

505 R.C.T. WWII

Regimental Combat Team



3530 Townsend Dr.
Dallas, TX 75229

DATED MATERIAL
January, 2013

The Panther



CENTRAL ENGINE





Message from the President:

From Barbara Fortenbaugh, President of Family and Friends 505th RCT Assn:

Wow, here it is heading into the final hours of 2012, and on to 2013. Hope everyone had a safe and happy Christmas and looking forward to a safe and healthy new year. This year we said good bye to more of our WWII heroes and widows. Always hard to hear the news of their passings. This Feb will be 3 years since dad has been gone. Just like the rest of the sons and daughters, and grandchildren of the 505 RCT veterans, not a day goes by we don't think about them as we work to continue their legacy and keep their memories alive. This October we will be heading back to Fayetteville/Ft Bragg area for our 2013 reunion along with the 508 veterans and family & friends organization. They are busy making plans for us to have an enjoyable time. Hope to get the word out and have more of our facebook 505th PIR WWII <https://www.facebook.com/groups/131645680211437/> friends to join us for this reunion.

As always, I am so thankful to be part of the 505 RCT "family". I cherish the friendships I have made over the years. As a veteran myself, it is with pride that I say 'thank you and I salute you' to our veterans. Airborne.

Airborne!

**Barbara (McKeage) Fortenbaugh, President 505 RCT Family and Friends
Proud daughter of Don McKeage, F Co, 2/505 PIR, 82d Airborne Division**

2013 Reunion

Greetings Family and Friends 508 PIR 505 RTC Association(s)

My name is Luis "Lou" Gutierrez and I am the current President of the Family and Friends 508th PIR Association. I have volunteered to chair the 2013 Reunion to be held here in Fayetteville / Fort Bragg October 17 – 20, 2013.

I would like to give all of you a heads up so you can mark your calendar. Rock Merritt has agreed to be my Co-Chairman, and we will provide greater details later on in the Association newsletter. The new commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 508 PIR located out at Fort Bragg is Col Tim Watson. Rock has already had him out to his house for a visit, and Col Watson will support us all the way on our visit to Fort Bragg.

It would be great to have as many of the World War Two Veterans as our young soldiers love to hear you share your World War Two experience(s). So everyone, mark your calendar this is going to be a "Great Reunion".

**Lou Gutierrez
2013 Reunion Chairman**

**Rock Merritt
2013 Reunion Co-Chairman**

THEY AND THERE
By
Col. (Ret) Keith Nightingale

Once a year, the Nation honors the Veterans. Each day the Veteran honors us all with the fruits of that service. The Veteran internally recalls, reflects and remembers the very personal and unique aspects of that time served There. Together, all the Veterans have a binding thread we honor that only they can know and share- the knowledge that they were part of something larger than themselves because they were part of the few that were There.

As years go by and conflicts dim, Veterans speak of this war or that one and say "I was a soldier. I was a sailor. I was a Marine. I was a Coasty. I was in the Air Force. I was There." There is where they were. When the Nation sent them There. It was where they did things no one else could; where they saw things they didn't want to see but would always remember There.

There is where they knew people for a millisecond and remembered them for a lifetime. There is where no one else could go but them - they who were There.

There had many forms - sea, air and land. Wet, dry, unbearably hot and insufferably cold. There was urban, rural, beach, jungle, mountain and utter desolation-fed by rain, shrouded in impenetrable dust, heated by the sun and cooled by the chill. There had bureaucratic base camps, comfortable ports and airfields and some of the most austere and violent environments imaginable. There had many components and aspects but in each memory, they are always There. There, as a large enterprise, treated its parts differently but imparted a unifying memory that could only be shared by those that had been There.

There was the core of something bigger than each of them. There created a special place; inside slumbering and unremembered until much later, when for a pensive moment in some future time, they were brought back to There.

As they retreat into the comforting softness of time, they are awarded the luxury of reflection on being There. There is deeply, intimately, personal, yet involves a sea of faces and suppressed experiences until time draws each of them back, back to There. There floods a reservoir of knowledge, experiences, acquaintanceships and conversations that shaped each moment There. The most horrific experiences are tempered by time, leaving only the remembrances of comrades and immense inner pride in having been There.

There is a memory of a Sergeant who quickly sized up the situation at an explosive moment There and very calmly focused their mind and gave them clear professional guidance There. "I will take 6 to 12. You take 12 to 6. Lay out your magazines like this. Load like this. Focus and aim on movement. Don't fire on auto. We could be here a while." Several times throughout the night, over There, he would touch them, reassure them, bring more ammo, share water and provide an immense comfort There. They can't recall his name and they never saw him again but they can never forget his craggy face and his calm demeanor when they so desperately needed it There. On much later reflection, it is his face that wells from their memory despite thousands of other faces recorded over time in the stored images of their mind. His face was from There.

As life progressed and they were no longer There, judgments of people became weighted with what they gained from being There. Encountering some officious senior or a pretentious personage they would subliminally think back to those days, keep their tongue and know this was truly a lesser human being who hadn't been There.

That person may run the Boardroom and draw a seven figure income but he never was responsible for the lives of soldiers while for a brief period in time they were God's substitute on earth and the fate of their comrades

was 100% their responsibility There. The wealth and position fade in comparison to a decision they made, an order they gave or followed and the companionship and memories hard won in that instant moment There.

