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Derby Lake  
Stanton, Michigan 48688-0122

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DATED MATERIAL

# The Panther

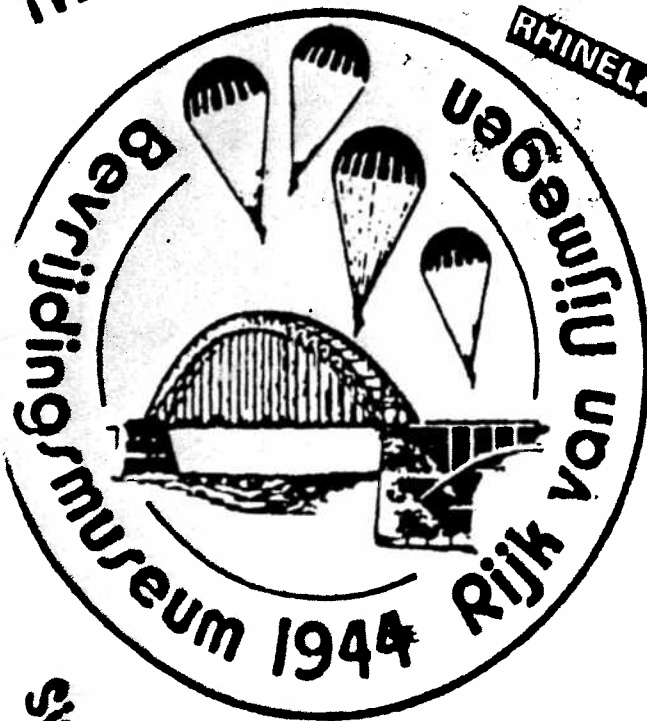
#2

July 2008

ITALY

CENTRAL EUROPE

ARRETERED



RHINELAND

Ste-Mère-Église

Stetly

Holland

6 Juin 1944

NORMANDY

## President's Report

After returning from wintering in Florida. I am back at Cape Cod, MA, my home until late October, with some occasional trips here and there.

On June 2, I arrived at Ste. Mere Eglise after being picked up at Charles de Gaulle airport by a U.S. Army van, along with Col. Keith Nightengale, retired. About a four hour drive after going through terrible Paris stop and go traffic. It never changes.

On arrival, the first place to visit is the famous Stop Bar owned by our good 505/82<sup>nd</sup> very generous friend, Roger Coueffin. Our comrade and member, Howard Manoian, was there as a welcome committee. Howard lives in St. Mere Eglise from April to September and then back to the U.S. to visit his grandchildren in Virginia. His son, Chris, is also an 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne veteran.

There were only about five D-Day veterans in SME including Bill Sullivan, HQ 1<sup>st</sup>/505; Ray Fary, 80<sup>th</sup> AA; Julius Eisner, D Co./505 and fellow Pathfinder; and Don McKeage, F Co./505. Bill and his wife, Elizabeth had been visiting Ireland before SME. A few other WWII veterans would come by from time to time who were on a tour bus to see our famous town.

The Airborne Museum has really been improved with many more artifacts from WWII. Henri-Jean Renaud volunteers a lot of his time at the museum. His brother, Maurice Renaud, was given Colonel Bob Piper's WWII combat jump jacket by widow, Nancy, and he brought it, in hand, to the SME Museum for a special afternoon ceremony. Our comrade, Bob Piper, was heart and soul 505 and 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne.

On June 4, Bill Sullivan and I were driven to Mont St. Michel (about 2 hours from SME) with army troopers for a special ceremony by the town officials and the French Senate to honor the memory of the soldiers who gave their lives for the liberation of France. Many active duty French soldiers were attending with civilians. Mont St. Michel is a wonderful place to visit and an unbelievable island hilltop little city. A tourist "must see". Bill and I were presented souvenir awards.

Our 505 F&F treasurer, Ellen Peters, arrived and took part in all the activities and now has several visits to SME. She will give her report in this issue, also.

The U.S. Army parachute troopers visiting SME this June was about the largest I've ever seen in all my years. I believe there were over 300 American troopers from the USA, Italy Base and other places with about 100 French and German paratroopers. They have great historical bus tours during the week, but the big day was Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 P.M. at the La Fiere Drop Zone (DZ). The six C130 aircraft came over about 1,000 feet and made single passes with the jumpers. It was a wonderful sunshine day with many

thousand folks, and kids, watching this spectacle. Then there were several high altitude free fall army jumpers with the square type parachutes, who landed right on the largest spot. After the jump, all the troopers gathered at the Iron Mike hillside ceremony in formation.

Our good friend and SME Mayor, Marc LeFevre, spoke about the liberation of Normandy and thanked the veterans. Flowers were placed at the Memorial site by several of us and army officers.

This U.S. Army entire group of troops was commanded by Colonel David McNeil from Fort McPherson, Georgia, a long time former 82<sup>nd</sup> officer. Dave gave me a great deal of help and personal assistance to various military functions. He has been involved with the annual D-Day Anniversary U.S. Army parachuting for many years. Colonel Keith Nightengale, before he retired, along with Colonel Dave are the experts in our SME D-Day parachute spectacular.

There were many functions and memorials which we 505 RCT veterans attended and placed flowers on the memorial plaques and stones. Mayor Marc LeFevre and town Executive Secretary, Joe Lefreur, have flowers that are placed by several selected veterans. These ceremonies are very reverent and in honor of our comrades who made the supreme sacrifice for liberation and democracy. The people of Ste. Mere Eglise and Normandy have never forgotten what we did and are our good friends.

A final generous dinner banquet was held at the big SME Covered Market with over 500 military and civilians attending. I had the privilege to sit with Mayor Lefevre along with Bill and Elizabeth Sullivan, Howard Manorian and other good friends at nearby tables.

My close friend, Frits Janssen from Mook, Holland and Frenk Derks van de Ven, from Son, Holland stayed with me at the famous La Fiere Manoir for three days and we went to all the functions in Frits' car. Bill Sullivan and I have been staying at the La Fiere Manoir for many years in "Murphy's Room" and "Sullivan's Room". The La Fiere Manoir and bridge was the exact mission of my Company A/505 on D-Day, along with the first battalion of the 505. It is the area that I wrote my book about along with our 505 RCT units (80<sup>th</sup> AA and 307<sup>th</sup> Engineers), the 325 GIR, 507 and 508 during those bloody battles.

There were, as always, big fireworks and rockets on the eve of June 5<sup>th</sup> just over the back of the famous SME church and museum site, marking the 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 505RCT jump into Ste. Mere Eglise.

There are many things to do all around Normandy and SME during the June week. Henri-Jean and Yvette Renaud hosted several luncheons and dinner parties with over twenty people attending. My final event that Yvette sponsors for me was the "kids"

party on Sunday afternoon for about 12 children ages 3 to 12. I bring them presents and they march around with the American flags and Henri-Jean's Airborne flag. A great day to be with such happy little children. Thank you Yvette and Henri-Jean. And for your so many years of family friendship for our 505 RCT and Family and Friends.

If you may be thinking of going to SME/Normandy next June for the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, you better make your hotel or B&B reservations now, ASAP. It is going to be crowded and most hotels were being booked this June while I was there.

Airborne All The Way Bob Murphy, 505 RCT President

### **Note of thanks to StarJorgensen**

I want to extend my best wishes to our 505 Family and Friends Association President, Star Jorgensen who has not been too well for several months. Star has worked extremely hard since the formation of the Family and Friends Association as her dad was in the 456 PFAB. She has been devoted to our RCT/F&F Associations and worked tirelessly. On behalf of all our members we thank you so much and hope you will be able to join our ranks and continued friendship.

