

As time goes by, silently, eventually & ultimately eventually.



Age 3 -farm

Age 23 -College

Age 73 -Parade

Age 83 -Editor



17th Airborne Division's post-dissolution Newsletter (Siergiej Edition)

THUNDER MAIL CALL

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Email = kn6qd@arrL.net

This newsletter might be sent from thundermailcall@gmail.com.

Please enter this address into your computer address file, to avoid having your computer reject the newsletters as unfriendly spams.

{Website URL = <http://groups.google.com/group/17th-airborne-division>},

Date: Siergiej Edition, July 2008

'til the end of me-----

The Chinese philosopher, Confucius, once noted that a person must choose a close friend from among his acquaintances, one who is either honorable, or honest, or helpful, or loyal, or dependable. We, in the 17th Airborne family, are fortunate to have a close friend who has all those virtues by the name of Ed Siergiej.

Ed Siergiej (pronounced Ser-Ji) was my fellow rifleman in 194-C. We were both in the same platoon while in training but we never met personally, because I was detached early to be converted to a medic. We eventually met at the 1970's Chattanooga Reunion when I dropped in unannounced to surprise my Camp Fannin/MIT buddy, Joe Quade.

It has been a wonderful working relationship with Ed in our Association ever since. Now that our Association is no more, we continue to carry on remotely by telephone and email to serve our 17th Airborne family as we have done for so many years, in spite of the great distance between our homes.

Mary Siergiej has to be commended for her role in keeping the faith in adjusting to Ed's often variable duties to accommodate the many requests and favors asked of him.

There were so many difficult-to-pronounce Polish names in the service that I was advised to call any one with a complicated name by just using "SKI". So, now, Ed has fondly become "Edski" to me, and I am "Billski" to him. It is a wonderful airborne adventure of delightful Polish names. Thirty years ago, when the Association was selecting a new Secretary/Treasurer, the Board of Directors decided to take a poll. So they chose a Pole in Edward Josef Siergiejewski, a smooth-sounding name -- great foresight -- great choice!

We dedicate this newsletter to Ed on his 83rd birthday.



Mary and Edward J. Siergiej, Secretary-Treasurer.

Edward J. Siergiej, born in 30 June 1925 in Danbury, CT, was a sophomore at Western Connecticut State University when he entered service in Sept 1943. Following his basic training at Fort Benning, GA, he was assigned to the ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program) as an engineering student at Norwich University in Vermont. When ASTP was terminated in March 1944, Ed was assigned as a rifleman to Company C, 194th Glider Infantry Regiment while the Division was on the Tennessee Maneuvers. He remained at that assignment all through the war, until he was transferred to the 82nd Airborne for occupation duty in Berlin. He returned to the US to participate in the Victory Parade in New York City before being discharged in January 1946.

Ed completed his BS degree in Education at Western Connecticut where he was President of his graduating class in 1948. He received his Masters Degree in Administration and entered his doctorate study program at Columbia University in New York and served as Coordinator of Audio Visual Communications in Great Neck NY for 19 years and as Administrator in the Rockville Center District for 10 years. While at Rockville, he was President of Administrators Association for three years and was a delegate in National Leadership Conference on Educational Communications and Technology.

Retiring in 1980, Ed returned to Connecticut to do some cost accounting work in private industry for two years. Ed and Mary have two sons and five grandchildren. Ed is the workhorse of the 17th Airborne having served as Secretary/treasurer for the Association since 1980 and can enumerate his time sheet for his services for the Association as 24/7/365/28. He was also elected honorary-President, honorary only because we could not afford to take him away from being Secretary-Treasurer.

SPECIAL NOTE: With respect to the ASTP program, the following were the possible reasons for initiating such an educational program in a time of war.

