



17th Airborne Division's post-dissolution Newsletter #6
(Lindell Smith Edition)

THUNDER MAIL CALL

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Email = kn6qd@arrL.net

This newsletter might be sent from thundermailcall@gmail.com, Please add this Address to your computer address file.

{Website URL = <<http://groups.google.com/group/17th-airborne-division>>,
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Date: Lindell Smith Edition- September 2008 'til the end of Me -----
.....

LEVERT LINDELL SMITH, Jr.(194-C) KIA



Levert Lindell Smith, Jr., was a member of Company C, 194th Glider Infantry Regiment of the 17th Airborne Division and was killed on 24 March 1945 while taking part in the airborne crossing of the Rhine River, known as Operation Varsity. He is buried in The Netherlands at the Margraten American Military Cemetery, in Plot F, Row 17, Grave 23. (subject to change) Lindell was born in Tarboro, North Carolina on 21 March 1926. He grew up in La Grange, NC, and graduated from high school there in 1943. He attended Appalachian State College (now University) in Boone, NC for one year. He was always interested in sports, particularly baseball, and had thought that he might find a career in some way connected to the sports field. He played on the baseball team in high school and in college. His favorite major league baseball team was the New York Yankees. His nickname was "Bud". While in high school he operated a home milk delivery route and worked part time in his father's grocery store. Lindell, like most members of his family, was of the Methodist (Protestant) faith. Lindell was the son of Levert Lindell Smith, Sr. and Geneva Littlefield Smith. His siblings are: Mary Alleta Smith Pannill, Susan Christine Smith Stith, and Robert Lee Smith.

In October 1944, he was drafted into military service. He was inducted at Fort Bragg, NC, and received his basic training at Camp Croft, South Carolina. At that time, because service men were needed so badly overseas as replacements, there was no time for additional training. After

completing basic training, he came home for a short leave and then went to Fort Mead, Maryland for processing to be shipped overseas. He shipped out for Europe to a replacement processing depot (Repo Depo) in the Paris area, before being sent to the 17th Airborne as a replacement while they were refitting near Chalons sur Marnes, France, after coming off of the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes. He became a BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) man in a squad of 12 men in Company C, 194th Glider Infantry Regiment.

On 24 March 1945, the 17th Airborne took off from airfields in Central France, North and South of Paris, for Operation Varsity. The glider carrying Lindell's squad landed in a field near Wesel, Germany, probably sometime during the late morning hours, nearing Noon. The men in his squad, along with other troops, took up defensive positions near a bridge over the Issel Canal. They were attacked by German artillery and infantry in a brief, but fierce battle. During that time, Lindell apparently attempted to throw a hand grenade at the attacking German infantry, but the grenade went off in his foxhole. He was very badly injured in that explosion. After the German attack was stopped and turned back, he was given first aid, but he died a few minutes later.

Lindell was posthumously awarded the following: (1) a Purple Heart Medal, (2) a Bronze Star Medal, (3) Combat Infantryman Badge, (4) Good Conduct Medal, (5) European Campaign Medal with one star, (6) World War II Victory Medal, and (7) Honorable Service Pin.

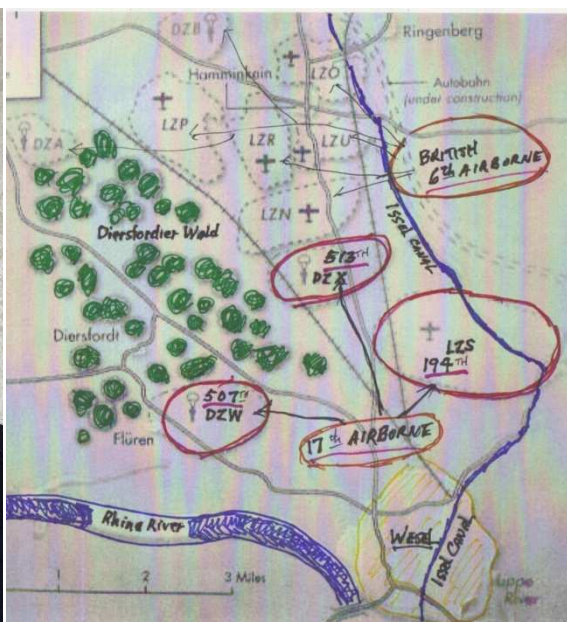
In Summary: Lindell had his 19th birthday on 21 March 1945, and died on 24 March 1945, just 3 days later. He had been in the U.S. Army for only five months and had been a member of the 17th Airborne Division for less than a month.

COMMENT: That was a very sad tale of a trooper who was killed when he was still a teenager. Many of us were very fortunate in the timing of our growing up, of not being in the wrong place at the wrong time. My thought was that Lindell was not adequately trained, particularly in the use of the hand grenade. Our hand grenades resembled a small pineapple with a metallic strap that came down the side, held in place by a pin, and it keeps the spring-loaded firing pin from hitting the primer cap.. So long as the strap was held tightly up against the grenade by the hand after the pin was pulled, the grenade was not armed. Once thrown, the strap was free to fly off. In doing so, a firing pin slammed onto the primer cap, which then ignited a 7-second fuse, after which time, the grenade explodes. According to an army-training manual, it warned, "Sometimes, a 7-second fuse lasts only 5 seconds." The passage of time is often misjudged when under high tension. In extreme stress, he may have also dropped the grenade into his foxhole. By its round shape, a hand grenade was easy to drop. I was taught to launch the grenade from my shoulder with the grenade held next to my ear, as in a shot-put stance. I found it hard to throw a grenade in that position, especially in tight quarters, such as in a foxhole. The German hand grenade, however, was mounted on a short stick and it can be thrown farther, much like an overhand baseball, without the twisting body motion.

Under the procedure of manufacturing by the lowest bidder concept in government contracts, some mistakes were bound to happen. I have heard of a rifleman who picked up a bazooka rocket launcher to stop a German tank. He pulled the trigger and the entire rocket exploded on his shoulder. Half of his upper body was gone, along with his dog tags, and he had become an unidentified unknown soldier. Accidents (friendly fire?) happened occasionally in every war. I am indeed sorry for what had happened to Levert and it could have happened to any new raw recruit on the line in an ultra-tense situation. We were once all raw recruits to let circumstances determine our fate. The ones who did not make it back home again will long be remembered as heroes by many, many future generations of all the people who had regained their freedom. We who had survived the war to become veterans would be remembered for only two, or maybe three generations of family, if that.



Robert Smith (Levert's brother)



194th Glider Landing Zone-"S", where Levert Smith was KIA.

11 Aug 08 : JoAnna McDonald <jmmcdonald28@yahoo.com> wrote:

Bill, My name is JoAnna McDonald. Joe and Pat Cassidy suggested I email you.

I am a Military and Research historian for Lou Reda Productions. We are working on a WWII documentary.

I have attached the press release. We are looking for unpublished memoirs, and the stories of WWII forgotten, i.e. Operation Varsity. We are also looking for colored film of any of the operations, and photographs.

We only want a copy of the memoir, and if desired, a copy of the memoir could be kept at the Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle. In addition to the press release I have attached the Army's questionnaire; it might help guide a veteran from the 17th Airborne. I need your (17th Airborne vets) help in telling your story.