Being There provided an immense theater of life which was unequaled by anything they had done or experienced since. There was something visceral and primordial about the effect of being There. It was the ultimate Imax effect. All those helos rotating on the hot dust blown strip, the tanks rolling down the road, the close in airstrikes loosing their bomb loads directly overhead, the last second hover over the burning LZ before the landing, the snap of the cable and steam rising from the catapult, the crash of claymores, the surprise detonation of an IED, the shock of the first sharp rifle crack impacting on the man ahead of them, the smoke, dust and confusion of the millisecond after entering a grenaded room, the sharp inharmonic snap of many rifles firing and brass expending, the thump of grenade launchers, the over arching staccato of machine guns, breathless burdened soldiers running, bodies flying, people yelling and screaming, leaves, trees and mud walled enclosures exploding around them, the quiet rhythmic hissing and popping of a sucking chest wound as the blood seals the plastic wrap and the torn and bleeding body by the roadside wearing your uniform-those and a thousand more visual and auditory images stick with them There forever.

They return from There with an emotional impression of the reality of the experience that has now become the single most significant period in their life. I was There! Over time, the sharp edges smooth, the frustration diminishes, sorrows and irritations abate. Anger dissipates and they just remember what they liked and forgot the rest. The rest is suppressed until years later, lost in a random thought on a lazy afternoon, they suddenly recall some deeply personal imagery from There.

In the quiet solitude of self, There is a single thread that binds them; it is an immense pride in being part of something greater and more important than them. It is the internalized knowledge that they did much more than most, performed well, took much greater risks, did it with some select good people and served a real purpose- There.

There itself may have been screwed up but they were lucky enough to be a part of the good. They were part of a very small portion of our population that could trace its unique service from the Revolutionary War to today and was the major factor in achieving where we are today. Sitting on the porch and watching their grandchildren, they can say "I helped make this happen over There. This is good. No regrets."

The degree of pride in the service is unequalled. They always remember with crystal clarity the people they were with and what they did together - There. There, they had the Kodak Moment of their lives which constantly illuminates ours.

An anonymous soldier wrote a poem for all of them, those that were There.

SOLDIER

I was that which others did not want to be.
I went where others feared to go, and did what others
failed to do.
I asked nothing from those who gave nothing, and reluctantly
accepted the thought of eternal loneliness...should I fail.
I have seen the face of terror; felt the stinging cold of fear;
and enjoyed the sweet taste of a moment's love.
I have cried, pained, and hoped...but most of all,
I have lived times others would say were best forgotten.
At least some day I will be able to say that I was proud of
what I was...a soldier. †



Press Release

French Association A.V.A. – Friends of the American Veterans
Sainte-Mère-Eglise 50480 – Normandy, France

December 8th, 2012, the AVA association proceeded to elect the following new officers on its Board of Directors:

President	Mr. Maurice RENAUD
1 st VP	Mrs. Michelle COUPEY
2 nd VP	Mr. Jose Henriques
Treasurer	Mr. Barthelemy Ballester
Secretary	Ms. Jeanine Groult

The AVA is the first association in France dedicated to honor the American Veterans of WWII and to express the gratitude of the Normandy and the French people for their liberation in 1944.

Composed of benevolent members, each year the association welcomes, hosts and entertains the visiting American veterans and their families. The AVA attends the commemorative ceremonies around D-Day and organizes a large banquet (1,000 guests in 2011; 1700 in 2010) gathering American veterans, active US Airborne and Air Force troops as well as sympathizers from all horizons.

The AVA created and manages the La Fière MEMORIAL BATTLE GROUND site with the Iron Mike bronze statue and other commemorative monuments.

Its members come not only from the Sainte-Mère-Eglise, Normandy and other French regions but also from Belgium and the USA. We are honored to count among them several D-Day veterans, children of D-Day paratroopers and General GAVIN's daughter, Mrs. Barbara GAVIN FAUNTLEROY, who is an honorary member.

The AVA is actively getting ready for the 69th and 70th Anniversary commemorations which are expected to attract a huge attendance.



In the spirit of the mission of Mayor and Mrs. RENAUD that "We shall never forget", we are interested in cultivating partnerships with Operation Democracy of Locust Valley, NY and the American Legion. One of our projects for the 69th Anniversary is to sponsor with Operation Democracy the exposition of Painting for Peace which is realized by students of Locust Valley and Sainte-Mère-Eglise.

We welcome and invite those who wish to join our mission of gratitude and felicity to become members of the AVA.

PS – Mr. Maurice RENAUD is the third son of Alexandre RENAUD, D-Day Mayor of Sainte-Mère-Eglise and Simone RENAUD, founder and former president of the AVA.