Bob Murphy and all members

**Subject:** Emailing: Doc McIlvoy's War Summary

Dear Don,

To honor my Father on the tenth anniversary of his death, I have tried to put together this summary. I wanted to share it with you.

I am not sure that I will be able to attend the reunion in September. I was so hoping that my Mom and two sisters would attend with me one of these years. Seems there is always something that interferes. Mom is 87 and in good health. We are so grateful for that.

My best to you. I feel so blessed to have met you and the other men from the 505th. As I have said before, this experience, learning about the years that my Father served in the 505th, has been one of the highlights of my life.

Sincerely,  
Annie McIlvoy Zaya

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:  
Doc McIlvoy's War Summary

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

COLONEL DANIEL B MCILVOY  
REGIMENTAL SURGEON  
82ND AIRBORNE, 505TH RCT (Regimental Combat Team)  
WORLD WAR II

submitted by Annie McIlvoy Zaya  
8031 Pepper Pike  
West Chester OH 45069  
mazaya2000@cinci.rr.com  
513-314-4904

Daniel B. McIlvoy was born in Springfield, KY on July 16, 1912. He was the third child and first son of Daniel McIlvoy, a tobacco farmer, and Ruth Baker, a homemaker. McIlvoy's military career began at age 17 when he dropped out of Springfield High School his senior year to join the National Guard which was a cavalry outfit at that time. The unit was sent to Harlan KY widely known as "Bloody Harlan" during the violent coal mine strikes in the early 1930s. Afterward, he returned to graduate from Springfield High School and attended Western Kentucky University from 1933 -1937. Upon graduation, he was accepted into Tulane Medical School.

With war impending on the horizon, Daniel joined the Army Reserve in 1940 and was commissioned a first lieutenant in the U. S. Army Medical Corps Reserve. His graduation from Tulane Medical School in 1941 took him to an internship at City Hospital in Winston Salem, NC. Once this was completed, LT. McIlvoy was ordered to active duty and received his initial training at the Medical Field Service School at Carlisle Barracks, Pa. The 96th Infantry Division at Camp Adair, Oregon was his first assignment, but his desire to return to the South prompted him to volunteer for parachute duty at Fort Benning. GA.

After completing parachute school at Fort Benning GA, Lt. McIlvoy requested overseas duty and was assigned to the 505th Regimental Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division, which was being sent to North Africa. Completing additional training, he jumped with his regiment into Sicily, where he was blown off the side of an ambulance by enemy artillery. After another combat jump on Paestum near Naples, the 505th was transferred to Quorn, England, for training in preparation for D-day.

While serving in England, McIlvoy set up a training program to familiarize the paratroopers with first-aid procedures and the use of the aid packs they had been issued. In addition, he studied the way medical supplies were dropped in combat and worked out an improved system. He and the other medical personnel of the 505th, improved their handling of the wounded by setting up criteria for treatment and evacuation. The innovations of McIlvoy and his medical team are credited with saving countless lives during the next two years of the war.

Promoted to major and regimental surgeon, McIlvoy jumped with the 505th into Normandy. While treating a wounded soldier, he was cut off from the rest of his unit and listed as missing in action for two days. Later in the battle, he delivered a baby boy. The parents were so grateful they named him, Daniel, after McIlvoy. In late 1944, he parachuted into Holland with the 82nd Airborne during the ill-fated Arnhem Operation, and was in the thick of the fighting in the Battle of the Bulge.

With the 82nd, 505th RCT, McIlvoy made four combat jumps, a distinction he

shares with only two other medical officers in all of the Armed Forces. He received a Citation for Gallantry in Action from former Chief of Staff General James Gavin; was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Unit Citations, the Belgium Fourragere and the Dutch Lanyard as well as the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster for wounds received in Sicily and Holland.

"Following the war, Dr. McIlvoy married Pauline Braddock and had three daughters, Mary Anne(Annie), Carol and Linda. After his internship in Pediatrics at Babies Hospital in Wrightsville Beach, NC and a residency at Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, he returned to Bowling Green, KY. There he practiced pediatrics at Graves-Gilbert Clinic until his retirement in 1980. His pediatric practice was not an ordinary practice: he treated as many as 100 children a day, providing free medical care for those patients whose parents could not afford it. He had a standing account with the local cab company to bring children and their parents to his office for treatment who otherwise would not have had the means to get there. He made house calls - sometimes in the middle of the night - up until the day he retired. He had always been known to all of his patients as Doctor Dan - the bandage man. I once read that a hero is a person who has the courage to make a good thing of his whole life. I'm proud to say that I've met a real life hero - Dr. Dan B. McIlvoy." 1

John Ospital, a chaplain's assistant in the 505th RCT, had this to say about Colonel McIlvoy in his book, "We Wore Jump Boots and Baggy Pants."

"The only way I can describe the Colonel is to say that if you took a poll of a cross-section of enlisted men as to what in their minds constituted the perfect officer, the composite of their ideas would result in Colonel McIlvoy. At this point I knew him very little, only by sight, but later I was to get to know him quite well and to appreciate the greatness of this man. He had a way of being jovial with his men when the occasion called for it, but when events at hand warranted seriousness, the tone of his voice was enough to relay the sense of gravity to his men. A respected officer and a warm human being was our Kentucky Colonel." 2

After his death on May 31, 1998, Daniel B McIlvoy was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with the highest military honors.

In 2004 a book titled Doc McIlvoy and His Parachuting Medics was published just before the 60th Anniversary of D-day. It is the third book in The Way We Were Portrait Series published by Michel De Trez (d-day@skynet.be) and D-day Publishing (www.d-day-publishing.be).

"Lavishly illustrated with photographs and illustrations, "The Way We Were" is not only a chronicle of McIlvoy's war experiences but also a history of the 505th Medical Unit. The third volume in the "World War II Paratrooper's Portrait Series," it discusses in detail the equipment, techniques and personnel of the 505th. While McIlvoy is the focus of the book, the actions of the other doctors and medical personnel are also included with numerous personal reminiscences.3

"The book, beautifully illustrated with photographs of McIlvoy and the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division is broken into small chapters and captions that capture the thoughts, conversations, and letters that bring WWII to life for the reader. The text imparts the incredible heroism of one man among many who served our country." 4

On the dedication page of the book, Doc McIlvoy states,

"War is an author's favorite subject, but then 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.

Though the general public looks upon medical care in the Armed Forces as a group of doctors working over an operating table, few visualize what goes on from the moment a soldier is wounded until the time he reaches this table. Officers of the 505th RCT have the highest regard for that individual in their unit: the Parachute Aid Man. Dropped with the men, living under the same adverse and hazardous conditions of war, the aid man does a commendable job. He has a warm and respected place among the parachutists and was affectionately called "Doc." This individual was watched over, fought for in pubs and protected as much as could be in combat. Many a man will tell you how his life was saved by the combat medic. 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 ability 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 return 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 his location. The aid man knows the risks involved, he has witnessed fellow aid men killed and wounded, yet he will unhesitatingly and repeatedly take these risks. When subjected to shelling, he must expose himself in order to help the wounded. When there are wounded around him, he knows that keeping down means that someone out there may die. These boys have the responsibility over many lives, and they carry it well. To them goes the highest admiration of their medical officers and those who must live or attempt to live on the front lines. While the medics can remember only a few of the parachutists, they can rest assured they are remembered by hundreds of paratroopers. There are many brave men buried over there. We had some mighty fine people that we didn't bring back and I always felt that we owe them and their families a written testimony of their story." 5

In my Father's papers, I found a list of the 218 medics who served in the 505th/82nd Airborne. He had listed the dates for medics, who were KIA and where they were buried. He also had the most current addresses for the others. On the 50th Anniversary of D-day in 1994, he mailed this tribute to the hometown newspapers of each medic. (Example below)

Note to the Editor  
A BRAVE MAN

Galloway Turnipseed, Liberty, Mississippi  
Parachuted during World War II  
several times with Medical Detachment,  
505th PIR/82nd Airborne, and helped save  
hundreds of wounded men.  
Whether he is living, dead or moved,  
please honor him in your newspaper  
on the 50th Anniversary of D-day  
in Normandy.