JoAnna M. McDonald, My East coast phone: 717-249-5558; cell phone: 858-663-3346

I need your (17th Airborne vets) help in telling your story. Thank you! I fully understand. I know I am asking you and your friends to "recall the most traumatic and horrifying time of your lives..." I know they are ugly memories. In the past I have gone to WWII reunions and cried a lot and laughed a lot!

The only way we can remember what deeds and actions happened at Operation Varsity is to call on volunteers once again. Yes, I do feel horrible, but we need and want to honor and remember the 17th.

Were you a Nisei Airborne? I know Nisei were in the Airborne; I just acquired several Nisei memoirs from the 100th Battalion. I have been living in San Diego for 5 years...I'm now in Pennsylvania doing research for the documentary. Oh, I am also looking for civilians who remember the war; it's a big project.

Thank you again sir! I'll keep in touch.

REPLY: No, I am not a Nisei. For your information, all Nisei surnames are multi-syllable. All Chinese surnames are monosyllable, except when two families united in the distant past to form a stronger clan. The only known Nisei airborne in the 17th was Harold Tsuchiya, 513-HQ3, of 420 So. Opdyke Rd, Apt 37D, Pontiac, MI 48341-3109. Harold was one who had verified my story that Operation Varsity plan had been leaked to the Germans. That leak could be the most vital story of Operation Varsity. (Please refer to the Sprenger Edition of our newsletter)

3 Aug 08: From **Jack Macauley, 513-HQ2**, Hey Bill: Received your Mailcall letter. Thank you. Sorry to hear that you are on the sick list. Take care of yourself. Thanks for this special service you

are doing to keep the 17thABD still active. It was such a great pleasure to meet your wonderful family at our final reunion. God's Blessings to all of your great group. I am well and still going strong. Exercise everyday and play golf at least twice a week, weather permitting. I will be 91 in Oct. and plan to go to 104 at least. Take care old buddy. Jack Macauley

COMMENT: Jack, when you are 104, I'll be 97. Let's you and I volunteer for duty in Iraq. Don't laugh --My Father-in-law (Linda's father) is 100 years old and he recently received a court order to serve in the jury!

3 Aug 08: **Ed Siergiej** esiergiej@alltel.net Billski, Congratulations on your latest issue of TMC. It's another winner!!!! i'm sure your readers feel the same way. We are most fortunate that **you** were "in the wings" and ready to go when we dissolved the Association and our publication, "Thunder From Heaven" ceased. With appreciation.... Edski.

Erratum: **Franklin Dentz, 194-C**, You have misspelled Captain Harold Yoob, 194-MED, as Vood. I know his name because we shared a foxhole at Varsity.

REPLY: Thanks, Franklin: In additon to my other problems, I have only one focusable eye. My right eye had suffered a retinitis some years ago and it has lost its focusing function. Thanks for the correction. "Y" looked like a small "V" to me. You couldn't have chosen a better foxhole buddy, but I would have chosen a nurse.

12 Aug 08: **Erwin Flohr, Margraten gravesite adopter from The Netherlands.**

Dear Mister Tom, So nice to receive a mail from you again and sorry that I write you back so late. I have been very busy in responding to all the e-mail and letters I receive.

I hope you are all right and that it will be that way for a long time.

Also me and my family have been on holiday in Spain and we returned more than a week ago. We had a very nice holiday where we spent a lot of the time at the beach with our three kids. They enjoyed it very much. Also we visited two natural parks. One was a swamp area with a lot of birds to see. The other was a coastal natural park with lots of cliffs and rocks which provided a lot of beautiful views. We loved the Spanish food and drinks and we decided to go there next year again.

Now it's back to work again and the first days were very tough. A lot of e-mails to read and getting up to date on the actual business. As I see it I can't have a holiday when I don't work so I am looking forward to the next, even though it will take a while before the moment is there again. When I returned from our holiday I found a large envelope sent to me by the US Army Human resource command. It contained the Individual Deceased Personnel File (IDPF) of **John R. Thomas (513)**, whose grave I adopted. I have been waiting for that for a long time as I requested it last December. It was worth the wait.

The package provided me with long awaited information about the way he was killed in action. It states that he was killed in action when the plane he was in was hit by flak three times and that it went into a nosedive. Because of that, the soldiers were falling on each other and most of them couldn't make it out of the plane before it crashed. Only eleven were able to clear the plane. A sad story.

The SURVIVORS were: **Brelsford, Arthur; Chase, Homer B.; Choate, Orell D.; Curran, Robert G.; DiSilvio, Armond; Garcia, Tobias; Jackson, Marvin D.; Melone, Bartholomew P.; Maturn, W.R.; Nelson, Donald L.; Tomlinson, Lynn D.**

Do you know these names or might you know someone who does? Also if one of them is still alive? As these were buddies of John R. Thomas they should have known him or they can point to someone who does. Maybe they even could tell more about their experiences. It's a long shot but we can try don't we? Best regards, Erwin Flohr

NOTE: I have reviewed our roster and none of them had been a member of our Association. I felt great sorrow for the rest of that stick who did not get out in time. I had seen plane loads of incinerated paratroopers before. It was not a pleasant sight to remember, but it had occurred in nightmares.

12 Aug 08: **Simon Lerenfort**, simon@lerenfort.fsnet.co.uk. Dear Bill, Thank you for your dedication and hard work in getting yet another edition of the TMC newsletter out to us. I am sorry to read of your recent maladies and hope this mail finds you firing on all cylinders once more. My attention was caught by remarks on the opening page, concerning an incident you cite occurring during the Battle of the Bulge. I've quoted it below:

"I, as a medic, was ordered to provide medical and surgical care for the German wounded soldiers, as I had to do for our own wounded troops. It was extremely disturbing for me to learn that the German SS had massacred a group of captured American troops, including medical personnel of an evacuation hospital at Malmedy at the onset of the Battle of the Bulge. The first American soldier shot was a physician, most likely because he was a Jew".

Not wanting some readers to be misled I thought I should correct this one.

Kampfgruppe Peiper never entered the town of Malmedy, in fact the town was never occupied by anyone other than US troops during the battle. The Aid Station you refer to was one based on the N23 near a hamlet called Domane Bütgenbach. After proceeding through Honsfeld and Büllingen the SS Battlegroup detoured South of the town of Malmedy towards Schoppen. The closest they came to the town was of course the road junction at Baugnez where on 17th December an incident occurred that is still discussed of today. Simon

REPLY: Hello Simon: I am a San Franciscan from boyhood until now. We do not ever have snow here and our temperature is around 68 degrees, almost all year long. When I first arrived in Belgium, I was completely overwhelmed with the freezing cold and the snow which covered every landmark, highway and streets. We could not identify where we were on our map. I was in a truck looking for a certain location but our truck driver got lost. I remember being in VERVIER, which I understand was near to Malmedy, which we avoided until we ended up in Aachen. We heard of the massacre, but Malmedy was apparently the most identifiable city to total strangers. Had people used the town of BAUGNEZ, then nobody would know where it was. The only cities we had on our highway map was Malmedy, Stavelot and Saint-Vith, but we can't see the highways for the snow and sleet. ..I thank you for your information. Sixty-four year's time is a long ways back to when I was 20 years old when all that happened. Or was it just a big nightmarish dream?