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February 23, 2013

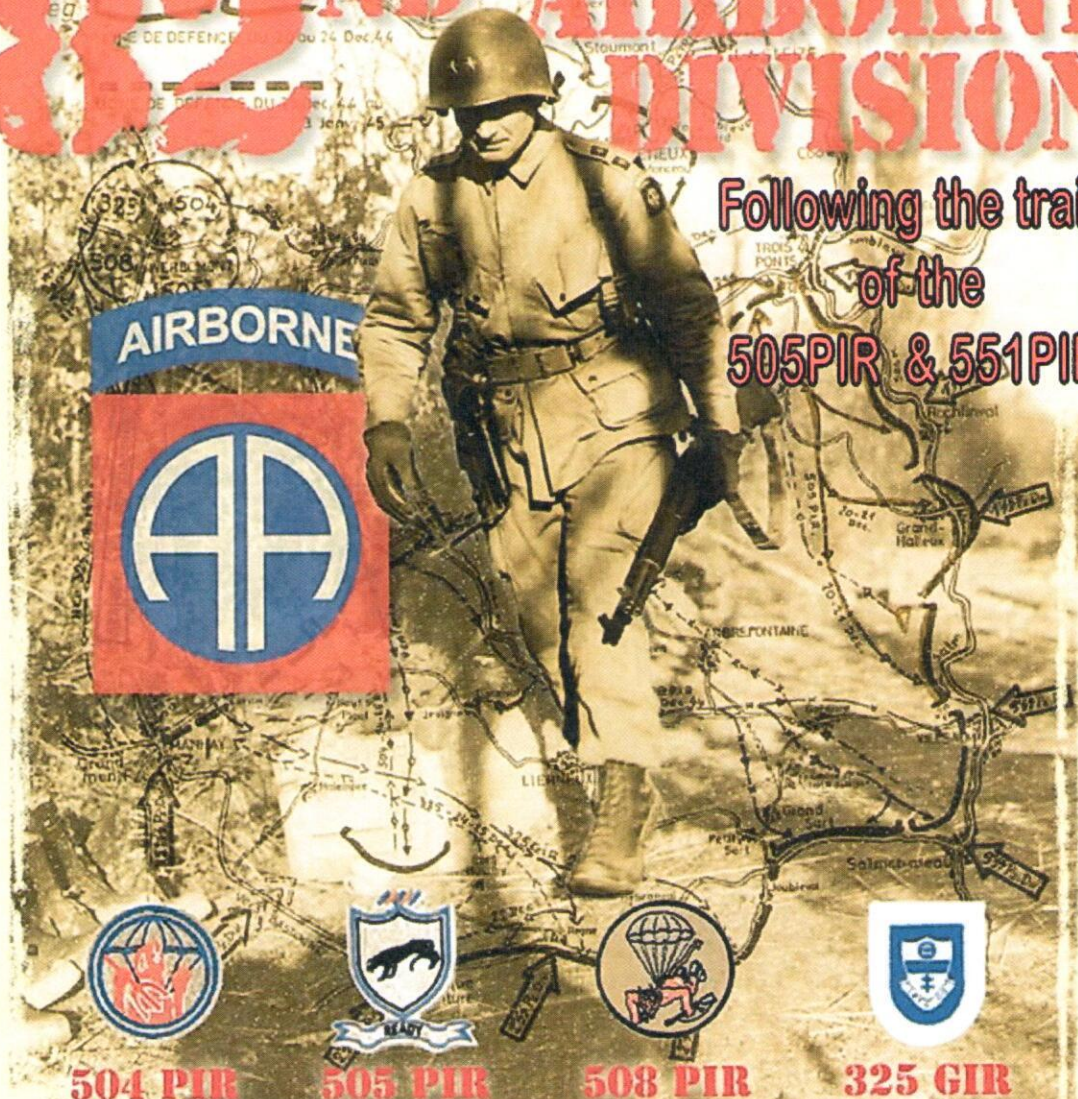
Time: 09H00

Basse-Bodeux, Belgium



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION

Following the trails
of the
505PIR & 551PIBn



This Historical march follows the steps of the 505PIR and 551PIBn from Basse-Bodeux by Fosse, Grand-Halleux, Rochelinval, Dairomont, Reharmont and back. Hot soup will be served in Petit-Halleux and hot wine at the end. - Certificates will be presented to the participants .

-- Registration 6€. --

See: <http://82ndairbornemarch2009.blogspot.com/> (Last 505PIR march)

The below was submitted by Adam Berry of Leicester. England:

Bit of research today on the 82nd HQ at Glebe Mount, Oadby, Leicestershire. Although the bulk of the Divisional HQ was based at Braunstone Park the high ranking Officers of the Division lived and worked at Glebe Mount in Oadby, Leicestershire. Ridgeway and Gavin would inevitably have spent much of their time at Braunstone Park as the building there, Braunstone Hall, was where the 82nd "War Rooms" were set up and the D-Day planning took place there. Following D-Day Ridgeway ordered a meeting that he expected any Officer who had commanded a Battalion or larger in Normandy to attend. This meeting took place at Glebe Mount. The meeting discussed the drop mainly, what went wrong, any recommended revisions to how the Division should conduct itself in Combat etc. The debriefing document and what was said can be seen here:

<http://cgsc.cdmhost.com/c...p4013coll8/id/3411/rec/6>

The picture below shows the 82nd Division staff, including Ridgeway and Gavin, sitting on the steps outside of Glebe Mount. Unfortunately the steps they sit on no longer exist, as the house sold part of its grounds in the 70's, a street was built and a small estate of houses, and it was walled off next to the road. There is also a famous picture of Gavin looking rather smart walking down these steps but I can't seem to find it.



The below was sent to me by Lou Gutierrez from D-Day Eyewitness. It is part of the debriefing document referenced by Adam above.