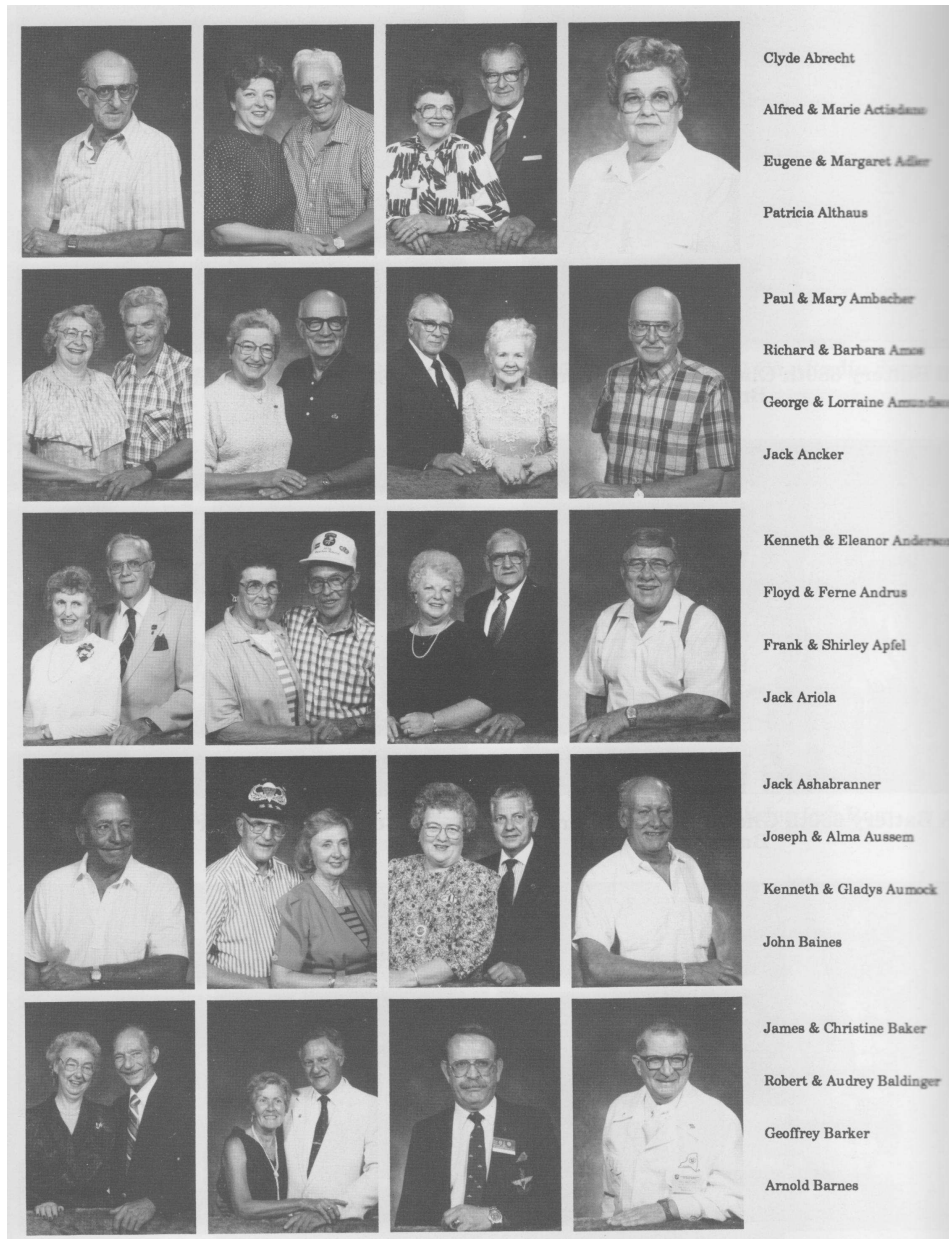
1. *There was no guarantee as to the length of time needed to fight World War II. The military people all had to “serve for the duration”, with no end-date. Had we lost the war, it would not have really mattered as to our future. If the war lasted 30 years and we won, our soldiers would have been discharged directly into the retirement homes. Two of our young generations of children would have known only war, if we were to have children at all. Had we suffered great numbers of casualties or significant damage to our nation, there would be no educated men left to reconstruct our world after the war was over. We would all have had to start off like the cavemen did.*
2. *After World War I, England, having lost over a million men in the trenches of Belgium, discovered a “brain drain”, in that most of her bright young men were buried in Flanders Field in Belgium. Due to the national draft of our young men for military duties, our universities were emptied of students. Financially, the schools would all become bankrupt. Our war effort required the survival of our universities to carry on the wartime research for new weapons, with the atom bomb specifically in mind. By educating the brighter men, our government was able to fulfill the two important requirements of war – to win the war and to win the peace afterwards.*
3. *Thus, all new recruits were required to take the “Army General Classification Test” on entry into military service. The test score, known as the AGCT score, was actually the IQ of the new recruits. With a score of 110 or above, the soldier was eligible to apply for OCS (Officer’s Candidate School). If the score was over 115, the recruit was set aside for consideration to enter the ASTP program to study engineering and medicine, in many instances.*
4. *In support of that IQ theory, you will find that many of our more active members of the 17th Airborne Association were once ASTP men, Joe Quade, Ed Siergiej, John Kormann, Bill Tom, Carl Peterson, etc. to name only a very few.*
5. *The army also deemed a college high-IQ man as officer material. Since Lieutenants were so very expendable in combat, especially in the airborne, the army reasoned that ASTP guys could be immediate “battlefield promotions” replacements to cover the Lieutenant losses. In actuality, and rightfully so, the army singled-out experienced non-coms for battle field promotions; However, Carl Peterson did become a Major! Also, I, as a pharmacist, was assigned as a Lieutenant Assistant-Battalion Aid Surgeon in the Korean War, but I did not have to go when peace was declared.*

6.