I thank you for your correction to make history more accurate. I hope you had a good Summer. It won't be long until Autumn, which is always a more pleasant time. Meanwhile, I had survived blood clots in my lungs, and subsequently survived a bleeding episode from blood thinning treatment. I am now ready to go 9-cylinders with my 8-cylinder engine, but I might run short of petro. Bill Tom

13 Aug 08: From: **Camille Kohn**, email = kohncam@pt.lu, CEBA-Luxembourg, Hi Bill, so nice to get your e-mails, I mean the 4 past issues of THUNDER MAIL CALL newsletters of the 17th Airborne Division Association. I read all of them with the greatest of interest and saw these outstanding pictures showing you and other people. Just great!

Dear Bill, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and I'm glad to have now a new 17th Abn friend. Be good and take care!

Kindest regards, Camille Kohn, President of CEBA (Circle of Studies on the Battle of the Bulge), 1, rue Grande-Duchesse Charlotte, L-7430 Fischbach
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg/Europe

REPLY: Camille, you are my very first Luxembourg friend, although I had met one of your envoys once at one of our Battle of the Bulge Memorial Services at Fort Miley, which was named after our General Miley's father.

13 Aug 08: **Jos Bex**, jos jomaresto@planet.nl, : Hello Bill, Was away while for vacation and at the moment my computer is out of order, I am now in internet café....Tomorrow my PC will be going again, I hope..How are you?? I read you recovered well from last problems. keep on walking them SF heights Bill!!! We went on vacation to Norway and Sweden last weeks, and spent a lot of time walking around (also in Oslo shopping with the kids...hahaha) This always does us good, we even saw a lot of Moose and Reindeers in the wild walking around also, they are in good shape too!!! We've had a wonderful time together, ready to go again.What a sad news of Don Lassen...I kept thinking of him during his service, but 6 hours later over here..

I have a suggestion to make for the next TMC. You know I live about 45km from Wesel/Hamminkeln, and we (the Dutch 17th Group) happen to have a formidable German tour guide. As a matter of fact he showed us all important spots of the Varsity area and we are familiar as well now, even the Oly Möllshöfe Farm etc. Could you place the announcement in the TMC that I would like to be anyone's private tour guide for any veteran of familiy who wants to come over? They just have to contact me.

Arrangements for hotel etc. etc. no problem. It would be our wish to let a whole group come over and do a tour, together with a Bulge visit even. Give it your thoughts Bill, and stay in contact.

I will send you (when my PC is ready) some Norway pics and a most interesting WW2 story of the area I visited. You know the facts of the German heavy water plant near Lake Tinn?? They even made 2 films about it. Heavy water was to fabricate an atomic bomb.

See: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/hydro/about.html>

Till next time Bill!!!!!! Greetings from the Bex family from Holland!!

PS: Could you place the announcement in the TMC that I would like to be anyone's private tour guide for any veteran of familiy who wants to come over? They just have to contact me.

Arrangements for hotel etc. etc. no problem.

It would be our wish to let a whole group come over and do a tour, together with a Bulge visit even.

Give it your thoughts Bill, and stay in contact.

COMMENT: Thank you for your excellent offer. I defer your message to Joe Quade if he has a plan to go overseas again. I know about heavy water and the atomic bomb. When we ASTP men were studying at MIT before we joined the 17th Airborne, MIT was in process of designing the bomb using the extra neutrons in the heavy water to learn how to split the uranium atom.

10 Aug 08: **Status of our Airborne Troubadour, Harold Greenwald.** Billski, I sent an inquiry to Verna Dean and we received a very nice letter from her indicating that all is well, and that she did receive the Greenwald edition via her daughter. She was most appreciative. Harold is still doing his push ups every a.m. He poses no problem and he is happy most of the time. Edski

Note: We should have entered Harold into the Olympic Games in Beijing. He is a Superman at age 84 and can still do 75 pushups every morning. If I had to get down on the floor to do pushups, I would only fall asleep, but Hal is entitled to his Olympic Gold!

5 Aug 08: **James "Joe" Rheinberger**, jiribo@embarqmail.com, Dear Tom, Just had to find a moment to tell you how much I enjoyed reading the last Thunder Mail. Found lots of interesting info. I especially liked the picture of the Camp Fannin parade. I took part in a ton of those. I was at Fannin with a large group of guys who were half through Trinity College, Hartford,CT when we got called up. Thanks for the word about Ed Siergej's birthday. I will send him a belated note. *I am feeling OK altho bothered by heart and back problems and also by my inability to use this computer. Thanks so very much for all the work you are doing to keep the 17th guys in touch. Take care of yourself.* Joe Rheinberger

NOTE: Joe was one of my MIT classmates who became a rifleman in 194-D, a good soldier.

15 Aug 08: **Roger Marquet** <rogermarquet@skynet.be> wrote:

Dear Bill, Recently a collector friend of mine found back in a cellar of Poisson Moulin, a tiny village close to Houmont, Chenogne, in Belgium, a military jacket which was written Capt Roy Creek 0388556. After investigations of mine, it appears this Capt Creek was the commanding officer of Co E / 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment / 17th Airborne Division. I join his picture and some information about him like his possible address and his phone number.

So, my question: did you ever know this Captain Creek (who became later a colonel) and or could you try to come in touch with him by phone ? You can tell him his jacket is in good shape. All the best. We can't wait for your answer.

Regards, Roger Marquet, Chenogne, 1d, B-6640 SIBRET, TEL. + 32 (0) 61.21.91.51

rogermarquet@skynet.be

NOTE: I have located Roy Creek's address and I have forwarded the following letter from Roger to Roy Creek.

For Colonel Roy E.Creek: Dear Sir, Here is attached a copy of the letter my friend Joel Robert will send to you by regular mail. I attached also two pictures showing the bag and my friend Joël.

I'm pleased to serve as a bond between you and him because I'm also an historian buff. In fact I am either an historian or a writer (already 6 books) and an official guide about the Battle of the Bulge. I'm living in Chenogne very close to Poisson Moulin where your kit bag was found back. I am also an Honorary Lifetime Member of the 11th Armored Division Association; I already made two lectures and did participate twice in their Convention (in Buffalo, NY and Louisville, KY)

I already would like to know the meaning of part of the writings on the bag: your rank and name, your ASN and then a number that I don't understand the meaning and a kind of flag (red, yellow, red) that I don't know either.

I guess you are a retired Colonel. So...Respectfully yours, Roger Marquet, Chenogne, 1d, B-6640 SIBRET, TEL. + 32 (0) 61.21.91.51

RESPONSE from Roy Creek's daughter: Dear Roger: Thank you for writing. The only information I have for Capt. Roy Creek is as follows:

22 Aug 08: Cindy Maude, email = cmaude@callahancreek.com, To Bill Tom & Roger Marquet, Dear Gentlemen: This is the email of Cindy Creek Maude, daughter of Roy Creek. I am writing

this message for Roy Creek, since he uses this email address for his correspondence.

- "Your letter (from Roy Creek) was delivered to me by my son, who now lives at the Lake Quivira address. Thank you for finding me to let me know that you had found a military jacket in Belgium, with my name, Capt. Roy Creek, written on it. I am interested in knowing about the jacket, and would be pleased to talk to you about it. I have returned to Normandy and Belgium on several occasions and have great interest in knowing more about the jacket.

I will send you a sketch map indicating the route the 507th followed during the Battle of the Bulge. I



Joel Robert with "The jacket", which turned out to be Capt. Roy Creek's duffle bag.

was not E Company Commander during Battle of the Bulge, but I was Battalion Commander of the 507th during the Battle of the Bulge as a Major.