Dr. D.B. McIlvoy  
Bowling Green, KY



I would like to close this summary with a quote that I know my Dad would love.

### 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; men 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)

1. Western Kentucky Alumni Magazine, Spring, 1944 "D-Day Remembered" by Lucinda Anderson
2. "We Wore Jump Boots and Baggy Pants" by John Ospital
3. Bowling Green Daily News, Bowling Green, KY, December 26, 2004, Book Review by J. W. Thacker, history department, Western Kentucky University
4. Pulse Journal, West Chester, OH. Book Review by Juliann Wetz
5. Dr. Daniel B. McIlvoy, Dedication Page in the book, "Doc McIlvoy and His Parachuting Medics."

**Subject:** Medic's notes

Don, This is my husband's response to Henri Renaud's request for a medic's activity the 1st couple days after SME jump. Bob Murphy thought you might be interested for the Panther. Ilene

We were scheduled to jump the night of June 4, but the weather was so bad it was changed to June 5. My plane lifted off at 11 pm. The flight was uneventful. Many planes ran into all sorts of problems, but mine did not. I learned later in reading, that the 505 was the only unit that landed cleanly and in readiness for action. I was carrying approximately 60-70 pounds of equipment, mostly medical. Sitting on the ground waiting to board the plane, 2 men had help me off the ground and into the plane. I was the second person out of my plane. I landed softly in a grassy area. An officer appeared. We made the decision to proceed north, and collecting a few others, we started walking. In a half hour or so, we entered a small town, which turned out to be SME. On my right, perhaps 100 metres away, was the clock which faced me. The time 4 o'clock AM. I never learned if that was the true time or it had stopped.

The medics were unarmed, by our own decision. As we entered the town, a large building appeared on the left. It seemed to be a schoolhouse, which made it perfect for a medical aid station. (I saw this building many times in later visits to SME. I think it held city offices.) I entered and found 2 of our Aid Men walking around. Together we cleared a large room and began to unload and prepare our meager medical supplies. 2 medical officers and a few aid men joined us, and not too soon. About 10 am artillery shells began to arrive and strike our building. Casualties also began to arrive.

At about noon, someone arrived with the news that a large number of our wounded were in and near a farmhouse about a mile away, perhaps 2000m. Taking as much as I could carry, I went to the farmhouse. About 75 of our men were lying on the ground and on the floor in a large room in the house. A few of our Aid Men, with energetic help from the normal occupants of the house were coping with the continuous work of caring for the wounded. Later I reflected that in the 16-18 hours of my time at this Aid Station, no one who arrived had died, even though we had minimal supplies. As the morning went on, men brought in more medical supplies found on the ground. We had splints, morphine, plasma, sulfa which we sprayed on the wounds and bandages. Each jumper had a first aid kit, some of which were found on the ground.

Some time in the middle of the night, someone arrived to say there was a collection of wounded men with no one to help them. I went with the messenger and an Aid Man to find a crashed glider, and a number of American dead bodies. We had no choice but to leave them, to be picked up later.

Late in the afternoon of D Day, troops of the 8th Division reached us. Their vehicles were very welcome and we were able to evacuate our wounded to the beaches.

The next few days involved heavy fighting and many casualties as the enemy tried to dislodge the 505 from SME.

The next 3 weeks were extremely busy for the 505. I was wounded on June 27 and spent 6 pleasant but useless weeks in a hospital in southwest England.

**From:** <FDOLLY@aol.com>

5/26/2008

## 2008 Trip to Normandy

This year's trip was all about site-seeing and I certainly did a lot of that. On May 31, I flew to Newark, New Jersey where I met 508<sup>th</sup> veteran, Jimmy Wynne. We flew to Birmingham, England where our British friends, Graham Lawson and Tony Grella picked us up. My luggage was lost by the airlines and I was not too happy about that. Graham took us around Nottingham and showed us the sites. We went to Nottingham Castle where the statue of Robin Hood is and we went for a pint of "mild and bitters" at the Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem Inn which has been there since 1189. It was originally a rest stop for guys on their way to the crusades and it was there that I learned the word "trip" originally meant "rest stop".

The next day we went to Wollaton Park where we were given a very extensive tour of Wollaton Hall. This was one of the first Elizabethan houses in England being built in 1588. It was very interesting and the building has been completely restored. In the kitchens, I learned where the term "square meal" originated – the plates were square!! My bags arrived today and they were delivered to Graham's house. I immediately changed into clean clothes.

On June 3, we drove to Ram's gate where we caught the ferry to Ostend, Belgium and we drove to the Ardennes and arrived pretty late. The next day we drove to Luxembourg to see the American cemetery there. A beautiful cemetery, this is where General George S. Patton is buried. Then we went to Bastogne and had lunch in McAuliffe square, named for General Anthony McAuliffe famous for his "Nuts" retort upon receiving the German demand to surrender. We visited the truly spectacular memorial there shaped like a star with the names of all the states around the top and the names of all the units who fought in the Battle of the Bulge on the columns. We climbed all the way to the top of the memorial and the view up there was beautiful. We also toured the museum where I bought a 505 hat.

We visited the Henri-Chapelle cemetery and Graham had arranged for us to have a tour with the superintendent. It was very interesting. He told us that the last burials were in 2003 when the bodies of three soldiers from the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division were discovered. He told us that over 2,000 people turned out for the funeral service for these men. There are also three brothers from the same family buried there.

While in the Ardennes, we went to the Malmedy Massacre memorial where after four visits to this site, I learned that the rose garden there is made up of Tyler Roses from Tyler, Texas, my home state. We saw the Tiger Tank at La Gleize and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Monument at Werbomont. In Trois Ponts, we were looking for the 505<sup>th</sup> monument. I asked a man, in French, for directions and we were close to it, so he took us to the location. I told the man that Jimmy was an 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Veteran and the man took Jimmy's hand and said, "Thank you for me and my family. Thank you for my country." It was a very moving thing for me to see. I translated the man's words into English for Jimmy. Trois Ponts is a pretty large city and I wanted to find the location where the 505's E Co. made their valiant stand and held off Joachim Piper's 1<sup>st</sup> SS Panzer Division in one of their attempted breakthroughs. We finally found the location. Those guys were outnumbered 20 to 1 in that fight, but in the end, Piper realized he was not going to break through the American lines here! We visited Their du Mont Ridge where the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the 508<sup>th</sup> lost 196 men on January 7, 1945 retaking land they had held prior to the Christmas Eve withdrawal. We saw where the 551<sup>st</sup> made their famous bayonet attack and where Jim Megellas of the 504<sup>th</sup> fought.

The morning of June 6, we got up and drove to Ste. Mere Eglise. We arrived late in the afternoon. I checked in to the Hotel 6 Juin, unpacked, and headed for the square. I was looking for our Panther editor, Don McKeage. I didn't see him anywhere. I saw Bob Murphy down there with our Dutch friends, Frits and Frenk. I also saw Ray Ferry and Jerry Payne. I even ran into someone I know from Dallas, Chuck Hodge and his wife, Lisa. While I was talking to them a young man tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Don McKeage would like to see you." He took me to Don and we had a nice visit. Don had quite a trip planned and I look forward to hearing all about it.