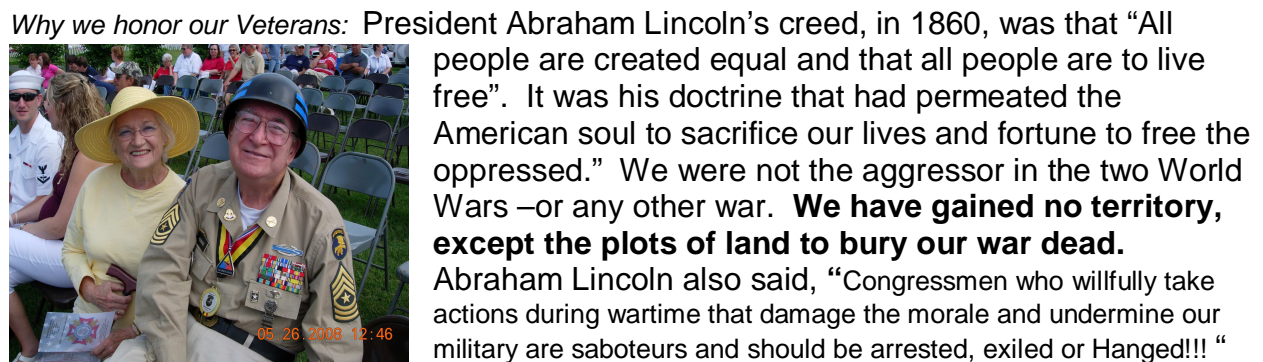
7. **The Siergiej Children at our Final Reunion.**



Very unfortunately, both Ed and Mary Siergiej were unable to be present to say farewell, but their son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren were there to represent them. Their granddaughters filled in for grandma Mary to sing the haunting “My Buddy” solo that Mary had always sang at our Candlelight Memorial Services at our Memorial Banquets. Regina Siergiej’s rendition of “My Buddy” was as spine-tingling and as solemn as ever. Mary-Jo Siergiej and Julia Siergiej were the two flutists (flautists) who provided a muted accompaniment.



That was 18 years ago, if only we could get back those expended years.



Gene and Emily Howard on Memorial Day 2008.

2 June 08: **Pierre Ackermans** <pierre.ackermans@hetnet.nl>

Dear 17th ABN friends, It is a pleasure to inform you about a result of this contact. From the 90er years I adopted the grave of Charles Martin, 507th PIR, KIA March 24, 1945. From that time we built up a relationship with his son Charles Chuck Martin, living in New York. Due to medical circumstances he was not able to visit his father's grave before. His situation changed and he planned a 14 days tour to Europe, including a visit at Margraten Cemetery and a family home visit on April 24th. It was a very emotional and enjoyable meeting and I will repeat his words from the following Email. This is what us, adoption families, gives us so much satisfaction. Regards, Pierre Ackermans, Maastricht

Email from **Charles Martin**, New York. *Dear Pierre and Mia, We are doing fine here and wish that both of you are also doing well. I attached some of the pictures we took at Margraten and one at your house. We really enjoyed that afternoon with you and Mia. Today a group of us went to the local Military Cemetery to place the Flags on the gravesites. I Told Ginny that I needed to write you as soon as we were finished as I know that you usually do the same there around Memorial Day. It is just amazing how many people I have told about you and the other grave adopters and they all are deeply moved by what you are doing at Margraten. I feel that my father is lucky to be there in Margraten as it so beautiful and that there are people like you and the others who look after him and the other troopers. Take care. Chuck*



On Fri, Jun 6, 2008 at 8:32 PM, **Brenda Lawson** <brendavlawson@yahoo.com> wrote: Bill, thanks so much for sending the Thunder Mail Call. I recently had a small grease fire in my kitchen that smoked up my house quite a bit. The insurance of course is taking care of things and in this process sent a young man from the cleaners to my home to pick up our clothes for cleaning. This young man Jim Moore and I got to talking and I was sharing about my Uncle Clifford East and telling him about the Thunder from Heaven magazines. He was so interested that I let him borrow 6 of them to take home and share with his father and uncle. His father has m.s. and is wheelchair bound. Jim called me to thank me for allowing them to read these. They all have military backgrounds. I am sure he will be contacting you. My daughter Rebecca Pinkstaff has enjoyed communicating with you so much. Thanks again. Brenda V. Lawson, niece of Clifford Eugene East (680-KIA)

29 May 08: My name is **Vivian Bates**. I am Martin' Bate's daughter (681 HQ). Dad would like very much to receive the Mail Call e-mail newsletters you are writing - and thanks so much for doing it. It's great that the guys are still going to be able to keep up with one another - I know how much Dad looked forward to the Thunder From Heaven publications.