Below is my current contact information. Please call me at the number below or I will try to call you. You can also email me at this address and my daughter will see that I get the message. Many thanks for the information.

Roy E. Creek, 3632 Buck Brush Ct., Lawrence, KS 66049, USA;

Phone #: 785-838-4774 “

21 Aug 08: Roger Marquet,rogermarquet@skynet.be, **Beijing Olympics - High Jump Women - GOLD MEDAL : Tia Hellebaut, Belgium Yeepeeeee !!!!!** **From** Roger Marquet, Chenogne, 1d, B-6640I BRET. TEL. + 32 (0) 61.21.91.51; rogermarquet@skynet.be

We have **Patrick Cassidy, Piasecki, Fenelon and now Jo Anna McDonald** in process of documenting on records the events of the 17th Airborne Division's Operation Varsity. I personally believe that our government had put a top-secret lock on all the documentations of our division's participation because of the leakage of our Varsity plans to the Germans, technically from General Ike's headquarters, It might have been embarrassing when Ike was running for the Presidency.

Anyone is now welcomed to submit his own story of his participation in Operation Varsity. Meanwhile, Joe Quade has submitted some records he has collected as follows:

"Ms. McDonald, I received a copy of your e mail to Bill Tom in which you mentioned the possible documentary about Operation Varsity. As I mentioned to you about a week ago, in purging my files (after being the lus years), I have accumulated a number of stories about Operation Varsity as related by troopers from the 17th Airborne who were in that military operation. Since this seems to be the type of material you want, I will send them to your Carlisle address by priority mail on Monday. I would also like to bring to your attention that Col. Patrick Cassidy on the staff at Carlisle has been in touch with me on the same subject, since he is contemplating writing a book on Operation Varsity. His father served in the 17th Airborne. I had planned to send him my info on the subject. I would like to have the material back, so may I make this suggestion. Would you make copies for your use and also a set of copies for Col. Cassidy which I would appreciate it if you would have delivered to him, and then returned the original set to me. I hope this is OK with you. In any case I will send the package to you tomorrow.

From: JoAnna McDonald, jmmcdonald28@yahoo.com>, Hi Bill and all! Bill, when are you home from vacation. I need to call you. I think I have your phone #. Last week I had a meeting with my producer, and they want to include Operation Varsity in the WWII series. No one on the staff had heard of Operation Varsity. If any 17th Airborne Div. gents or relatives have a memoir, journal or diary. You can send a copy or I can make a copy of your experiences and mail back the original. My east coast address: JoAnna M. McDonald, 653 North Hanover St. Carlisle PA 17013. Thanks! Have a good Sunday afternoon!

JoAnna, Military and Research Historian, Lou Reda Productions, cell: 858-663-3346; home: 717-249-5558

REPLY: I have returned from my trip with Elderhostel back to home, much wiser and healthier after a week in Oregon. I submit that the vignette of Levert Smith story should have a place in your documentary to represent all the young raw innocent recruits who had to be thrown into the line to do or die for freedom.

26 Aug 08: Tom Creed, nephew of Harold Whitmore, 680-HQ, email = [<tacreed2204@comcast.net>](mailto:tacreed2204@comcast.net); Dear Bill, My name is Tom Creed and I am the nephew of Harold E. Whitmore, 680-HQ, who is a veteran of your organization. At the last gathering, it was announced that the gathering would be the last for you guys but you would continue to distribute a newsletter on some frequency. If you could please include me in the email distribution of your newsletter, I would be able to print and deliver it to my uncle as he has no computer. My email address is tacreed2204@comcast.net. Thanks in advance. Tom Creed

REPLY: There is no charge for the newsletter. So far, I have published 5 newsletters. I will send you the past issues, one at a time. The newest issue is published in September. Thanks for writing. Bill Tom, medic, TMC Editor

26 Aug 08: **Brenda Lands**, sweeneyfarm@hotmail.com, Dear Mr. Tom, Thank you so much for your condolences regarding my father. My mother Dorothy also say thank you. I have a picture of my father is an army one that I will forward to you. Thank you so much for the newsletters my children as very interested in WWII and what their Grandfather experienced. We are so very proud of him and his fellow veterans. Thanks again and the picture will follow. Brenda Moreland
NOTE: Photo not received in time.

On Thursday, **September 11th, 2008**, an American flag should be displayed outside every home, apartment, office, and store in the United States. Every individual should make it their duty to display an American flag on this seventh anniversary of one our country's worst tragedies. We do this in honor of those who lost their lives on 9/11, their families, friends and loved ones who continue to endure the pain, and those who today are fighting at home and abroad to preserve our cherished freedoms. In the days, weeks and months following 9/11, our country was bathed in American flags as citizens mourned the incredible losses and stood shoulder-to-shoulder against terrorism. Sadly, those flags have all but disappeared. Our patriotism pulled us through some tough times and it shouldn't take another attack to galvanize us in solidarity. Our American flag is the fabric of our country and together we can prevail over terrorism of all kinds.

26 Aug 08: **Isaac Epps** writes: I hope this finds you and your family in good health and good spirits. I sent you a couple of 17th Airborne items from my father's things in case you don't have them-- Just another opportunity to say thank you for your service in WWII and beyond. I understand you and LTC Eugene Piasecki are already in contact about his project to write a book about Camp Mackall. Thank you for getting the word out about his project, as he wants to make the 17th Airborne a big part of his story. Thanks also for the fine work you do on the newsletter. Michele Smith has been sending me copies and I thoroughly enjoy every word. I finally got a computer and when I get my email address, I'll get it to you. My mother's health condition has taken a turn -- Blood clots have forced an end to her cancer treatment. I now have a hospice care coming in to help me with keeping her comfortable. Her smile is amazing, still. I appreciate, also, your stance on politics. Don't ever stop adding your comments in the newsletter. Take care. I will be in touch. Respectfully, Isaac Epps.

REPLY: Isaac, I admire you as I did your dad. You are carrying on his quest in life in such an admirable way. I thank you for your dad's treasured items, among which was the very first issue of the 17th Airborne's "TALON" newsmagazine, published in Vittel, France on 15 July 1945. The Talon was our first newsletter, followed by Thunder From Heaven and now Thunder Mail Call.

28 Aug 08: **Luc Horck**, luc.horck@gmail.com, Subject: pictures of the Bulge. Dear all of you, I hope this email finds you all in good health. From September 11 till September 15, me and some other history-interested people (among them John Smeets with whom I visited your final reunion at Hampton last year) will be visiting the Ardennes and Flamierge, Flamisoule, Dead Man's Ridge and other locations. If you would like to have some pictures of specific things, please let me know so I can try to fit it in our schedule. with kind regards, Luc Horck, the Netherlands.

REQUEST: I would like to have a view of Dead Man's Ridge to display in our newsletter of what our airborne troops had to do with bayonets against German tanks.

4 Aug 08: **Patti Highfill:** Dear Bill, Wow, what great work you are doing. I wish you were in Dayton to fix my computer. But please keep me on your mailing list. So far, I can receive e-mails, but am having trouble sending replies, but always get excited when I see your name on one of them. There are so many names I don't know, but the fact that there is still a connection between the 17th Airborne. My email is ever so Important. Thank you. Patti

REPLY: Patti, you keep your computer fired-up so I can send you lots of e-hugs.