June 7 was the day of the parachute jump at La Fiere. It was quite a spectacle this year with more jumpers than ever before. I saw Anne Morvan there with her parents and her 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division friend, Travis. I met Travis last year. A very interesting man from Texas. While I was standing there taking pictures of everyone under the tent, a man who served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division walked up, looked in the tent, and said, "It's all paratroopers in here!" I told him there was a 29<sup>th</sup> guy in there and he said, "Those guys were our neighbors down on Omaha Beach." I introduced him to Travis and they had a nice visit. While down there, Bob Murphy introduced me to his friend, Count Lafayette, a direct descendant of General Lafayette who was such a great help to us in the American Revolution and one of my heroes. What a treat to meet him. While at the jump, Henri-Jean Renaud invited me to his house the next afternoon for the children's party with Bob.

After the jump was the ceremony at Iron Mike and later that night the banquet in Ste. Mere Eglise. I rode over to it with Howard Manoin and his driver, Bob Ramirez of Marseilles. . It was a really nice affair. After the banquet, I went down to the square. It seemed as though everyone was there and I had fun visiting with them. It seemed to me there were twice as many people this year as there was last year. Late in the evening there was a spectacular fire works display. I think it was the best one they have had, since I have been going over anyway. It was great!! I didn't get back to the hotel until after 1:00AM.

The morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>, I spent visiting some friends, the LeCambaye's, who live in Ste. Mere Eglise. I ran into Frits and Frenk and they were kind enough to take me over to Lucien Halsey's to deliver some Belgian chocolates to his wife. Then we went over to the Manoir at La Fiere where we watched as Bob was filmed being interviewed by Dale Dye, the director of the movie based on his book. After that, we went to Henri-Jean Renaud's house for Bob's "kid's party". Bob is really in his element with those children. There about 12 of them. Henri-Jean got them all lined up and they marched in front of Bob waving the Airborne flags. Bob gave gifts to all the kids and they gave gifts to him. They all (including Bob) put on clown's noses and Bob played soccer with them. He is truly a grandfather to all the children of the world. Those kids just love him and he loves them right back!

Bob left with Fritz and Frenk to go to Paris and I went to the Airborne Museum. On the way, I stopped at the Le Normandie for something to eat. There were some guys there from the 10 Special Forces group. They had jumped the day before. They asked me to join them which I did. They had all seen combat in the current war on terror. As we were talking, one of the guys said he had tears in his eyes when he jumped, thinking about the men who had jumped on D-Day. It was a nice lunch and I enjoyed talking with these fine young men.

After lunch, I continued on to the museum. I had not been in a couple of years and they have really added a lot of things including a tribute to those who lost their lives on September 11 – they had an American flag with the names of all the victims on it. A very moving tribute. I enjoyed my visit very much.

On June 9, Dave Pike, showed us around. He took us to Hill 110, which was one of the original drop zones. After the area was taken around June 12, General Gavin did a

reconnaissance of the area and said the men would have been wiped out had they landed there it was so well defended by the Germans. Dave showed us the new DeGlopper memorial and the memorial unveiled last year at Timmes Orchard. Then he took us to the "Secret Passage" that SLA Marshall wrote about in "Night Drop". A young girl showed it to the paratroopers and it allowed them to get through the marsh and across the Merderet River. We saw the house where Chris Heisler of the 507<sup>th</sup> was taken by the Germans. He was stripped naked and marched through the town. We saw many sites and had a lovely dinner at the Hotel de Normandie in Chef du Pont.

On June 10, I went with my British friends to the British sector. We drove to Sword Beach and drove all the way up the coastal road to Omaha Beach. We went to the Abbe d'Ardennes where several Canadian soldiers were executed by the Germans and then we visited the British Cemetery at Ranville and had a cup of coffee at the Pegasus Bridge Café. We visited Le Grand Bunker at Ouistreham and went to Juno Beach and on to Gold Beach where we had lunch at Arromanches. Then we drove to Omaha Beach and went to WN 60 which was the site of the first German gun battery taken by the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division on D-Day. We also went to WN 62 where an unexploded shell is still lodged in the wall of one of the bunkers.

On July 11, my French friend, Bobby Feuilleye came and got me and we went to his home in Fresville for breakfast. During the war, his aunt lived there and the house was occupied by the Germans. He showed me the house his family lived in at the time. He told me that on D-Day morning his parents were taking a cart load of milk to a local market to sell. They were stopped by the Germans and made to stay where they were. A neighbor came over and took Bobby to her house. When he returned in the afternoon, his house was full of American paratroopers!

Bobby showed me a plaque to the 505's I Co, there in Fresville and then took me to Gourbesville where there is a monument to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne and 90 Infantry Divisions. He showed me a plaque for Gordon Smith of the 507<sup>th</sup> where General Gavin and General Ridgeway had their command posts and where Father Maternowski of the 508<sup>th</sup> was murdered by a German officer after trying to surrender wounded troopers to him. The German then sent a tank to the café where the wounded soldiers were being treated and had it blown away killing everyone in the café. Bobby also showed me where Col Shanley had his CP on Hill 30, the ditch where they put their wounded, and the pathway the men came down off Hill 30 to go to a farm to get water. He also showed me the

location where my friend, Pam Murray's father, Lt. Roy Murray, was killed after volunteering to try and take plasma to Hill 30 for the wounded. He never made it.

Bobby dropped me off in the square at Ste. Mere Eglise where I met Dave Pike, Graham, Jimmy and Tony. We went to visit one of Dave's friends who owns a farm with Gites and B&B's at a place called Les Droueries near Angoville au Plain. The 501<sup>st</sup> fought here on D-Day and the buildings are scarred from machine gun fire. In one of the dormers is a big hole used by a German sniper. Lt. George Schmidt of E Co., 501<sup>st</sup> exposed himself to the sniper's fire and lost his life on D-Day. He was awarded the DSC posthumously for his actions there that day.

That night we had a lovely bar-be-cue at the Pike home. It was real Texas style with lots of good food! After dinner, we went to Ellwood von Siebold's house in Ste. Mere Eglise and he showed us his private collection of WWII memorabilia and it was amazing. It is truly a collection that could rival most museums.

The morning of June 12, we drove to the American Cemetery at Colleville where Jimmy Wynne visited the grave of his Captain who was killed on D-Day when a bullet hit a phosphorus grenade he was carrying. Captain Ruddy was very well thought of by all his men. He was one of the officers who came up through the ranks of enlisted men prior to WWII.

That afternoon, we drove to La Havre where we took a ferry to Portsmouth, England. On the way to the port, we passed the HMS Victory, Lord Nelson's ship. We arrived in Nottingham late that night.

The next day, Graham took me to see Winston Churchill's grave and also to Blenheim Palace, home of Lord Marlborough and birthplace of Churchill. That place is unbelievable. I can't believe people lived like that. The family was away, so for a few pounds more, I was able to tour the private family quarters. It was very interesting to see how "the other half" live!

That night we had a lovely dinner at Tony Grella's parents' home. Tony's wife and six children were there as well as his sister and her husband. What a lovely family they have. His mother gave me two books on English history where my other interest lies.