Gene R. Collins writes, "Hi Mr. Tom, Thank you for the Thunder Mail Call # 3. It is very thoughtful and unselfish of you to continue the excellent job of informing those of us that



Ray Crisp, Horace Swain, Buren Nading, David Collins, 1945.

are extremely interested in the 17th, but so remotely located from the center of action and information. Some months back I received two additional photos of my dad and fellow troopers of the 17th. In one of the photos, I believe one of the soldiers is from the British 6th that joined up with the 17th after the Varsity jump. Thought you might be interested."

Please stay safe and in touch.

Gene R. Collins (son of Pvt. David K. Collins, 513-HQ1), USN Retired

22 Jun 08: **Frédéric DEHON** <dehon_fredla2526@yahoo.com>

Subject: GRAVES AT NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY

When I joined you last October for the last reunion, I saw pictures of 3 graves taken at the Normandy American Cemetery. I'm sorry but I don't remember their name. I was even more surprise that you didn't fight in Normandy...

I went to Normandy this week so I went to the cemetery to look after those graves. I was again surprised because I didn't find 3 graves but 5...

They are: Alvin P. Himel (680 GFA); Thomas H. Williams (680 GFA-kia); Doyal Kincade (680 GFA-kia); Vincent Cornacchio (513 PIR) and Sylvester F. Sokol (507-PIR-MIA)

Unfortunately, we can't adopt the graves at the Normandy American Cemetery. It's different that what we can do in Belgium. However, I can promise one thing, and i think that those of you who know me know that you can trust me, each time we'll take part at thje ceremony to honor the 507th PIR at Graignes, we'll go to the cemetery to put some flowers on those graves.

I'll look for informations to understand why they were buried there.

I hope that you're all fine. Take good care of you and the ones you love.

With the best regards from Belgium. Fred dehon, [Golden Talon Belgian Association](#)

NOTE: Frederic, of the five you have found, only Williams and Kincade were original 17th Airborne. The others might have been transfers, replacements, or attached as was the 507th. Since the 17th Airborne was not at Normandy as a unit, some were killed enroute to battle, or seriously wounded troopers who had died while being evacuated to LeHarve to return to America for treatment.

From: **harold v madden** <hmadden@austin.rr.com>

Dear Fred, I and my son Richard were the ones that had pictures of the three graves in the Normandy Cemetery. My son Paul, who is a member of the WWII re-enactors of Texas, took the pictures while in Normandy for the 60th Anniversary of D Day. There were six members of A Btry 680th Glider F A Bn. The Division flew from England the afternoon and night of 24 December 1944. The weather turned bad while our battalion was in flight. As I understand the situation, the formation broke up and the cargo aircraft went to their home base. Most of us landed at the designated airfield. The plane in which the six people were in had to fly on Christmas Day to get the men and cargo to the right airfield. The plane had 75 MM ammo as cargo in addition to the six troopers. The plane iced up and crashed shortly after take off. All persons aboard the plane were killed and were buried in Normandy. After the war was over, the families of three of troopers had their remains sent back to the states and were interred where the families specified. Two of those men I recall their Names: Fred Cannon, August Terese, also the sixth

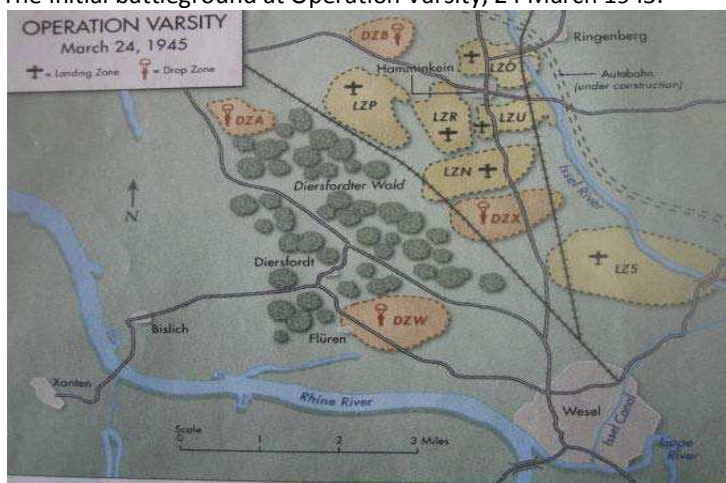
was either Alpha LaFavers or Asa A Gannon. I think it was LaFavers.