Led by **Cenda Bryzk, the contingent of 513-F reenactors from The Czech Republic** reportedly arrived in Orlando, FL, to join the 513-F Company mini-reunion, reportedly hosted by Sid Laufer. Unfortunately, these Czech guys came right in time for the hurricane type storm, like the Gustav Hurricane now coming on shore, with Hannah on the way. It was reported that Curt Gadd has joined the group as a 513-D co-host and advisor.

In the "housecleaning mode", **Joe Quade** sent me a letter, dated December 2006, written by John Chester who had written a long expose of his experience in the army and in combat. That story was too long for Thunder From Heaven, and too long for Thunder Mail Call. I forwarded his story to Jo Anna McDonald who could use it for her documentary about Operation Varsity. Meanwhile, I had written the following letter to John Chester.

"Dear John: You sent a well-written story to Ed Siergiej about of your experience and service time in Operation Varsity and as a paratrooper. It was too long for the Thunder From Heaven newsletter, but Ed Siergiej saved it and forwarded it to me. Since my newsletter (titled "Thunder Mail Call") is sent only by email on the Internet, I cannot publish it because of its length.

So, I forwarded your entire' article with photos to Jo Anna McDonald who is developing a story about Operation Varsity in a documentary that is designed to preserve the gallantry of the 17th Airborne paratroopers for current and future historians to ponder over. She will have your address, so she might contact you for more information. If you or your children/grandchildren have access to the Internet, please send me your/their email address so that you can received our newsletter for free.

Thanks, John. Bill Tom, medic"

John's Reply: Dear Bill: I was both surprised and pleased to hear from you. I happen to be an antique; but that's alright –my wife likes antiques. My first discharge was from the 7th Infantry Division in 1940. I was with the 17th Airborne during their entire European tour. When the 17th was to come home as a hi-point division and get a 30-day furlough before going on to the Pacific. I transferred to the lo-point 101st who had been nearly been wiped out at Bastogne. The 101st was to be designated as a lo-point division and go directly to the Pacific. I had no desire to go home until I was there to stay. LETS GET THIS WAR OVER WITH! I listened to a radio in Austria as my beloved 17th paraded down 5th Avenue. WWII was over. Oh well, I could wait. During Harry Truman's "Police Action" in 1950, I was called back to active duty as a reserve. Something new again. The Airborne Ranger Infantry Companies. Sounded good. I joined.

I was pleased to learn that Jo Anna McDonald is doing a documentary on the sadly under-reported Operation Varsity. I do appreciate your sending the data of my article to her.

Sorry to report that we have no access to the Internet. I surely would be glad to be able to get your newsletter. By the way, you are no doubt aware that James M. Fenelon, 200 Springwood Rd, Dripping Springs, TX 78620 is working on a book about Operation Varsity. Most Respectfully, Chester.

Steve Wright's Inquiry: Does anyone remember **Edward H. Pate**, having served in 224-MD, in the 17th Airborne Division? He was not found in our roster, but his daughter insisted that he was 17th Airborne. Please communicate with Steve Wright ,or the editor, if you have any information. Many thanks for your help. Steve's email = marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk

1990 Portraits

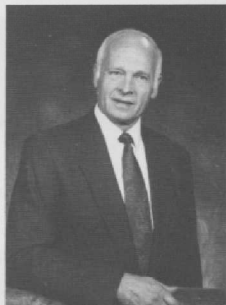


Harry & Fern Cornelison

Frank & Euclid Cotman

Ed & Evelyn Courtney

Brig. Gen. J.W. Coutts

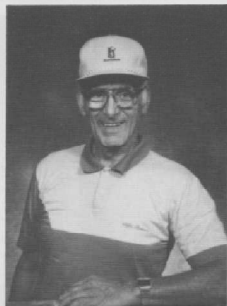
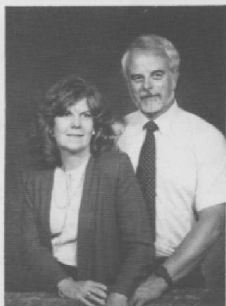


Leroy & Callie Criswell

Vernon Cumberland

John & Minnie Cutchin

Boyd & Joan Daniels

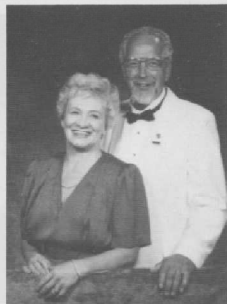
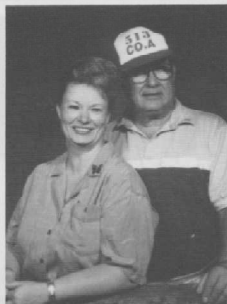


Gerald Davis

Michael & Barbara Dechene

Henry DeFrancesco

Steve & Lorraine DeFreitas

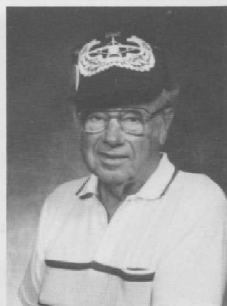


Frank & Doris Dell

Joseph & Josephine Denarco

Sherman & Darlene Dickholtz

Russell & Shirley Dierolf



Frank & Martha Dillon

Bernard & Virginia Dinunzio

Albert & Helen Dirlam

Elmer Dodson

SICK CALL

Michele Smith, the Daughter of Bill & Ruth Smith, Hq 466th PFA. Michele, with her artistic talent, assisted us for several years in the Registration Room.

Michele underwent surgery yesterday, 7 August, and the good news is the cyst was non-malignant. Current plans are for Michele to remain in the hospital for a couple of days, then move to a relative's home for a few days, who is a RN, then back to her home. Get well messages may be addressed to Michele as follows: Miss Michele Smith, 197 William Penn Drive, Jeffersonville, PA 19403

E-mail micheleasmith@verizon.net

Robert Quegan, 513-H, Thursday night, 21 August 2008, **Joe Quade** phoned me with the sad news that **Robert Quegan**, and his **Wife Gloria**, were involved in a terrible traffic last June 2008. You will recall that Robert Quegan was our Reunion Chairman at Hampton, VA. Joe Quade informed me that Gloria escaped very serious injury but Robert was not so lucky. Based upon this information I fired off a message to the Quegans as follows:

Greetings: Joe Quade phoned me last night with the unfortunate news that you were involved in a terrible traffic accident in June 2008. As a result I gather that Mrs Quegan escaped serious injury but you were not so lucky.

I would like to put out a "Sick Call " message concerning what happened and your current "Status". I would appreciate an E-mail message, as soon as possible, with these details so that I can put out a "Sick Call" message and Bill Tom can follow up with an item in the E-mail version of the "Thunder From Heaven". Today I received two very quick messages from the Quegans as follows:

1.

Del; I have been in a 'Miami J' collar for 75 days (and nights}. Theory is vertebrae may regrow. I have another CAT- Scan tomorrow. Gloria- in the passenger seat- had God riding with her but still serious, the impact was at the door hinge. I appreciate your request, Del (and Joe Quade's concern), and give you the OK to do as you see fit.

Message # 2 a very short time later.

Del; Gloria just reminded me to let you know we were broadsided by a vehicle going through a stop sign. Help wasv on site within 30 sec.-Thank God.