Colonel William Ekman

82nd Airborne Division - 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

Utah Beach



I have nothing much to add about the ride over, except the 1st Battalion Commander, Major Kellum, not being here, being KIA, I can give his story. Regimental Headquarters and the 1st Bn. got in the planes, and just about five or six minutes prior to taking off a huge explosion occurred. Someone had set off a Gammon Grenade which in turn set off all the ammunition. I was initiated into combat that way. I saw a lot of dead bodies lying around after the explosion. Our ride over was uneventful except for the ack-ack which came pretty close to our planes. Jumping out after going through the clouds, I bailed out at about 0204 hrs. according to my watch. I had a very hard opening, because we were going at least 150 miles per hour. I do not remember the landing because I was pretty dazed. I was in the midst of a field of cattle when I landed. No other personnel was around me. It took me about ten minutes to get out of my chute. I

found out later that I had landed just a few hundred yards South of Fresville, which is well Northeast of Ste Mere Eglise. I started out and the first man I met was Major Thomas of the 508th, and he was treating a few men who were injured. I wandered around still dazed for about two hours. Just before four o'clock I ran across Major Norton, and we debated about where we were. About this time we found a

Frenchman and from him we got the direction to the town and found that there were a number of Germans there. We started out to our area and on the way we ran into the 1st Bn. under Major Kellum, heading toward the bridge and his area. "A" Company had very speedily organized and was already engaging the enemy just East of the bridge near Ste Mere Eglise. Rest of the 1st Bn. continued on their mission to get on to the assembly area, they being the Regtl. Reserve. We went further towards the CP and ran into the 2nd Bn. At that time, the situation being a bit obscure, we told Lt. Col. Vandervoort to stand fast until further orders. At the location of the CP was Gen. Ridgway, and we speedily established the CP. It was a little after seven o'clock when I heard that the 3rd Bn. was in Ste Mere Eglise, that the 2nd Bn. was moving toward their objective, and that the 1st Bn. was well down toward the bridge. The

situation was well in hand. Later on the 2nd Bn. fell back into Ste Mere Eglise and with the 3rd Bn. organized for the defense of the town against superior enemy forces which were attacking from the North, Northwest and South. When action in Ste Mere Eglise ended, these two units were all mixed up due to the speed with which they had to move to meet enemy threats.

(On the evening of Thursday, 13 August 1944, a debriefing conference was held at the Glebe Mount House, LEICESTER. During the course of the conference each commander present who had commanded a unit the size of a battalion or larger of the 82d Airborne Division in Operation NEPTUNE, was permitted to talk for not to exceed ten minutes. Instructions were that each officer was to speak freely, without restraint, regarding any aspect of the operation during its airborne phase and to offer any criticism he saw fit in the interests of improving our operational technique in future combat. Commanders spoke in the order in which it was planned that they would land. Their statements were taken down verbatim as far as possible.)

Courtesy: National Archives

CORPORATE AMERICA AND THE 505

By
Col. (Ret) Keith Nightingale

As we advance in age and reflect on our legacy, there is a tendency to ask oneself “What have I done and what have I left after I go? I have taken this question on behalf of the veterans of the 505 PIR and asked it to several years’ worth of senior corporate executives. Members of the WW II 505 PIR should rest easy that these executives believe you have left a great deal more than they ever will. Let me explain.

For the past two years, I and my partner Dave McNeil, have led a Normandy Leadership tour for the executives of a major US-based international corporation. The Corporation built this program as a major benefit and leadership training opportunity for its tier one executives. The CEO’s of the Capital division, Production division, Financial Services division, Manufacturing division and Corporate headquarters-less than thirty including their immediate deputies, assembled in Normandy for the same walk that David and I have given to the soldiers every year since the 40th Anniversary of D Day. These include the international based executives from around the world. Truly the movers and shakers of an established American Fortune 100 institution.

Our purpose was to expose them to the historical facts of events at each location-Omaha Beach, Point Du Hoc, Neuville Au Plain, St Mere Eglise, Chef Du Pont and La Fiere Bridge. The facts then evolve into the personalities present at that moment and what they did to achieve success. From privates such as Marcus Heim to General’s Gavin, Ridgway and Cota, we make the point that these were ordinary people who did extraordinary things. The discussions then evolve into leadership and management lessons and decision processes. While designing, building and marketing a light bulb is not a life-threatening proposition, only time has placed there a different individual than you-an individual fortunate enough not to have to endure what you did and to have immensely benefitted from your work.

Our very first session in the evening is an overview of the invasion, who, what, where, why-all as a backdrop to the specific sites they will visit. The eyes are somewhat glazed from travel halfway around the world tinged with some degree of boredom-private thoughts of Why did I sign up for this? I need to check on status back home. Can I get something decent to eat? This room certainly isn’t the Ritz-Carleton, may pass through their minds but they remain reasonably attentive. Remember, they have almost zero knowledge of the military and Normandy in particular, I make the point that thanks to you, none of them had to serve unless voluntarily. They could devote their lives to whatever selfish impulses they had because you had subordinated your lives to something far more important-our survival as a Nation. A privilege they could not share.

We tell them that for the next few days they will be walking with the ghosts. They look mildly amused as we send them off to bed and their Blackberry’s. Realization sets in quickly.

Our first stop of the first day is the Cemetery at Omaha. There is very little introduction. The place will speak for itself. Only the comment that when they see around 10,000 items on their production or shipping line, that is roughly analogous to the crosses on the lawn. They NEVER forget that analogy-and it’s a good thing.