On June 14, Graham took us to the American cemetery at Cambridge, where I visited the grave of Bob Murphy's friend, Leslie Fries. The cemetery there is lovely and I enjoyed the visit. Next, we visited the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. This is the British version of an Air Force Museum. They had every kind of air craft imaginable there. Graham and I rode in a Spit Fire simulator and I took a ride in a Moth, a bi-plane used as a passenger plane in the 1930's. That was a lot of fun. It only holds 8 people. I wonder what they charged for airfare back then!

After a wonderful trip, we flew home to the states on June 15. My trip photos can be seen at [www.eeptx.phanfare.com](http://www.eeptx.phanfare.com). Now I am looking forward to the 505 Reunion in Dayton, OH!

Airborne All The Way!

Ellen Peters, Secretary/Treasurer F&F of the 505<sup>th</sup> RCT

**Subject: 2008 REUNION PLANS**

**505RCT Veterans & Family:**

We are looking forward to a great 2008 Reunion in the Middle America city of Dayton, Ohio from Sept 4 to Sept 7.

The site was selected when our Colorado plans fell through and we were able to make a great deal with The Hope Hotel & Conference Center at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. This venue handles thousands of Military Reunions as does the US Air Force Museum which is near the AFB. It seems like a proper place for the 505RCT to visit as the Army Air Corp was so instrumental in the 82nd's four combat jumps and two Glider assaults into Normandy and Holland. Our veterans and families will get a close-up of the WWII aircraft that delivered our gallant soldiers and bombed and strafed the hell out of the enemy.

So everyone can plan better, here is a rough, Guide-On Itinerary, on what to expect at the Convention:

THUR Sept 4-- 1400 hours- Check-in/Registration with Hospitality services available through 2300 hours. Dinner on own.

1600 Hours- Board of Directors Meeting. 505RCT ASSN

1700 Hours- Board of Directors Meeting. Family & Friends of the 505

FRI- Sept 5-- 0900 hours- Depart by Bus for Tour of Air Force Museum

1200 Hours- Depart for 12:30 MEMORIAL Luncheon at the OFFICERS CLUB at Wright-Patterson

1500 Hours- 505RCT Membership Meeting-Hospitality Suite

1600 Hours- Family & Friends Membership Meeting--Hospitality Suite

1630 Hours- VETERANS PANEL DISCUSSION-Hospitality Suite-505RCT veterans take Q&A about their time in WWII Service

1900 Hours- Dinner on Own. Hosp Suite Open to 2300 Hours

SAT-Sept 6

0900-2300 Hours-Hosp Open

1900 Hours- BANQUET DINNER- Ballroom- Hope Hotel.

SEPT 7- Return Home



## Walking in Grandpa's Footsteps

On May 29<sup>th</sup> 2008, three grandchildren (Tyson, Todd, and his wife Kim) set out with their Grandpa (Donald W. McKeage) to tour Europe and follow in his footprints of his World War II experience.

We arrived in Paris on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May and drove in town to see the Eiffel tower. After seeing the metal monster we head in the direction of Mount Michel to see the abbey before making our way to St. Mere Eglise for all the D-day festivities. On arriving at Mt. Michel the grandson explored the abbey while Grandpa and I took in some people watching, to much cobblestone and stairs for us.

After the abbey visit we headed towards our destination St. Mere Eglise. Upon arrival we checked-in to our B and B located across the street to the left of the church and town square. While in St. Mere Eglise we went to the Iron Mike monument, the museum, La Fleur bridge, Utah and Omaha beaches, the cemetery, the courtyard of the veterinarian's home where Clifford landed, point du hoc, the stop bar to meet with Mr. Murphy and Mr. Sullivan and to the jump and ceremony where Grandpa presented a German soldier his blood wings. Grandpa even had dinner with Mr. Renaud and his wife.

The history we had heard through out the years was coming to life before our eyes; while putting a deeper perspective and comprehension of the events that happened sixty-four years earlier. We were able to see first hand how thankful people were of the sacrifices made for them by brave soldiers of the war. I was amazed at all the people that wanted to shake hands, get autographs, take pictures and speak to grandpa and other veterans. We always knew that our grandpa as well as all the other men who fought in World War II was selfless heroes, but to see with our own eyes that perfect strangers felt that way also, is very hard to put into words.

We met lots of great people while in SME. We met Mark and Rowley across the pond in England. Ellwood who now owns the veterinarians house. Ellwood has a lovely café in the front courtyard called the C-47 Café. Grandpa signed the wing of a C-47 in the café. Other signatures I noticed were of Bob Murphy and Bill Sullivan.

Next on the stop was Belgium. We arrived in Webormont to stay with Madame Lemmon's at the Hotel Ardennes. We went to see Andres and Gilberto Gregoire and their family. Andres was two years old when grandpa stayed with her family in Theux

during the war. We spent the week touring the battle sites of the Bugle and spending time with the Grequire family.

We went to Bastone, the Massacre of Maumaldy site, and the new museum Baugnez 44 that opened in 2007 (we all highly recommend going there if your in the neighborhood- it's excellent). We went to Trois Pont to see the railroad site, la Glaze museum to see a tiger tank, the CP house were grandpa spent his Christmas that year as well a visiting an 11 century castle called Franchemont. Belgium is a beautiful country with heavenly views of majestic mountains and magnificent valleys.

The last leg of our journey was north in the Netherlands. Our first stop was in Margraten to visit the American Cemetery. Next we went to Groesbeck where we visited the rendezvous point for the paratroopers who jump into the area, but to our dismay there were no rooms at the in for us. They were booked solid. While in Groesbeck we visited with Ben Theissen, a friend on Grandpas. We had refreshments at the Wolfburg Hotel which was the German Headquarters during the war and a lovely dinner with Ben. We also spent the day with the Dierks family (more friends of Grandpa's) were we saw the area were Grandpa landed. We also visited the Museum there.

On our way to Amsterdam we met up with Emil La Croix for a day of sightseeing. We went to a beautiful citadel and Waterloo the sight of Napoleons defeat. All of us with the exception of grandpa walk up the 222 steps of the monument to a breathtaking view of the area.

Our arrival in Amsterdam meant that our trip was wrapping up. We toured the area for a couple of days before boarding our plane for home.

This trip was the most amazing historical journey that we were able to share with Grandpa. Thank you Grap for the opportunity of a lifetime, it was a trip that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I know that my husband and brother -in-law feel the same way. This trip provided us with a deeper understanding of what sacrifices were made by the brave, courageous and selfless heroes who fought and for some died in battles on foreign soil to defend people they didn't even know.

Words can not express the pride, respect and admiration we have for our HERO (SGT. Donald W. McKeage) and the thousands and thousands of veterans who fought so fiercely for the freedoms we enjoy still today. Thank you for your **Sacrifices**!!!!

Don Lassen

**Subject:** Lassen's 505 column

Don >> I called Lassen this afternoon and said why did he ever write such an untrue 505 column. It is NOT true and please correct it. >we do have veterans of the 505 attend an like our 505 reunions. What the hell do you think we had at FT Bragg last October. And there is no animosity in the 505 ( It is only with Dictator of the C47 club with his stooges.). I clearly gave him my opinion that he qwas totally wrong. He said very little, He said send me a letter . I will do that.

Don Please will you also send him a note criticizing his column and that we have great friendships in our 505RCT and F&F's Assn. \_\_\_\_\_

Cc: members.>>> If you want to write to Don and tell him what a splendid time you have at our 505RCT /F&F Reunions ,,that would be good. m Just address it to him at the Static Line.