I gather that **Mrs. Quegan** is doing fine but **Robert's** recovery has been very slow. Correspondence and "Get Well" Messages may be addressed to the **Quegan Family** as follows: **Mr & Mrs.(Robert & Gloria) Quegan, 110 South Village Road West Dennis, MA 02670**

12 Aug 08: Joe Quade underwent a cardiac procedure with the intent of inserting a stent in his coronary artery, but he was found to be in such good shape that no stent was needed. A stent is a very small flexible metallic coil that is inserted into an artery in the heart to keep it open for flow of blood to his heart muscles.

NOTE: That was a very excellent finding. I had crossed by fingers and toes for Joe to be in good health. My prayers were answered.

Many of you will recall that **Mrs. Stephanie L. Hudicka**, Wife for nearly 54 years of Mr. George Hudicka, Btry F, 155th AA has been in very poor health for several months. Last May following a two

week stay in a Rehab Facility Mrs. Hudicka was released and sent home. After a very short stay at home for a couple of days she had to be hospitalized in the ICU for some two weeks while they drained fluid from her lung.

Mrs. Hudicka is in a Nursing Facility now and is doing much better. George, as her only "Sole Mate" visits her twice daily. He is there for her lunch hour and again for the dinner hour. Unit Members and Fellow Troopers" may send Get Well messages at this address. Mrs. Stephanie L. Hudicka, 77 Wilkshire Rd, Doylestown, PA 18901

Phone (215) 348-8463 (George gave me his permission)

E-mail ghu48@earthlink.net

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Hudicka Family for a very speedy recovery for Stephanie.

Jim and Nancy Lauria report on the health status of **Joe and Josephine DeMarco**.

I spoke with Josephine DeMarco this morning. Joe was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday,(8/13/08) with congestive heart failure. The Dr's. told her his heart is very weak. He is also anemic, soon Friday, he was given a blood transfusion. Josephine is feeling a little better, but feels she is still not up to par (or where she would like to be.) She has been going to physical therapy and it has helped her. As I get more information about Joe I will let you know. The Demarco Family, 40 Hillside Avenue. Orchard Park, NY 14127 E-Mail Josiejode2@AOL.COM

Mrs Pat Epps, Widow of Reverend Ralph Epps, AT Co, 194th GIR and the Mother of Issac Epps, has suffered a set back due to "Blood Clots". She has had to defer her Cancer Treatment in order to resolve the blood problems. On the plus side she is under "Hospice Care" at home.. Correspondence and "Get Well" messages may be addressed to the Epps Family as follows: Mrs Pat Epps, 310 White Oak Dr, Edenton, NC 27932

OBITUARY

5 Aug 08: **Alfert Wagner (466-B)** passed into Eternity on 16 March 2008. Al and his wife June, became our very dear friends. I did not know him in the service, but I met him and June at one of our local Varsity Reunions in Southern California. We did not know a soul when we entered the banquet room, so we sat at an empty table all by ourselves. Al and June were already seated with his group at another table, but when they saw us lonely two, they picked up their drinks and moved over to our table to keep us company. I thought it was a magnanimous gesture on their part and I have always remembered them for such a friendly display. Unfortunately, June passed away in 2004, and my heart went out to Al and kept a fond place in my heart for him and for his welfare. I met him several times more at our national reunions, the most recent was at our final reunion at Hampton, Virginia. My daughter Jackie captured a very fine reunion photo of Al and his family.



Photo of Al Wagner and his family at their treasured moments at Hampton. My most precious photo of Al and myself at a prior reunion is also embedded here for his children to have.

Don Lassen,

Donald D (Don) Lassen Sr. (505-E), passed away on 8 August 2008.

Following his service in World War II, Mr. Lassen worked in the Chemical Field. He always had a passion for writing and in 1975 he left the Chemical field to devote his full time and efforts to his writing talent. Don is well known for his Static Line Magazine, the Monthly Airborne Magazine and the Annual Reunions where the Airborne Man of the Year for the various Airborne Units is recognized. Don joined our Association as an Honorary Member in 1985. He was a regular attendee at our Annual Reunions. During the past several months Don was the victim of some health problems. He had back surgery on 30 June, 2008 and after a stay in the hospital was moved to a rehab facility. The cause of death was breathing problems at the age of 86.

Donald D. Lassen, Sr., age 86, of Rex, passed away, Friday, August 8, 2008. He served in E Co. 505 82nd Airborne Division during WWII. He parachuted into Normandy on D-Day. He is survived by his wife, Fran; children, Amy Moller of Marietta, Christina Brownridge of Jonesboro, Maureen Lear of Chicago Heights, IL, Donald Douglas Lassen, Jr. of Tyrone, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mr Lassen is survived by his Wife of 46 years, Frances, three Daughters, one Son and several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Correspondence and message of Condolence may be addressed to the Lassen Family as follows:

Mrs Frances Lassen
P.O. Box 87518
College Park, GA 30337-0518
E-mail don@staticlinemagazine.com

We send condolences to the Don Lassen family. I met Don Lassen at the final reunion of the 17th Airborne Division Association at Hampton, Virginia, in 2007. I felt as though I had known him for many years by his Static Line fame. I felt honored when he shook my hand when we were introduced. It was to our great loss when Don passed into the Airborne Eternity in Heaven where he will rest among the elites of our civilization's bravest warriors.

1 Aug 08: **Maurice Lyle (Lou) Finney, 513th PIR**, on 23 July 2008. The Funeral was held at the Fort Snelling, National Cemetery, MN. on Wednesday, 30 July 2008. With assistance from Ken Aumock I was able to contact a friend of the Finney Family to obtain the information for this message. Following his service in World War II, Mr Finney returned to the Minneapolis area where he was employed as a Purchasing Agent for various Companies in the area. In retirement he enjoyed playing Golf and was an avid Bridge Player with the local Club. The cause of death has not been provided to the Family as of this date but was believed to have been Natural Causes at the age of 85.

4 Aug 08: **Carlos Hurtado (507-HQ3)** passed away on 22 April 2008. Following his service in World War II, Mr. Hurtado spent his entire working career as a waiter working for various Hotels and Restaurants in the Los Angeles area. He had a passion for "serving people" and enjoyed every minute of it. Mr Hurtado joined our Association in 1980. In retirement he enjoyed working around his house, his yard and spending time with his family. The cause of death was a massive stroke at the age of 83.

NOTE: Carlo and I became good friends after we met at a local Varsity Reunion. I met him for the last at the 1990 Washington DC parade, but I have not been able to contact him since. He told me that he was severely wounded at Normandy on D-Day when his jeep ran over a land mine. The explosion rendered him unconscious with head injuries that were to affect him for his lifetime. Mrs Connie Hurtado, 1542 N Hoover St, Los Angeles, CA 90027

7 Aug 08: From johnowamp@aol.com, reported that **George Birth's** obituary was found in the



January 26, 2008 edition of the Charlotte Sun. Here is the text of that obituary: George F. Birth

George F. Birth , 84, of Port Charlotte, Fla., and formerly of Richfield, Ohio, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008, at his home. He was born June 30, 1923.

He is survived by his daughters, Barbara A. Birth of Bedford, Ohio, and Debra E. (Chris) Spurgeon of Indiana; sons, George R. (Rose) Birth of Medina, Ohio, David G. (Julia) Birth of Port Charlotte, and James E. (Susan) Birth of Punta Gorda, Fla; 15 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren, nieces and

nephews. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Margaret M. Birth ; and grandson, Brent V. Birth . Photo of their 1958 Cleveland, OH, Reunion.