Next a walk on Omaha. If conditions are favorable and the tide is low, we take them to the edge of the extreme low tide limit and then turn them around to face the cliffs. We ask them to be Sergeant Slaughter or Pvt Smith and ask them to consider how they got from this point to the top of the cliffs. Do you have people in your organization that can be a BG Cota or a Sgt X or Private Y? You don’t know until they are tested. They are there-they just haven’t had the opportunity to show their skills. Leadership occasionally requires an extra step and an extra interest. Could you lead your people up those cliffs? What is required that’s not written in a book? What about this don’t you understand? The usual awed response is “How did they do it?” They did it because they had to-this is much of your legacy of the strength of spirit that resides inside you.

At St Mere Eglise, we start at the church square. We note the Roman mileage marker and the town's Viking pre-history and make the point that little has changed from that night of nights. Look around, sense the ghosts of the 505 hanging from these trees and buildings. Under the cars and stalls and tread of thousands of feet is the blood of the best of our Nation, willingly spilled so we can stand here in the sunshine today. The citizens of the town have never forgotten that nor should we.

We go to the church and show them the stained glass window of the trooper descending and note with over 1,500 years of history St Mere has changed its ancient heraldry to honor the men of that specific night. One can see the bright light of realization in the crowded of eyes. Several emit deep breaths and look to the ground. They know something truly special happened here.

A tour is made around the square and we stop at several of the kiosks with the black and white photos of the combat. As you know, little has changed in St Mere. The executives can see exactly where the private is dead and his buddy is clinging to the wall just across from today's Stop Bar. They see Gen Ridgway moving down the road from the Hotel De Ville. They see the building the glider crashed into around 0400 on 6 June. Mental lights go on, desultory conversation stops and they clearly see the ghosts and the delayed distillation of greatness. This is your gift to them.

Stops are made at Neuville and Chef Du Pont. By now, the executives are quiet, focused, fully engaged and almost reverential. The atmosphere of the walk is almost as if for the first time, they, as young children had stepped into their grandmother's parlor. Their contemporary concerns are lost. The point is made that ordinary people achieved extraordinary things because they not only had the opportunity but they had to do what they did for everyone else. The criticality of each event was not recognized at the moment but became evident only with time. Such would it be with decisions and actions the executives took and they would be hostage to the quality and leadership of their subordinates. Neither Ridgway nor Gavin held the line at Chef du Pont or Neuville but their example and spirit pervaded all.

Our last stop is La Fiere. At Iron Mike, we note that all within their view is the Gettysburg Park of the 82 Airborne. As General SLA Marshall, official Army historian of WW II noted, this ground marks the bloodiest terrain per square foot in the European Theatre. The point is made that at this place, between 6 and 9 June, every numbered unit of the 82d was engaged with the most intense and collectively focused on the morning of the 9th of June.

No place better represents the connection between strategic and tactical than La Fiere. The success or failure of the American strategy at Normandy would largely depend on ordinary soldiers placed there by accidents of time and circumstance. At 1030 on 9 June, the actions of two small units and their civilian soldiers would decide the success or failure of the entire endeavor. The executives are clearly engaged and doing a mind transport to that moment. Whatever their contemporary responsibilities, they have individually become Captain Saul, Captain Rae, MG Ridgway and BG Gavin and are intensely internalizing the scene and circumstances.

We walk with Captain Saul and his 29 soldiers. Stopping every 50 yards or so, we describe the subtle shifts in terrain, the effect of masking and enfilade fire and the total utter isolation these soldiers experienced. The executives, both male and female, are totally engaged, suddenly intuitively knowledgeable in the art and science of soldiers and the grim realities of close quarter combat. With just a bit of training, they would now be engaged if not good soldiers. Its crystal clear they understand and appreciate good soldiering.

We conclude at the crossroads just beyond Cauquigny Church. I read the casualty figures for the jump, Hill 30, Timmes Orchard, Chef Du Pont, SME, La Fiere, Neuville and finally for the entire Normandy period- 72% casualties and they were victorious! What qualifies as success in your corporation? Because of these

soldiers, you can make your own choices. This is their legacy to you. Use it wisely. Ghosts can appear anywhere and the spirit is with us always.

The final dinner and discussion is both uplifting and reserved. Everyone expresses great awe at what they have learned and incredulity at what occurred. Every single executive remarks that the exposure has profoundly changed their life, attitude and how they will approach their personnel. Comments are frequent that their sheltered and privileged lives have been dramatically and positively changed by what happened here so long ago. They depart Normandy very different and both better people and better leaders.

This is part of your legacy and it will remain long after we are all ghosts and spirits. †

Normandy, 2013

From: Michelle & Lilian <lilian_coupey@yahoo.com>
To: Ellen Peters <eeptx@sbcglobal.net>; "katie1@sbcglobal.net" <katie1@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Fri, November 30, 2012 6:57:44 AM
Subject: Confirmation of June 2013 dates

Bonjour Ellen & Katie!

SME met with the Americans yesterday and the dates for June 2013 are confirmed. Here is how the itinerary looks (for the SME area only):

June 4 - Tuesday 5:00 pm Carentan & Montebourg Ceremonies
June 5 - Wednesday 7:00 pm Utah Beach Ceremony
June 6 - Thursday 6:00 pm Signal Monument SME - church square
June 7 - Friday 10:00 am Picauville Ceremony
 2:00 pm Chef du Pont
 7:00 pm Military dinner with French families
June 8 - Saturday 10:30 am Angloville Cermony
 6:00 pm Peace Ceremony at SME
 7:00 pm Liberty Banquet at Covered Market in SME
June 9 - Sunday 1:00 pm Parachute Jump at La Fiere
 4:30 pm Ceremony at La Fiere

I also confirm that Duaine Pinkston will receive his French Medal of Honor at La Fiere during the ceremony following the Jump.

