there are so many fellow Americans who, unfortunately, have "no clue."

So I charge all of you with a duty--your mission is to be a patriotic "witness," to go out and lead by example. Encourage your friends, neighbors, and family members to attend memorial event and parades, observe proper Flag etiquette, gather together at 3:00 PM on Monday and observe a moment of silence, reflection, and respect for all those who made the Ultimate Sacrifice in the defense of our Nation.

Our great friend and fellow historian, Father Gerard Thuring, once told me that to honor the war dead properly, you must "say the name." At our town's major park, there are war-memorial monuments, including pavers with the names of our county's war dead. As I walk through this memorial area this year, I will do just that--read each paver and say the name out loud.

In closing, I'm going to share the words to the song, "The Last Full Measure of Devotion." I know that there are many of you who have been fortunate to hear it sung by the 82nd Airborne Division Chorus. The words say it all, and please keep close to your hearts and in your prayers those who are continuing to keep "the lamp of freedom burning bright" throughout the world--America's soldiers.

"In the long and hard-earned history of America, there are names that shine like beacons in the night, the patriots whose visions gave us meaning, who kept the lamp of freedom burning bright."

In the long and hard-earned history of America, there are those who paid the last and final price who were called upon by chance and desperate circumstance to make the Ultimate Sacrifice.

A grateful nation bows its head in sorrow and in thanks for guaranteeing our tomorrow.

The last full measure of devotion, that's what they gave to the cause. The last full measure of devotion, and though they cannot hear our applause, we honor them forever and keep alive the story, pay tribute to their lives and give them all the glory.

The last full measure of devotion, beyond the call of duty were their deeds. The last full measure of devotion, they gave their lives to serve the greater need.

And for those who did survive and came back home alive, we honor them with comrades who were slain, and highly resolve, most highly resolve, that these dead shall not have died in vain.

Star Jorgensen, president/Family & Friends of the 505 RCT Association

**Subject:** RE: Re: FW: WWII Cadence - We Were There?

"We Were There" is song #15 on the 82nd Airborne Division All American Chorus CD named "60 Years of Airborne, 1942-2002". I bought the disk at the 82nd Museum gift store at Ft. Bragg a few years ago. I hadn't heard it before hearing the CD, but it is now one of my favorites. I agree with Ellen that the song was written later than WWII, but I don't know when.

Barbara Gavin Fauntleroy

REGISTRATION FORM  
2007 REUNION  
505 RCT ASSOCIATION  
(And Family & Friends of the 505 RCT Association)

October 25-28, 2007  
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Registration Fee: \$75.00 per Person - Must be received no later than September 1, 2007

Checks only, payable to 505 RCT Association Reunion Fund, mailed with  
Registration Form, to Ellen Peters, 3630 Townsend Dr., Dallas TX 75229-  
3805

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit/Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Beds Req'd: \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate/Name \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If flying into Fayetteville Regional Airport (FAY), flight information (arrival and departure):

\_\_\_\_\_

Special Need (handicap accessibility, wheelchair, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

DON O K Run it in Newsletter. \$75.00 fee O K Also . Put in "NO  
RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNLESS PRE-REGISTERED AND \$75. FEE PAID .  
PAY THIS \$75.00 ASAP AND IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND IT WILL BE REFUNDED ,  
NO QUESTIONS, WE HAVE NEVER FAILED TO RETURN YOUR REGISTRATION FEE IF  
YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE REUNION. SO, PAY UP NOW, BOB MURPHY