Mr. Carl Rizzo, Btry B, 680th GFA, passed away on 30 May 1999. **It is most unfortunate that the time delay in receiving this death notice is just a bit over nine (9) years.**

Through the assistance from **Ed Siergiej** I was able to contact the **Rizzo Family** late yesterday. Following his service in World War II **Mr. Rizzo** was employed in the sales area. He started out working for **Sears** then to a Jewelry store. In his later years he established his own "**Roofing and Siding Facility** that he owned and operated.

In his later years **Mr. Rizzo** suffered several major strokes. He had been in a Nursing Home for some three years when he suffered a major stroke that was the cause of death at the age of 83.

Unfortunately because of the time delay the **Obituary** and the **Guest Book** information has been archived and not available. Correspondence and messages of Condolence may be addressed to the **Rizzo Family** as follows: **Mrs Loretta T. Rizzo, 198 Concord Drive, North East, PA 16429**

James J. Moreland, Hq 193rd GIR, passed away on 8 March 2008. Through the information provided by Ed Siergiej I was able to contact the Family this afternoon to obtain the information for this message.

Following his service in World War II Mr. Moreland was employed as a "Heavy Equipment Operator". For many years he worked as an Operating Engineer with Local 463. Following his retirement Mr. Moreland was very active in the "Shriners" programs. He had a passion for working with children and traveled with them to several cities. He joined our Association in 1989 and became a Life Member in 1990. In his later years Mr. Moreland was an Alzheimer victim and spent several years in a Nursing Home.. The cause of death was Alzheimer related at the age of 84. Unfortunately, due to the time delay the Obituary and the Guest Book Information has been archived.

Mr. Moreland is survived by his Wife of 61 years, Dorothy, three children, 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Correspondence and messages of Condolence may be addressed tot the Moreland Family as follows: Mrs Dorothy Moreland, P. O. Box 403, Sanborn, NY 14132

E-mail = sweeneyfarm@hotmail.com

Mary Katherine Mellone, Widow of Mr. Paul Mellone, Co D,513th PIR, passed away on Sunday, 24 August 2008. Through a big assist from both Curt Gadd and Ed Siergiej I was able to make contact with the Mellone Family in Ocala, Florida, this morning. Mrs. Mellone, was a retired "Beautician". In her later years she enjoyed gardening and traveling. She attended several Annual Reunions with her Husband and four after his passing (Kentucky 02, NC in 04, Columbus, GA in 04 and Texas in 06). She was a member of the Ladies Auxillary. She was an Alzheimer victim with the cause of death being a very serious Bladder Infection at the age of 87. The Family planned for the body to be cremated and buried at a later date beside her Husband. The Obituary

and the Guest Book information is not available, only a Death Notice was published in the Ocala Star Banner. Mrs. Mellone is survived by one Son, one Daughter and one grandchild. Correspondence and messages of Condolence may be addressed to the Mellone Family as follows:

Mrs Joanne Salm, 9781 NW 74th St, Ocala, FL 34481 E-mail = pvanm@q.com (The Son's Address)

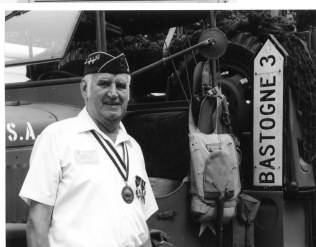
Mr. Franklin A. Paravich, Co B, 550th ABN, passed away on 14 August 2008. Early this afternoon I was able to contact **Mrs. Kathleen Pine**, his Daughter, to obtain the information for this message.

Following his service in World War II where he was a **POW**, **Mr. Paravich** was employed by the **Central Screw Company** of Chicago for some ten years. This was followed by some 33 years of employment with the **Great Lakes Screw Corporation of Riverdale, IL**. In retirement **Mr. Paravich** was very active in several Veterans Organizations and he enjoyed every minute of it. He was a member of the **The Ex-Prisoners of War Greater Chicago**, the **VFW** and the **DAV**. He joined our Association in 1989 and remained a dues paying member through our final year 2006/2007. He did attend our final Reunion at Hampton, Virginia. The cause of death was Natural Causes at the age of 87.

Franklin A. Paravich, former resident of Concord Place Retirement Community in Northlake, IL and previously a longtime resident of the Hegewisch neighborhood in Chicago, born July 16, 1921, died at

Hines VA Extended Care Center on August 14, 2008 after a short illness. Husband of the late Sally, nee Abram, father of Kathleen (Robert) Pine of Elmhurst, IL; brother of the late Marilyn (the late Sam) Telac and the late Diana (the late Robert) Ruess; brother-in-law of Henry Abram of Hegewisch, the late Edward (Rose of Hobart, IN) Abram, and Jessie (Clem) Gora of Hammond, IN; uncle of Robert Ruess of Fennville, MI, Diana Kowalczyk of Hegewisch, Marjorie Schmidt of Oceanside, CA, Andrea Castrale of Mitchell, IN and Myra Telac of Hermosa Beach, CA; grand uncle of seven; great uncle of one.

Franklin was a US Veteran and POW of WWII. He served in the 550th Airborne Infantry Special Forces and was decorated with the bronze star, purple heart and POW medals. He was a member of the Chicago Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, the nationwide 17th Airborne Division Association, the nationwide 550th Airborne Infantry Association, the American Ex-Prisoners of War Greater Chicago Chapter VFW Post #6863, the Disabled American Veterans Verdun Chapter #33 and a charter member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Stanley J. Sutka Post #5414. Franklin was a ten year employee of the former Central Screw Company in Chicago and a thirty year employee of the former Great Lakes Screw Corporation in Riverdale, IL.



James C. Fleming, Co E, 194th GIR, passed away on the afternoon of 19 August 2008. Ed Siergiej provided me the basic information and I phoned the Fleming Family this morning.

Following his service in World War II Mr. Fleming was employed by the Wackenhut Corporation, a Guard and Security Company. He retired after some 27 years with the Unit as an Area Manager. In his retirement years Mr. Fleming enjoyed his work on his small farm. He was a "Great Animal Lover" raising his horses, cattle, goats and his dog. He joined our Association in 1985 and was a "dues paying Member through our final Year 2006-2007". The Flemings attended some 17 Annual Reunions with the last one being at Columbus, GA. in 2004. In his later years Mr. Fleming survived four "by-pass surgeries" The cause of death was an aneurism at the age of 82.