Furthermore, on the 6th of June, there will be an official ceremony at Colleville American Cemetery and Vierville sur Mer (just next to it). This is the official ceremony of the Allied Normandy landings. Each year they change the location among the Juno, Sword, Gold, Utah, and Omaha beaches. IMPORTANT : There are official invites to have in order to have access to this event. So if you have the names and addresses of any American Veterans coming to Normandy in June 2013, I would be happy to communicate them to the committee to ensure the veterans will have their passes.

Again, I appreciate any help in distributing this itinerary to as many veterans as possible so that they may arrange their flights and lodging. Please let me know if they need help with lodging while in SME. And the sooner we know, the better!

Thanks again! Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

All my best, Michelle.

Editor's Note: if you are planning on going to Normandy in 2013, be sure and make your reservations accordingly. †

Condolences

Marylea Dumke passed away October 25, 2012. Marylea was the widow of Robert "Bob" Dumke (Hq.-2nd) and mother of former Family and Friends president, Katie Troccoli. Marylea and her husband founded the John Steele Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Assn. She belonged to numerous organizations including the Illinois Sky Divers Club where she made 16 parachute jumps. Marylea was a constant presence at our reunions and will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Condolences can be sent to her family at: 1911 Champlain St.; Ottawa, IL 61350-1658

Memorial contributions may be directed to the 82nd Airborne Division John Steele Chapter at the same address.

Mail Box

December 18, 2012

Newtown and Belgium

In tribute to the drama of Newton, 26 trees were planted in the wood of the Peace. In this wood trees are planted in honor of veterans who fought Americans for us during the winter 44-45. Belgium love the United States so that children have planted 26 trees in honor of the young victims and their teachers. The American ambassador was present. http://www.lavenir.net/article/detail.aspx?articleid=DMF20121218_00246230.

Xavier van Daele

x_va@hotmail.com

Editor's Note :Xavier – we are all deeply touched by this kind gesture. I have attempted to translate the article in Xavier's above link into English. As best as I can tell, it reads as follows:

Belgique/Monde

The ambassador of the United States, Howard Gutman, and the burgomeister of Bastogne, Benoît Lutgen, paid homage Tuesday to the victims of the shooting of Newtown. Gutman and Lutgen, accompanied by children and teachers of the community, planted twenty-six oaks in the Bois de la Paix. (Peace Woods)

This site, created for the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Ardennes, accommodates 4,000 trees. Seen from the sky, it represents the sign of Unicef, the mother and the child, symbol of universal tenderness.

"This tragedy is incomprehensible. The madness of the man is unfathomable. Barack Obama said he wants to do everything possible to prevent such a cruel tragedy from happening again. It is our most fervent hope that these children did not die for nothing. To speak about tenderness today seems unreal. And yet, it is quite evident in this gesture of compassion that Bastognians desire to extend to you in the spirit of solidarity that has united our peoples since the combatants and Belgian civilians and allies fought for the freedom of our country," declared Benoit Lutgen.

The ceremony was punctuated by national anthems imbued with great emotion. †

"Burning Bridges"

Dear friends,

A little while ago, Peter Hendrikx approached me asking for help to compile his new pictorial history about the 82nd Airborne Division in the Holland campaign. The book will be as good as the contributions by individual collectors who make photographs available, which is why I pass his request on to all of you.

Frits Janssen

frits.janssen@planet.nl

Dear fellow airborne adepts and collectors.

Michel De Trez and I, Peter Hendrixx, wrote the definite pictorial history of the 101st Airborne Division in the Holland campaign. With over 750 pages and more than 1.250 original photos we are proud of the final results to keep the history of the 101st alive. Check out our website at www.d-day-publishing.com

The other good news is we also took it upon ourselves to write the definite pictorial history of the 82nd Airborne Division in the Holland campaign, titled "Burning Bridges". I solicited Frits' help to uncover many of the unknown photographs of the 82nd Airborne in the Holland campaign because aiming for the definite and most complete pictorial, we need the help of all 82nd Airborne collectors and historians.

So my question to you is if you want to consider sharing your 82nd Airborne Division in Holland photos with us for the purpose of this book. This is a great opportunity to make sure unique photos are no longer kept in obscurity in private collections, but are shared for all to see for many years to come. There is no better way to honor the paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division than to have their photos and stories recorded in what will be the definite pictorial history book of the 82nd in Holland. Of course full credit will be given.

Also, if you have identified collectibles, equipment, paperwork or uniforms relating to the 82nd in Holland we are also very interested to hear from you.

So please consider sharing your photographs or collectibles to honor the paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division in what will be the definite pictorial history of their Holland campaign. With your contribution the book will be as complete as possible. I look forward to hear from you with great interest!

Airborne All the Way!!
Peter Hendrixx†

Dear WWII Veteran,

There are countless books chronicling the heroics and horrors of World War II, but what about the humor?

Sure, there may be a funny anecdote sprinkled in among the personal narratives and history volumes, but no books that I've come across are filled entirely with smile-inducing stories.

War is hell. No question. And the atrocities during the Second World War are among history's worst. I don't intend to make light of that fact.

But through it all, life continued to happen. Sometimes it even managed to provide some levity.

And I'd like to share that in a compilation tentatively titled THE LIGHTER SIDE OF WAR: Amusing stories told from the men and women who served during WWII.