NOTE from **Richard Madden**: Fred, It was nice to have met you at the last reunion in Hampton Va. and it was a wonderful thing that you did for the fellows of the 17th Airborne (680th GFA) buried in Normandy . One of the men from the 680th GFA, P. HIMEL (D-23-34), is buried next to Theodore Roosevelt Jr. a Medal of Honor recipient. If you need any financial help please let me know. *Richard Madden, 1210 Brentwood St. Austin, Tx 78757*

Warren R. (Bobby) Miller, Jr. to Ed Siergiej: Hi Mr Siergiej I would like to get final issue of THF and the Calendar. My connection to the 17th Airborne is from Wesel. My dad Warren R Miller was a Glider Pilot and along with his Co-Pilot Lt. Francis Paul and the members of the 17th that they were carrying into combat. They were all lost on that mission. I know very little about what happened. All that I know is they made two passes over the drop zone and did not come off Tow and on the third pass they were cut off tow from the C-47. My Dad was the Glider Pilot and Lt. Paul was a power pilot that was checked out in gliders. From what I understand there must have been serious injuries in the cockpit. When they made it down they were right in front of a German machine gun emplacement and the ones that were alive were gunned down as they tried to exit the glider. That was my Dad's fourth mission and was the one that he volunteered for.

I have been to two of the 437th Troop Carrier Groups reunions but very few remembered my dad. The ones that did kind of stayed away from me and my son and wife the first day. It turned out that we were the first family members of one of them that had been Killed in Action that had come to a reunion. They did not know how to treat us. It turned out fine and we went to our second reunion which was in Savannah, GA last Sept. I don't really know how the 17th got my name and e-mail address but I have been in touch with several of you in the last year. I guess we all are connected in some way. I don't know if it would be possible for me to get in touch with any family members that were in the 17th that were in my dad's Glider. All I have is the tail number of the glider. Anyway, I would like to purchase the final edition of TFH and the Memorial Calendar, just let me know how much and where to send. Thank you for your time. Email = wmiller5@carolina.rr.com

The initial battleground at Operation Varsity, 24 March 1945.



513th at DZX, 507th at DZW and 194th at LZS.

DZ = Dropzone

LZ = Landing Zone

Visibility was not great when General Montgomery smoked the lower Rhine for his troops' crossing, plus heavy German flaks had caused some planes to miss their drop and landing zones.

(The other zones were British 6th Airborne)

Bob & June Gill, 513-HQ2 with wedding photo.



10 Jun 08: **Elaine LaFontaine**, at <lanie52@msn.com> Hello, My father and mother saw your email address in the Static Line and wanted to be included in any of your mailings, newsletters, etc. My father's name is: **PFC Robert Gill. He was 17th Airborne, 513 HQ. 2nd.** Currently, my father resides in Hemet, California and is 86 years old and does not have a computer. So my parents asked if I would contact you. Thank you and we all look forward to hearing from you. best regards, Elaine LaFontaine for Robert Gill.

Comment from the Editor: I had a very dear friend in Hemet, CA, by name of Madeline Euwer (deceased aged 96). She called me one day with a request to see me urgently. Since my son Rusty was learning to drive, I let him drive the 600 miles at night from San Francisco and arrived at about 4 AM Sunday, much earlier than planned due to very slight traffic. Rusty and I slept in our car parked at a gas station waiting for the sunrise.

Madeline told me that she was 96, married three times, and had no children, and she did not want to depart this world without a son. So, she asked me to be her son. Since my parents are deceased, I said OK. We filled out the legal papers for her to see her attorney that Monday. Then we left for the long drive home.

A week later, I received a phone call from Madeline's neighbor with the news that Madeline has died in bed that Sunday night. So, I asked the neighbor to deliver the adoption papers to her attorney anyway, just so that Madeline will enter her eternity as a mother.

Madeline told me that when she was young girl in Wyoming, there were three young men who had eyes for her. She later moved to Fallbrook in California, and the three young men followed her. She eventually married one of them. Her first marriage ended when her husband was killed in an accident. She then she married the second young man and lived many years



together until he died. Then, she married the third man, named "J" when she was 90 years old and "J" was 92. They moved to Hemet where they had a little farm with a fenced-in yard full of rabbits and exotic chicken from South America that had become a zoo for the local school kids. Then "J" died of old age, and she became a widow for a third time.

In my uncouth ways, I asked why she did not have children. She explained that all three of her men grew up in Wyoming where the winters were so brutally cold. Their mothers had to roll up each boy into a blanket, effectively giving each child 6 layers of blanket to survive the nights.