BOB MURPHY

**Subject:** RE YOUR ERRONEOUS FALSE MARCH 505 COLUMN

Don Lassen. I desire to officially notify you , as National President of the 505RCT Assn and Trustee of the 505RCT Family & Friends Assn. THAT YOUR MARCH STATIC LINE COLUMN WAS A GROSS INSULT TO OUR ASSOCIATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE (regarding our Reunions),: "THEY DON'T WANT TO WASTE THEY TIME COMING TO REUNIONS THAT ARE NOT FOR THEM BUT FOR A SMALL FEW WHO LUST FOR POWER".... AND, "WE DON'T NEED GRIEF AND ANIMOSITY" THOSE STATEMENTS IN YOU 505 COLUMN ARE FALSE, A DISGRACE TO YOU AND WE WANT AN APOLOGY.

THE 505RCT/F&F's REUNIONS ARE SET TO CONTINUE ONWARD WITH OUR GALLANT HISTORY WITH OUR FAMILY, GENERAL NORTON, OUR 505RCT Assn FOUNDER ORGANIZED OUR 505RCT Assn FOR A LIFETIME OF CAMARADERIE. MANY OF US HAVE CARRIED ON FOR 30 YEARS WORKING MANY HOURS OVER THE YEARS WE DO NOT GET PAID FOR OUR WORK AND WE DON'T SELL NEWSPAPERS.

I HOPE YOU GET THE MESSAGE AND RETRACT YOU MARCH STATIC LINE COLUMN TOTALLY FALSE PARAGRAPHS WE AWAIT YOUR RESPONSE AND RETRACTION. FROM> BOB MURPHY, PRESIDENT , 505RCT Assn & TRUSTEE 505ret F&F's Assn

DON LASSEN

Dear Don Lassen: Why are you back to running your own Regt Down. It took seven yrs to get your dues; then you became in a rash to take our 505 RCT column from us; for no particular Reason. We know who are friends were that were KIA; we also know where they are buried and we respect our deceased mates and their families. We have a good 505 RCT organization for 22 yrs; have held many great Reunions; and plan on many more in the future, We don't need you blasting away at us for doing a very outstanding job. We would still like our 505 RCT column, put back in the Static line. Get off of our 505 RCT BACK and climb on some other unit for a Change. I have put in the 22 great yrs and plan many more with the RCT. since 1986.  
Don McKeage Three terms as Past President an 20 years  
as Editor of the PANTHER

DON THOSE SEVERAL LINES TO LASSEN TELL IT LIKE IT IS, AND I AGREE WITH YOU 100%. IT APPEARS HE HAS SOME PROBLEM WITH HIS REGIMENT AS WE ARE THE ONLY ONES HE SEEM TO PICK ON. THE ONLY PROBLEM ANYBODY EVER HAD IS WITH THE C47 CLUB "DICTATOR" >>. BOB MURPHY, PRESIDENT 505RCT Assn

Subject: 505RCT Column

Dear Don: As a faithful reader of the Static Line I was at a loss to understand your 505PIR Column lamenting the lack of interest in the association's yearly reunion. Furthermore, you suggest that this is due to in-fighting among "big egos" instead of concentration on the members at large. I have attended the last four reunions and I do not detect a lack of interest nor do I encounter power struggles amongst the veteran directors I have come to know--Bob Murphy, Doc Franco, Don McKeage, Ed Sayre--nor the Family & Friends officers and directors--Jim Blankenship, brother of Charles Blankenship, Ellen Peters, Barbara Gavin Fauntleroy and Star Jorgensen, whose dad was with the 456th PFAB. Every year we see the above along with veterans like Otis Sampson, Frank Bilich, Dick Mote, Jess Samaniego, Spencer Wurst, Duke Boswell...to name just a few. You were at Ft. Bragg last year as well and like so many of us there, had tears rolling down your cheeks as the WWII vets and their prodigy welcomed home 505 Iraqi vets as they hugged their loved ones in the hangar at Pope Air Force Base. Indeed, the number of veterans who attend has dwindled from the Glory Days. This is understandable as Taps is played for many and inability to travel inhibits others. And once those individuals are lost, there lifelong comrades lose the will to attend any longer. Fortunately, we in the Family & Friends Assn do what we can to erase the barriers for those vets who wish to come and, as the children and grandchildren of the RCT, we grow in numbers and admiration of these 82nd troopers. We cannot augment the brotherhood of the WWII 505ers. But we increasingly fulfill the mission to assist them, Honor them and make sure that History Never Forgets Them. You suggest that factionalism is holding some back. If so, that is a shame. But the blame should not be placed on the shoulders of those who work so hard to keep the 505RCT Assn alive and relevant. With Respect...All the Way!  
Robert Burns, VP  
FF505RCT

BOB >> EXCELLENT LETTER TO LASSEN. IT TELLS IT LIKE IT IS. HIS COLUMN WAS A DISGRACE TO THE 505RCT & F&F's Assn. I DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT HE WILL PUBLISH YOUR LETTER, OR DON McK. OR MINE IN THE NEXT ISSIE. BUT WE CAN PUBLISH IT IN OUR PANTHER NEWSLETTER, NEXT ISSUE ,,SO, SAVE YOUR NOTE TO LASSEN. WE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO TOLERATE HIS FABRICATIONS. I ALSO SAID IN A NOTE TO HIM THAT THE ONLY PROBLEM EVER CAUSED WAS BY ONE MAN IN THE C47 CLUB YOU ALL KNOW OF WHOM I SPEAK. BOB MURPHY

DON LASSEN

"Don, I was extremely surprised and quite shocked over your March 505<sup>th</sup> column. I did not understand it at all and couldn't disagree with you more. You say that 505 veterans no longer attend the reunions; however 30 veterans attended the last reunion, including you! Everyone had a wonderful time as they always do.

I have only been attending 505 RCT Association Reunions since 2005, but I can tell you it is the camaraderie and respect I see these men have for each other that keeps me coming back. You say the 505 veterans don't feel the association is theirs and it is only for a "few with a lust for power and control". Who are these few? I have not met anyone associated with the 505 RCT Association that fits that description. What I have seen are men who want to see their Association continue and are willing to make the effort to see that it does.

I have had many wonderful experiences since attending my first reunion in 2005. I attended that reunion, not knowing a soul, as my only 505<sup>th</sup> friend, Turk Seelye, became ill shortly before the reunion and was unable to attend. The people there could not have been kinder and friendlier to me. It was there I met Otis Sampson, Doc Franco, Fred Morgan, Ed Sayre and many others. At the 2006 reunion, I was deeply touched by the attendance of the son and grandson of Major Fred Kellum. Also, by the attendance of 505 Medic, John Clancy. That was his first reunion. To see him with his friends that he had not seen since 1945 was truly a memorable sight for me. They were so happy to see him. It was as if no time had passed for them. John and his family also attended the 2007 reunion and are planning on attending this year's reunion, as well. He absolutely feels the 505 RCT Association is for him and something he wants to be a part of as well as all the other veterans who attend the annual reunions.

I sincerely hope you will print a retraction in a future issue of the Static Line.

Airborne All The Way

Ellen Peters

Secretary/Treasurer – Family and Friends of the 505<sup>th</sup> RCT Assn. "

Dear Ellen: Received your letter to Lassen. Very Very good. He is great for running people down but not good at retraction. question did you get copy of Bob Murphy's letter to lassen; if so could you send me a copy. I have ask bob a few times for a copy, but so far haven't received. He is now at his home in Cape cod and seeing Doctor. we hope he is Healthy for going to france. Many thanks an love with best wishes. Airborne Don McKee

Don, here is my contribution. Deryk  
"TAKE GREAT CARE OF GRANDDAD!"

Normandy Report.