That's why I'm seeking stories that made you smile and will in turn make others smile, perhaps even laugh out loud. From enlistment, to basic training, to VJ Day - I want to hear them, write them down, and pass them along.

Please mail, email or call me with your humorous tales while serving during WWII. I can't wait to hear what you have to say!

Thank you for your willingness to share. More importantly, thank you for serving!

Sincerely,
Nate Strong
Vice President: The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial
Honor Flight Michigan Board Member
2143 Cliffside Drive, Wixom MI 48393
248-762-2945
ndstrong@comcast.net†

Searching For

The 505 webmaster is looking for morning reports from 1942 to 1945, all old Static Lines and Panther newsletters, all individual company news letters that were printed over the years. All old photographs, etc. etc. Also copies of all unpublished manuscripts written by troopers.

If you have any of these items and would like to see them on our website, please forward them to our webmaster at:

Robert Schweikert
7208 Amboy Road
Staten Island, NY 10307-1406
Email: ContactMeAt@aol.com
Tele: 718-948-1350†

Thu, December 6, 2012 3:03:58 PM
RE: Find A Grave Photo Request: Winter Cemetery

Ellen , Jim

During my research for the 505PIR roster I have contacted Nancy Weise for some information about a grave , the name is Harold R Smith ... and after his wife confirmation was to the 505PIR SVC ... he is unfortunately passed away in 1988 . Like many veteran he never talked about the war to his family ... Now she would like to have some help about his career and maybe found a buddy ...

Nancy will be the contact for this great story ...

Last news ... I'm coming for the 2013 reunion ...

Dominique Potier
paracsm@hotmail.com†

TO ALL 505 Veterans, FRIENDS AND FAMILIES

My name is Dion Murphy, the son of Pathfinder, Bob Murphy, A/505. I am in search of any surviving D-Day +4, June 6- 10, 1944 veterans or their families that know the name of any soldier(s) killed in action (KIA) or died of wounds (DOW) as the result of the Normandy battles at La Fiere causeway, Aid station at La Fiere, Cauquigny hamlet church area, Hamlet des Heutes, Timmes orchard, La Pierre Farm, Le Motey, Gray Castle, Chef du Pont bridge and Hill 30 areas. These areas are approx. 3+ km/mi. west of St Mere Eglise around Drop Zones "N", "T" and "O". In these same areas nearby and around Chef du Pont, the glider Landing Zones of "E" and "W" are located as well. If ANYONE (this includes veterans, friends of veterans, families of veterans to include the wives, sons/daughters, grandsons/granddaughters, brothers/sisters, any former girlfriend waiting to hear from their pre WWII partner) can give me ANY soldiers names KIA/DOW from any of the following : 82nd Airborne Regimental Combat Teams 505, 507, 508 and the 401/325/320/319/ Glider Infantry Regiments, 307 Med and Engineer Btn., 90th Infantry Div. 345 Field Artillery Btn, 746 Tank Btn., including any teams that

may be missing from this list. This is for a personal project in dedication to my father and his fallen comrades who battled for the bridges. They shall have a name to a face, someday we may be able to know about the life they lived before the war, sacrificed in the name of freedom. Please send All responses to:

Dion Murphy
surferdion@hotmail.com
3332 NORMANDY DR.; Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(Tel.) 239-200-2420+

Announcement

Although the Static Line Newspaper has folded, the Airborne Awards Festival will take place in 2013. The dates will be April 3-6. Information can be found at: www.82nd-atl.com or by contacting Annette Purcell at the following email address: AirborneAwardsFestival@82nd-atl.com or 678-592-7441.

Events will include the following:

WEDNESDAY APRIL 03rd - This is the date of the Early-Bird Party. The Hospitality Room will open at 12 Noon, on the Lobby Level (follow the signs) and will provide a place for the early arrivals to enjoy themselves until their rooms are available.

MOST HOTEL ROOMS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL AFTER 3:00 PM (1500 HRS)

THURSDAY APRIL 04th - This is an exciting day. The first official function is the Memorial Luncheon scheduled at 12 Noon. The Cocktail Hour begins at 11AM to give everyone a chance to get together for a little while as you find your table and greet all the new arrivals of the morning and greet and welcome the VIP's who will be mixing among the crowd. The Memorial Service will be dedicated to the memory of the Airborne Soldiers lost in combat during the past 68 years. Following the luncheon, there will be a briefing update given by the 82nd Airborne Division giving us a rundown of their activities of the past year and a readiness update of the Division. The evening will be free for Unit meetings, a leisurely dinner, or whatever you choose to do. We will hold a QUICK DRAW at 10:00PM in the Hospitality Room and one lucky person could walk away with \$1,000.00. There will other winners of \$25.00 and \$50.00. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.**

FRIDAY APRIL 05th - The buses will depart from the hotel parking lot at 8AM sharp, and will arrive at Fort Benning at 10AM. Our first stop will be the Airborne 5000 to witness a demonstration of modern Airborne Training. After this we will walk over to the Airborne Battle Monument for a memorial ceremony dedicated to all the persons who have served in the Airborne, pin wings on the new graduates and visit the Airborne Monument. At Noon we will have lunch at Airborne Headquarters and possibly have a live fire exercise (depending upon availability) or visit the wonderful Infantry Museum. We'll return to the hotel by 6PM, have the evening free for a leisurely dinner and hold another QUICK-DRAW in the Hospitality Room at 10:00PM.