She, in turn, also had to roll up each of her husbands in a blanket before they could sleep. "That was why I never had a child", she said with a wink of her eye and chuckled humorously and then a sigh.

Bill, with Madeline, and his son, Rusty, 1980 (self-photo)

Facts about your body

The human body is a machine that is full of wonders. This collection of human body facts will leave you wondering why in the heck we were designed the way we were.

- 1.. Scientists say the higher your I.Q., the more you dream.
- 2.. The largest cell in the human body is the female egg.
- 3.. The smallest is the male sperm.
- 4.. You use 200 muscles to take one step.
- 5.. The average woman is 5 inches shorter than the average man.
- 6.. Your big toes have two bones each while the rest have three.
- 7.. A pair of human feet contains 250,000 sweat glands.
- 8.. A full bladder is roughly the size of a softball.
- 9.. The acid in your stomach is strong enough to dissolve razor blades.
- 10.. The human brain cell can hold 5 times as much information as the Encyclopedia Britannica.
- 11.. It takes the food seven seconds to get from your mouth to your stomach.
- 12.. The average human dream lasts 2-3 seconds.
- 13.. Men without hair on their chests are more likely to get cirrhosis of the liver than men with hair.
- 14.. At the moment of conception, you spent about half an hour as a single cell.
- 15.. There are about one trillion bacteria on each of your feet.
- 16.. Your body gives off enough heat in 30 minutes to bring half a gallon of water to a boil.
- 17.. The enamel in your teeth is the hardest substance in your body.
- 18.. Your teeth start developing (in your gums) 6 months before you are born.
- 19.. When you are looking at someone you love, your pupils dilate. They do the same when you are looking at someone you hate.
- 20.. Blondes have more hair than dark-haired people.
- 21.. Your thumb is the same length as your nose.

Quade is not a common surname in California. The only Quade I had ever known is

our **Joe Quade**. Ms. Lynn Quade was my granddaughter, Ashlyn's homeroom teacher. Ashlyn who graduated from Presidio Middle School

Ms. Lynn Quade - 124	
Ibrahim Baig	Samantha Lew
Dequan Carter	Mabel Ma
Kyle Chan	Slava Mayzus
Felix Chan-Lee	David Nguyen
Xiaodan Dawn Chen	Theresa Perfitt
Cameron Chinn	Marie Rich
Diane Dam	Karina Sandoval
David Deng	Alexander Skevos
Genifer Foster	Linna Tan
Brandon Gee-Carrillo	Shawn Tan
Eddy Giron	Ashlyn Tom
Candy Gong	Kevin Tran
Josef Goodyear	Timothy Werby
Eduardo Guzman-Morales	Jeffrey Wu
Benjamin Heyman	Judy Wu
Conrad Holda	
Isaiah Joseph	



is ranked 'high honors' (as indicated to the right of her name.

Michele Smith and I have been promoting the idea that my Ashlyn will pair up with Michele's godson, Connors, in a matrimonial hookup someday.

Connors, you stay the course and do well in school. Someday, you will have smart grand-babies for your loving parents and godmother Michele and great-grandpa Bill. (Photo of Ashlyn and her little sister Sherilyn)

5 Jun 08: From: **Rianne Prevoo** <r_prevoo@hotmail.com>

Dear Bill, thank you very much for your reply! And also thanks for posting my request in the next newsletter. I hope there will be someone who can give me some more information about Paul J Scott.

When I adopted the site a few months ago, I never thought I would be so interested in the history of the soldier. I adopted the grave to show my respect for the soldiers who gave their life for our freedom.

But after receiving the certificate of adoption and after a visit to his grave I really want to know what kind of person Paul J Scott was, so I have not only adopted the grave but also keep in remind Paul J Scot as a person.

I'm looking forward to receive the 3rd issue of the newsletter and also to read the history of the 17th airborne. I already received the 2nd issue of the newsletter which I have red immediately, even as the 1st one. Thanks! Best regards, Rianne Prevoo

7 Jun 08: **The Airborne Memorial Day BBQ** was held at the VA Hospital Nursing Home Care Unit at Menlo Park, CA, hosted by the 11th, 82nd, 101st Airborne, and the 173rd & 187th Rakasan RCT units to share foods with the residents of the nursing home and to whoever was invited. Linda & I were the only 17th Airborne there, invited by Roberta Yee, widow of Dale Yee (511th-PIR) who had founded the General Joe Swing Chapter of the 11th Airborne in Palo Alto, CA, and the Airborne Quarterly magazine. I met Mike Collins from the 187th who had fought in Korea. I believe most of the guys in the nursing home were of World War 2 origin.