A few of us 'old-timers' headed for Normandy this year with the instructions to our young family members going with us - 'take great care of granddad' - ringing in their ears - and they did.. They did a great job. We decided to go this year as next year, the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, will be so very busy and from the reports, all the hotels have been fully booked for months. Two groups of us made the journey from Leicester, the other was led by Rob Burrow, whose father, Roy, was in C Company, 505. He came with his sister and her family.

The Wills family, Deryk, David and James went specifically to see the launch of Bob Murphy's book, "No Better Place To Die" and to show James, who is eleven years-old, the battlefields of Normandy. We met up with Bob at La Fiere Bridge where he was staying with Bill and Elizabeth Sullivan. Later that evening we joined Bob, Bill and Elizabeth and a few friends in the John Steel Hotel for dinner. Among the friends were Henri-Jean Renaud and his wife Evette, Fritz Janseen and Frenk from Holland.

Ray Fary, Don McKeage, Howard Manoian, Emile Lacroix, Ellen Peters and John and Kelly Spary showed up the next day. Don was in a wheelchair, but he brought with him two big hefty grandsons who lifted him and his wheelchair effortlessly over all the obstacles. The old men of the party, and I was one, were found chairs and made comfortable where ever we went, Transport was laid on around Ste-Mere-Eglise which was crowded as usual with service personal from US, France, England and Germany, Yes, the Germans were invited this year and they took part in the mass parachute drop on the Saturday. Re-enactors in all sorts of uniforms and vehicles, including a Sherman tank, were there in abundance.

One emotional event was the presentation of Robert Piper's jacket to the Museum by Maurice Renaud and put on display. There were other veterans in the area, such as Tom Porcella, but unfortunately we never met up with them because of the crowds.

Altogether it was an unforgettable experience in seeing a many of our old friends again.

Deryk Wills.

Don,

Can you please put the following notification in the Panther:

The new fiscal year for our Family and Friends Association began July 1. Dues are \$10.00 per person. Kindly send your dues to: F&F of the 505th RCT Assn.

c/o Ellen Peters  
3630 Townsend Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75229-3805

Thanks Don.

Ellen

**Subject:** RE: Ellen to proof read /Email back or Priority Mail??

Dear Bob M., Bob B., Don, Ellen and Jim,

I am truly sorry to have to tell you that I will not be able to come to the 505 meeting in Dayton. I'm sure that it will be a wonderful meeting attended by all of my favorite paratroopers of the 505, and I hate to miss it.

Clancy and I have been traveling almost constantly since Airborne Awards and All American Week. We arrived home in time for the D-day Memorial ceremony at West Point, then from there directly up to Cornell for a book signing at the campus bookstore. We have been doing lots of book talks and signings, visiting friends and attending weddings. Now we have the 82nd Convention in St. Louis and our son, Steven's, wedding in Chicago to look forward to, plus our own 50th wedding anniversary. It has all ranged from inspirational to hilarious and fun, but now I need some time at home, some time to slow down and catch up.

We will attend meetings of local chapters of the Association this fall, and we are looking forward to Don Lassen's trip for the 65th anniversary of D-day next year. I see that Ellen will be going on that trip with us, plus many people who have been on those trips before. We will miss so many who won't be going this year – Chris Christensen, Marcus Heim, Jack Norton, Bob Piper, OB Hill.

I send my best wishes for a great reunion,

Barbara *GAYIN*

-----Original Message-----

From: rjburns19@aol.com [mailto:rjburns19@aol.com]  
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2008 3:30 PM  
To: a505@juno.com; dwmderby@charter.net  
Cc: eepbx@sbcglobal.net; ff505rct@charter.net; gavin505@comcast.net  
Subject: Re: Ellen to proof read /Email back or Priority Mail??

Bob: I was away in the Berkshires until today. Will catch up with you soon.  
Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Murphy <a505@juno.com>  
To: dwmderby@charter.net  
Cc: eepbx@sbcglobal.net; ff505rct@charter.net; rjburns19@aol.com; gavin505@comcast.net  
Sent: Fri, 27 Jun 2008 9:33 pm  
Subject: Ellen to proof read /Email back or Priority Mail??

DON/JENNIE Great, to have Ellen proof read all the stuff going into new Panther. It will be done asap as Ellen has just typed all my Panther News stuff. (President's letter, & 1 & 1/2 other pages). She can email to you OR put it in the mail, You and Ellen talk about how you & Jennie want to get my stuff from Ellen ??? If she can Email it to you, separate pages, so no mix up, or put it in Priority Mail You and Ellen discuss it. BOB I telly you today 7pm., no answer.

Bob Murphy

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1630 Hours- VETERANS PANEL DISCUSSION-Hospitality Suite-505RCT veterans take Q&A about their time in WWII Service

1900 Hours- Dinner on Own. Hosp Suite Open to 2300 Hours

SAT-Sept 6

0900-2300 Hours-Hosp Open

1900 Hours- BANQUET DINNER- Ballroom- Hope Hotel.

SEPT 7- Return Home

As you can see, the Lunch, Banquet Dinner and Roundtrip Bus Trip to the USAF Museum makes the \$85.00 registration fee a bargain when you add in the free-flowing refreshments and booze sandwiched in between the meetings, great discussions and sharing that goes on every year-in and year-out at the Reunion.

It seems every year, however, some lucky listener gets a private story told to him or her by a veteran who never told it before. This year, we hope to get those Vets on a Stage for Everyone to Hear and Record for Posterity. Veterans of all the units will have a chance to talk about "What They Did in the War" and what they recall about Each Other in the campaigns from Sicily, to Italy, to Normandy, Holland, Belgium and Germany.

You Can't Buy That at Any Price!!

So Be in Dayton!!

Bob Burns, VP, F&F505RCT AASN



Fill out your registration form as early as possible so we can plan properly for a everyone to have a great time. **Also, bring your cameras and audio-visual equipment as we plan to conduct a VETERANS SEMINAR where our WWII heroes from the 505 Combat Team, infantrymen, artillerymen, anti-tankers, engineers and medics will talk about their experiences and impressions. You will want to save these comments for history-sake.**

**AIRBORNE!**

Bob Burns, VP  
FF505RCT ASSN

FULL HOTEL ROOM REFUND IF YOU HAVE TO CANCEL (BY 6pm) THE DAY YOU ARE BOOKED TO ATTEND.

REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REUNDED IN FULL IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND.

**Attach:** 08 80TH REUNION FLYER.doc  
**Subject:** 80th AA Flyer for 505RCT Reunion

BOB: Attached is the 80th AA flyer I am sending out. Ray Fary and I agreed it was a good idea to have the 80th meet with the 505RCT ASSN and have a separate 80th AA membership meeting but of course participate in all the events as we did down at Ft. Bragg 2 years ago. Most men ill have the flyers in hand by Friday of this week. We are hoping for 10-15 members--veterans and family--at a minimum. (Ray and Irene, Tommy Taylor, Gus Drake, Bill and Mona Dobbins, LTC Fuller, Bob Fields, Sam and Betty McNeil, Basil Papparone, Gordon Walberg, Frank Oder, Bob Atkinson) Non vets like Henry Vermuelen, Gary Kissinger and others also attend occasionally.

I hope this boosts our numbers and makes for lively discussion amongst the RCT unit combat veterans who still have vivid memories of comradeship and battles.

I'll be working on a PROMO to give to Don McKeage tomorrow which will give attendees and idea about what is happening and when.

Hope you are feeling OK.