SATURDAY APRIL 06th - At 10 AM the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) will conduct an update briefing on the past year's activities and the Division's readiness. The ladies will have a brunch at 10 AM, with prizes and a special concert by the 82nd Airborne Division's All American Chorus. The Awards Banquet will begin with Cocktails at 6PM and the Banquet at 7PM. Following dinner, to finish out the evening, we will have the Airborne Awards presentations and the recognition of Airborne Achievements by the members of the various Airborne organizations across the Country. After the Awards presentations, we will adjourn to the Hospitality Room for our "Airborne Hop" with music provided by our DJ. Festivities will continue until 2AM.

The legends, the heroes, the organizers and the planners of the Airborne World turn out for this festival, from WWII to present day and the leaders of most National Airborne organizations.

The entire festival is staged for the benefit of every person who has ever served in the Airborne. This is a real opportunity for you to feel proud of yourself and your Airborne Comrades, and to join with them openly in Airborne camaraderie. And if you still have a uniform around that you can get into, it will be entirely fitting to wear it to this get-together.

The famed 82nd Airborne Division Chorus is scheduled to perform for us at our banquets on Thursday and Saturday, and at the Ladies Brunch Saturday morning.

Thank You!

Many thanks to Col. (Ret) Bruce B.G. Clarke for his very kind and generous donation. Bruce is the son of LTC Arthur Gorham who was KIA in Sicily. He has been an honorary member of the 505th RCT Association since 1943.

505th RCT HATS FOR SALE



Barbara Fortenbaugh found 505th RCT hats amongst her father's possessions. She has graciously donated the hats to our association. These hats are in limited supply. Cost is \$15.00 + postage. Anyone interested in purchasing one of these hats should contact Ellen Peters at (214) 632-1360 or eeptx@sbcglobal.net

Copies of "Ready" Available

Several copies of the original "Ready" were found in the Static Line wear house and are available for purchase. Price is \$250.00 + \$25.35 postage for a total of \$274.35. Contact Jim Blankenship at 2135 Saint Thomas Way; Suwanee, GA 30024-3285; Home: (678) 349-2262 Cell: (404) 906-5646 email: jimspix@charter.net or

ff505rct@charter.net or Ellen Peters at 3630 Townsend Dr.; Dallas, TX 75229-3805; Home: (214) 352-7002 or Cell: (214) 632-1360; email: eeptx@sbcglobal.net.

Call for Dues!

Dues for the new fiscal year of Family and Friends of the 505th PIR Assn. were due on July 1. WWII 505 RCT veterans, widows of WWII 505 RCT veterans, and Honorary Members are not required to pay dues. All others are. Your dues are critical to our FF505RCT operations and reunions.

Dues are \$12.00 per year. Multiple years may be paid if desired and donations are gratefully accepted. Please send dues to:

**F&F505RCT Assn.
3630 Townsend Dr.
Dallas, TX 75229-3805**

Changes of Address

Please forward change of email addresses to ff505rct@charter.net or eeptx@sbcglobal.net and postal changes of address to: Ellen Peters; 3630 Townsend Dr.; Dallas, TX 75229-3805

Panther Submissions

Panther Submissions:

If you have something you would like to put in the Panther, kindly send it to Ellen Peters; 3630 Townsend Dr.; Dallas, TX 75229-3805 or eeptx@sbcglobal.net. Send all changes of physical and/or email addresses to the same address/email.

2012-2013 Family and Friends of the 505th RCT Assn. Officers

**Barbara Fortenbaugh, President: 973 Gladys St. SW; Stanton, MI 48888-9122;
Home: (989) 831-4235; Cell: (912) 665-9413; willowbsf@aol.com**

**Otis Sampson, Jr., Vice-President: 95 Indian Point Rd.; Tiverton R.I. 02878;
Home: (401) 624-6910; Cell: (401) 225-8558; sampsono@srminc.net**

**Ellen Peters, Secretary-Treasurer: 3630 Townsend Dr.; Dallas, TX 75229; Home:
(214) 352-7002; Cell: (214) 632-1360; Fax: (214) 350-0951;
eeptx@sbcglobal.net**

**Gene Garren, 4-Year Trustee: 656 Winter Star Rd.; Burnsville, NC 28714; Home:
(828) 682-6650; Cell: (828) 284-0951; genegarren@aol.com**

**Barbara Gavin Fautleroy, 3 -Year Trustee: 19 Prospect Ridge - Unit 29;
Ridgefield, CT 06877-5129; Home: (203) 438-2461; gavin505@att.net**

**Jim Blankenship, 2-Year Trustee: 2135 Saint Thomas Way; Suwanee, GA 30024;
Home: (678) 349-2262; Cell: (404) 906-5646; Fax (770) 822-4751;
jimspix@charter.net; airbornealltheway.blankenship@gmail.com**

**Duke Boswell, 1-Year Trustee: 930 Crown Ridge Dr.; Colorado Springs, CO 80904-
1734; Home: (719) 633-3569; bos930@aol.com**

**Ray Fary, Veterans' Liaison Trustee: 8254 Madison Ave.; Munster, IN 46321-
1627; Home: (219) 836-7974; RFARY@mailstation.com;
r.fary8280@sbcglobal.net**

Dedication

This and all Panther newsletters are dedicated in loving memory to our original Panther editor, Don McKeage. We love and miss you.

MY HEROES