Bill with Roberta Yee)

A "Veteran" -- whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserve -- is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount of "up to, and including his or her own life."

That is the honor of being a veteran, and there are far too many people in this country today, who no longer understand that fact.



Bill 'serving' or "flirting" on the food line at the VA picnic.

The top three **Hohner harmonicas** were German made. The lower three were Hohner harmonicas made in China.



The first harmonica was picked up by me at the Hohner factory during Operation Varsity. It fell apart after sixty years.

The second harmonica was bought by Linda when I was mourning over the plight of the first one.

The third harmonica was also from the Hohner factory, but not used much because it did not fit my pocket and was too heavy.

The fourth tiny harmonica was a Hohner made in China. It has only one octave but I can play "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" or "Mica, Mica, Parva Stella" on it.

The last two are Hohners that I bought when I was visiting China in 2002.



With both pockets filled with harmonicas in April 1945

The Hohner Harmonica episode started when our combat engineers discovered a massive metallic object buried in the grounds of the Hohner Harmonica factory in Essen. Fearing the threat of a huge landmine, The Lieutenant ordered his engineers to dig it up. When wax-covered boxes were dug up, they found thousands of brand new harmonicas of all sizes and shapes. Evidently, the Hohner people, knowing that the war was lost, had probably hoped to get back into business as soon as the shooting stopped. The GI's were invited to share into their great fortunes of free harmonicas. I got two, a Hohner Marine Band and a Chromatic model that can play flats and sharps.

When I was a poor little grammar school boy of about 10 years old, our school principal decided to give something for the young boys to do during the Great Depression. Mr. Foster asked that each boy to bring a one dollar bill to school and he will buy a Marine Band harmonica for us to learn how to play music. My father was not able to come up with a dollar, so he pawned his gold Elgin watch, and gave me the one dollar from that transaction. I personally did not know a thing about music and I was having a terrible time playing music with it.

At that same time, my teacher was telling us about bacteria and to boil some infected item in water for about 5 minutes. So, as most boys are wont to do for an excuse, I thought my harmonica was infected. So, I boiled my harmonica for 5 minutes and it became bent out of shape.

I did not want my father to see it, so I threw it under my bed. My mother finally found it and threw it away without saying word. She knew, but she did not want me to get a spanking from my dad. The years rolled by and my harmonica was a forgotten item in my life. Eleven years later, I was in uniform standing on the Hohner Harmonica Factory grounds. God was good to me as I finally got my harmonica back to remove my guilt about what I did in childhood. I was assured that my dad will not punish me.

19 Jun 98: **Joe Jacusack**, <Jacusack@aol.com>

Hi, Bill Tom, Editor of Thunder: I have a good friend by the name of **Francis J. McCarthy, 513-A**, who lives in a nursing home nearby my home. He has been getting Thunder from Heaven and, since you will no longer be sending them by mail, please put my email address (Jacusack@aol.com) on the mailing list and I will try to get a copy to him every once in a while. Frank's mailing address is 4634 E. Montecito Ave., Phoenix AZ 85108-4332, which is his son William's address.

Frank is not too well, physically or mentally; he gets confused a bit, and doesn't remember many details; he will be 94 next September. He is very humble and doesn't like to talk much about the war. However, he has told me a little about his time in the Army. I believe he retired after 21 (or more) years, I think as a Major, but I'm not sure. He was at Pearl Harbor on 12/7/41, trained at Ft. Benning (among others), did 2 combat jumps with the 17th Airborne (as an officer, 1st Lt I think), and served in combat in Korea. I don't know much more about him. His mailing label says 513A, so I assume he was in the 513th Regiment of the 17th. Frank's son William may know more about his military, but he's not very friendly or communicative toward me.

I'm Joseph A. (Joe) Cusack, at 5744 E. Oak St., Scottsdale, AZ, 85257, just turned 78. My home phone is 480-945-7754. I spent 2 years in the Air Force, 52-54, spent some AF time in Japan, Okinawa & Korea (Osan Air Base, or K-55) with the AF Security Service. By the way, I'm K7GRN, having been a ham since 1949, although I'm not active now. I also enjoy reading your Thunder from Heaven. Keep up the good work.

Joe Cusack

REPLY: Joe, you are a good man. Most Joes or Joseph or Jos are very good people. So are all the Bills. I thank you for watching over Francis McCarthy, who has done his share of devotion and service to our country. We have three back issues of our new newsletter, ThunderMailCall, patterned after the Mail Call column in TFH. I will be sending you one issue at a time to avoid loading your computer. Incidentally, you might have a problem with AOL, which has been blocking my newsletters because I have to use thundermailcall@gmail.com to transmit the newsletters with maximum speed. You will need to enter this gmail address to your computer address file to allow your computer to accept the newsletters. Thanks much.