Bob Burns

Dayton, Ohio - 505 RCT/F&F Reunion - September 4 - 7, 2008

This year our 505 Family and Friends Vice President, Bob Burns, will be in charge of setting up the Dayton, Ohio Reunion. All the details will be in this Panther issue. Ellen Peters, our Treasurer, will handle the Reunion \$85.00 Registration fee (everything price wise has gone up) and hotel dinner bills. You need to call our Dayton Reunion Hope Hotel now, and make a room reservation at \$70.00 plus tax, single or double. Call the Hope Hotel at 937-879-2696 and book your room with credit card. If you cannot go to the reunion for any reason, you can cancel your room reservation by 6 PM of your arrival date and get a full refund, but call ASAP before 6 PM that day. You will also be refunded your \$85.00 Registration fee which has always been returned if you cannot attend.

Please, please, if you have not sent your Registration fee to Ellen Peters, do it now. No cash will be accepted at or during the reunion at Dayton. A registration form will be included in this issue of the Panther.

The Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Museum is huge and we have a big day planned there and maybe a luncheon. Vice-President Bob Burns will have it all planned out and organized, along with the other functions. Jim Blankenship will undoubtedly be in charge of the Hospitality Room at the hotel. Jim did a fantastic job running the Fort Bragg Moon Hall Hospitality Room last October. Thanks to Jim for all your long time devoted work in organizing the 505 RCT Family and Friends Association and hundreds of hours of work. Jim will work with Bob Burns, both real good organizers, so it should be a good September Reunion.

Bob Murphy, 505 RCT President

Name	Amt.
Franco, Doc and Ilene	170.00
Burns, Bob	85.00
Peters, Ellen	85.00
McKeage, Don	170.00
Fortenbaugh, Barbara	
Parker, Jean and Larry	255.00
Jackson, John	Parker
Samoson, Otis	170.00
Perozzi, John	
Blankenship, Jean and Jim	170.00
Sherer, Barbara	85.00
Hamilton, Scottie	85.00
Brown, Russell	170.00
Boswell, Duke	85.00
Oldridge, Buff	85.00
van de Schootbrugge, Egbert	85.00
	<u>1,700.00</u>

20 PD For 08  
 2008 505 RCT Assn. Reu Amt.  
 ck Recv'd\*\*\*\*

TAPS

Richard S. Aiken	456	2-19-08
John P Cages	E Co	6-16-04
Charles g coppings	C Co	12-12-04
Thomas C goins	307 Eng	2- 12-08
Fred J heblin	E Co	?
Leonard M. Skolek	D co	7-14-07
Harold r. thain	456	2-12-07
Lawrence A. wiefling	3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn	3-17-08
Walter winton	Hdqs 1 <sup>st</sup>	?
Elmo bell	C Co	10- 1 -07
Robt O'connor	A Co	2-10-08
Robt Piper	G Co	12-12-07
Joseph P. Youey	E co	?
Dennis O' Laughlin	E Co	5-1-08
Frank Woosely	E. Co	4-3-08

Our condolences to Family and friends

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To all those not feeling so Perk we offer A Ray of sunshine;  
Get well soon

\*\*\*\*\*

To those families who are losing our Veterans; PLEASE PLEASE  
Notify your Editor, when this happens  
Don McKeage 973 gladys St. SW. Stanton, Mi. 48888-9122

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# **FF505RCT & 505RCT ASSN REUNION 2008**

**WHEN:** Sept 4-7, 2008 (Thurs-Sun.)

**WHERE:** Dayton, Ohio

**HOTEL:** Hope Hotel & Conference Center, Building #823 Area A, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. OH 45433-5000

**ROOM RATE:** \$70 plus tax

**REGISTRATION FEE:** \$85.00 per person. Includes cost of Hospitality Room, Bus Transportation and Tour of Air Force Museum, Memorial Luncheon, Banquet Dinner.

**ROOM RESERVATIONS:** Call 937-879-2696. Mention you are part of the "505RCT Reunion" group. To be guaranteed lower rate, you must reserve by Aug 3, 2008.

PLEASE, do not wait until the deadline as so much of the planning and success depends on knowing how many people and rooms we need.

**AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION:** The Hope Hotel does not have a shuttle. The Airport does @ \$18 per person. However, we are working with the Dayton 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN Chapter and a local bus company to see if we can arrange a cheaper alternative. Everyone flying in with arrival times will be notified if group transportation has been arranged for you and the cost. Emails, The Panther, and personal calls will keep you informed of any updates.

**ITINERARY:** The following is a broad outline as is being presently planned, subject to changes and additional information.

**SEPT 4-** Check-in, Registration 1200hours.

505RCT & FF505RCT BOD Meetings 1600-1800 hours

**SEPT 5-** Bus Trip to Air Force Museum—0930 hours

Memorial Luncheon 1230 hours- Officers Club, W-P Air Force Base

505RCT and FF505 Annual Meeting- 1530- 1800 hours

**SEPT 6-** BANQUET DINNER—1830 hours

**HOSPITALITY ROOM:** The Sabre-Phantom Room is a 1400sf room that will be well stocked for your enjoyment. It will be open 1200 hours to 2300 hours on Sept 4 and 0930-2300 hours Sept 5-6. It will be closed during Memorial Luncheon and Banquet Dinner.

**ANY QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS CALL BOB BURNS 516-770-1815 OR  
EMAIL ME AT rjburns19@aol.com.**

**KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR YOUR OUTPOST Newsletter. It will be out shortly.**

**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL YOU VETERANS AND 80<sup>TH</sup> AA  
80<sup>th</sup> AIRBORNE AA ASSN REUNION**

**WE NEED YOU!!!...TO SEE OLD FRIENDS AND HAVE A GREAT TIME!!!**

**The 2008 Reunion will be held in conjunction with the 505 RCT ASSN REUNION**

Veterans attending from these 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN Units: 505PIR, 456 PFAB, 307 Eng., 307  
Medics—and of course our 80<sup>th</sup> AA Battery mates.

**DATES: SEPT 4-7**

**WHERE: DAYTON, OHIO**

**HOTEL: Hope Hotel & Conference Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base**

**ROOM RATE; \$70.00 per night**

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$85.00. Includes:**

**HOSPITALITY SUITE Sept 4-6,**

- **BUS TRIP and Tour of The Museum of the United State Air Force on Sept 5,9AM-12 NOON. You'll get a close up view of those old C47s and CG4A gliders that took you to Normandy and Holland...For FREE in 1944**
- **MEMORIAL LUNCHEON on Sept 5 at the USAF Officers Club at Wright-Patterson AFB, and**
- **BANQUET DINNER at Hope Hotel on the evening of SEPT 6.**

**If flying in, make sure you include your flight time and airline so we can arrange shuttles buses for your convenience.**

**FILL OUT THE ENCLOSED REGISTRATION FORM and makes your room reservations by calling 937-879-2696 and tell them you are part of the 505RCT Reunion Group. To get the best rate, reserve by August 3.**

REGISTRATION FORM

2008 REUNION

505 RCT ASSOCIATION

(And Family & Friends of the 505 RCT Association)

September 4-7, 2008

Dayton, OH

Registration Fee: \$85.00 per Person

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 Attendees:

\_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

If flying into Dayton International Airport (DAY), flight information (arrival and departure):

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact:

\_\_\_\_\_

Hotel: Hope Hotel and Conference Center - 937-879-2696. Be sure and tell them you are part of the "505 RCT Reunion Group". To receive the discounted rate, you must reserve your room by August 3, 2008.

FULL HOTEL ROOM REFUND IF YOU HAVE TO CANCEL (BY 6pm) THE DAY YOU ARE BOOKED TO ATTEND.