The 17th Airborne had a Ham Radio net once with four people, Hawley W9NC, Johnson NI2K, Smith K5DDT and myself KN6QD. Our range was San Francisco to Texas, to Jamestown, NY, and to Florida. I was not able to put up a big antenna, but had a dipole that failed the good neighbor test when my radiations permeated her telephone conversations.. The club was short-lived when K5DDT passed on, and W9NC retired, so Johnson and I are currently on '17th Airborne Net", using cell phone and email net.

20 Jun 08: **Hal Kravitz**, 139 Airborne Engineers, Just a note from a former ASTP, via halklaw@bellsouth.net Thanks for your prompt answer. Yes, I would like to receive and subscribe to your newsletters by e-mail. At the time I was in ASTP, I was assigned to Randolph Macon College at Ashland, Virginia and was then transferred to an engineering Depot company at Camp Pickett, Virginia. From there we volunteered in the paratroops and upon finishing jump school I joined the 17th airborne in Europe. After the war in Europe, I began training as part of the 82nd in an engineering Battalion in the area of explosives and demolition. Of course, my training came to an end at the time they dropped the atomic bombs in Japan. Thank you for your prompt answer. Sincerely, Hal Kravitz

13 Jun 08: **Dr. HAROLD S. YOOD, 194-1st Battalion Aid Surgeon,** olddoc@ix.netcom.com: Dear Bill, Read your Talon Topics in the April Static Line. Congratulations on accepting the responsibility of being the editor. I was one of the two battalion surgeons, 1st battalion 194th. The other was Jethro Irby MD. I have had no contact with any of the medics we had since the 17th Division was disbanded. I was lucky enough to go to Berlin as battalion surgeon for the 376th Field Artillery Btn, 82nd, and arrived back in the States to be discharged 1/2/46. I am retired since 2001, and busy with a blog. The first day we were in combat, we had set up our aid station according to army regs in the field within litter distance. It was so cold our plasma froze

and even trying to warm it in a can of heated water didn't work so we move back to a **farm house** on the reverse side of a hill about a mile, and had our jeeps driven up as far as they could. I hope we saved lives. I have also about 6 years written some memories for my kids and grandchildren. Put me on your email list. Harold S. Yood, MD.

Comment: As a pharmacist, I was assigned as Assistant Battalion Aid Surgeon during the Korean War, but I was not sent to Korea when the truce meetings were started at Panmunjam. **Your friend, Dr. Jethro Irby, is now living at 300 Kings Way Road, Apt 204, Martinsville, VA 24112-6634**

12 June: My name is **Karen Pitton**, and I am the daughter of Jack and Edwina Pitton, 155HQ, who were members of your organization. My mother would enjoy receiving the new version of your newsletter and asked me to send you a note. Would you please e-mail it to both of us? Her e-mail address is mompitton@aol.com. She doesn't check it often, but if you would include my name on your distribution list I will make certain she sees it. Thank you for continuing to produce a newsletter. I know it's really appreciated. If you need additional information, please let me know. Thanks. Karen M. Pitton kmpitton@aol.com

18 Jun 08: **John Leary**, <JohnAOH@aol.com>

Dear Bill Tom, I Saw your greetings in the static line. We thought we'd just check to make sure you still had our e-mail address that we gave you at the reunion. We haven't received any e-mails from "Thunder Mail call or newsletter so please check to see if you have our correct e-mail. We would also like to receive any past issues that may have been sent. Our e-mail address is: Johnaoh@aol.com

Reply: We are having big trouble with AOL, which rejected all messages sent from Gmail. I use thundermailcall@gmail.com because it is free and can send out 600 newsletters in one shot. My regular provider cannot do that. Our Colonel Townsend has filed a complaint at AOL, and we hope for a resolution. My suggestion is to add my gmail address to your computer address file, so that it could recognize that my gmail address is friendly. I recognize that your father had given up his own life in Feb 8, 1944 to save his men. In my book, your dad should have received the Medal of Honor, had it been witnessed by another officer, but he was the only officer there.



Ken Kasse, 513-I, made his jump on June 6, 2008 at Normandy to commemorate the 64th anniversary of D-Day.. He sent me 50 photos that pictured the scenes of the participants, but since the 17th Airborne was not there originally, the photos would have no personal interests.

However, I did find a photo of Ken wearing his beret & talon shoulder patch.

PLEASE GO TO PART 2 OF THE SIERGIEJ EDITION