Mr. James Collis (J.C.) Fleming, 82, went home to be with the Lord from his home in Florence, Wednesday, August 20, 2008. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Thursday at Chancellor Funeral Home in

Florence. A celebration of this outstanding veteran will be Friday, at 10 a.m. at the funeral home chapel with interment following in Mt. Sinai Cemetery in Florence. Mr. Fleming served his country proudly in the US Army. He went to England with the 194th Gilder Infantry and from there he joined with the 17th Airborne Division during World War II where his division saw combat in the historic



Battle of the Bulge and in Operation Varsity. In serving his country, he received the following awards: 2 purple hearts, WWII Victory Medal, one bronze Arrowhead, American Theater Ribbon, and a European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with Three Bronze Battle Stars. Mr. Fleming retired with 27 years with Wackenhut Security as Area Manager. He was a man that lived a life of love, loving his family, grandchildren, great grandchildren and his dog, Snapper. He is remembered as having a great love for his farm animals, cows, horses and goats. He is preceded in death by his parents: Samuel Fleming and Onie Mae Breazeale Fleming, his brother, Herman Jay Fleming. He is survived by his wife, Maxine

Fleming of Florence; sons: Mike Fleming of Shubutta, MS, Rusty Fleming of Meridian, Jason Fleming of Pearl; step-son, Karl Eberhardt of Armstrong Creek, WI; daughters: Vicki Fleming of Brandon, Celita Nugent and Jamie Dyar both of Pearl; step-daughters: Belinda Gatlin of Florence and Barbara Eberhardt of Pearl; brother: Charles Fleming of Pearl; 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Mary Katherine Mellone, Widow of Mr. Paul Mellone, Co D, 513th PIR, passed away on Sunday, 24 August 2008. Through a big assist from both Curt Gadd and Ed Siergiej I was able to make contact with the Mellone Family in Ocala, Florida, this morning. Mrs. Mellone, was a retired "Beautician". In her later years she enjoyed gardening and traveling. She attended several Annual Reunions with her Husband and four after his passing (Kentucky 02, NC in 04, Columbus, GA in 04 and Texas in 06). She was a member of the Ladies Auxillary. She was an Alzheimer victim with the cause of death being a very serious Bladder Infection at the age of 87. The Family planned for the body to be cremated and buried at a later date beside her Husband. The Obituary and the Guest Book information is not available, only a Death Notice was published in the Ocala Star Banner. Mrs. Mellone is survived by one Son, one Daughter and one grandchild. Correspondence and messages of Condolence may be addressed to the Mellone Family as follows:

Mrs Joanne Salm, 9781 NW 74th St, Ocala, FL 34481 E-mail = pvanm@q.com (The Son's Address)

Carlton F. Zoschke, Btry B, 155th AAA Bn, passed away on 13 July 2008. Early this morning I contacted Mrs Zoschke, by phone, to obtain the essential details for this message.

Following his service in World War II, Mr Zoschke was employed by the Bell Helicopter Company, followed by the Bell Aerospace Company, as a Technical Illustrator. In his retirement years he continued to enjoy making models of the many items he had illustrated during his working years. I was informed that he had a house full of all kinds of models from Soldiers, Choppers, Airplanes, Battle Scenes and Space items. He Joined our Association in 1977 and became a Life Member in 1998. In his later years he was a Cancer Victim that was the cause of death at the age of 83.

Carlton was from Tonawanda, NY, beloved husband of Bettie Y.; father of Eric, Lauren Z. (David) F. (Scotty) Scott; grandfather of Christopher and Spencer.

3 Sep 08: George F. Sinclair, 464th PFA passed away on 8 August 2008.

Following his service in World War II, Mr. Sinclair was employed as a "Methods" man in a Supervisory Capacity for Western Electric for over 44 years. In retirement he enjoyed "Gardening" and spending time with his "Family". The cause of death was a major Heart Attack at the age of 90 years.

George F. Sinclair, of Mendham, formerly of Morris Plains and Toms River, age 90,

passed away on August 7, 2008 at Morristown Memorial Hospital in Morristown, NJ. George was predeceased by his wife Xavier Sinclair of NY, New York, his loving parents: mother Anne Taylor, father George F. Sinclair of Darian Connecticut and his very dear sister Ina Mac Donald of Darian CT.

George is survived by his loving and devoted second wife, Olive L. Sinclair, of thirty years, his three loving daughters, Arlette Tome and her husband John of South Cairo, NY, Arden Sutton and her husband Les of Mendham, NJ, Victoria Hafl and her husband terry of Mason, Ohio and a son James Joseph Gay and his wife Barbara of Carmel. NY. George was also blessed with thirteen wonderful grandchildren and seventeen great grandchildren. He also leaves behind a dear nephew and many other meaningful friends that have touched his life throughout the years.

George was a Methods man in a supervisory capacity for Western Electric. He enjoyed working there for forty four years. He and his wife Olive were members of the Methodist Church in Brooklyn, Toms River, NJ and Morristown, NJ. His faith and family meant so very much to him.

George Loved Gardening. He grew the most beautiful Bonsai plants. He even entered them in a couple of plant shows. He and Olive enjoyed dancing very much. It was one of their favorite social activities together.

Mrs. Arden Sutton (Daughter), 3 Highfield Circle, Mendham, NJ 07945

COMMON SENSE ADVICE.

Please make it a habit not to lock your car with your remote door-locking device. Your **transmitting** radio signal can be copied and recorded by someone nearby with a receiving device.

As soon as you are out of sight, he could open your car and steal whatever you considered as valuable, and he will be gone in a few minutes. Always lock your car manually. You could open your door with a remote device, however, since you will be leaving..

In November, when you vote for anything free from the government, that you are not entitled to receive, you will lose a bit of yourself, your dignity, your freedom and your self-worth. Ultimately, the government might offer you free lodging and free food, you will have by then become a slave.

THE FLORY & JOE SOMERS GALLERY. 28 Aug 08

Battle of the Bulge, without the snow..



*Here we are on the cemetery in Neuville en Condroz at the Wall of the Missing..
Flory Somers, Wesley Haex and his parents.*



This is a view at the city of La Roche.



Here the German tank monument in Houffalize.



This is one of the war monuments in the city of La Roche en Ardenne. La Roche is about 30 Miles from Bastogne. A Belgian gentleman is telling his war experiences to Flory.



We visited also the 17th Airborne monument in Houffalize.



Wesley wanted us to go to Mande St-Etienne. Wesley adopted the grave of Doctor McGee of the 17th Airborne Division who had his Aid Station in the village.

Dr. Leonard McGee (194-MD) was subsequently KIA at Operation Varsity when his glider landed in front of a German 88.



We found the house of the 194th Medical Aid Station.
Here we are talking to the people who live in the house. It's the house on the left side on the picture.

The people were very kind to welcome us.
The house is now to rent for vacation and tourists.
Wesley can tell you more about all this.



Wesley had no chance to go to the revelation of the new monument in Flamierge at December the 15th last year, because of school. So we visited the monument now.

NEWS ADDENDUM

A belated letter to Joe Quade:

Joe Quade, It is hard to accept the reality that the “Thunder From Heaven” publication we enjoyed and received on a timely schedule all these years is going to end. I thank you and your staff for keeping the spirit and the experience of the 17th Airborne Division alive.

There are only a few of us troopers left of the Division Recon, First Platoon, that was led by Lt. John S. Knight (KIA) and Sgt. George Loss (deceased) through the “Battle of the Bulge” and “Operation Varsity”

I was transferred from the 17th to the 82nd Airborne Division Recon, and participated in the occupation of Berlin. We served as Honor Guards for General Patton and Russian General Zhukov and other dignitaries. Some of our dignitary escort duties included tours of Hitler’s Berlin bomb shelter.

Joe Quade, I thank you for your dedication, loyalty and for giving us an outstanding Division publication. I will miss “Thunder From Heaven”.

Thank you for a job well done!

Arnold J. Cisewski, Division Recon
6921 Pleasant Avenue South
Richfield, MN. 55423

AIRBORNE REUNION NEWS!

Howdy guys,

We are organizing Airborne Days at Wisconsin Dells next July. Any advice or ideas from you all would be greatly appreciated! For you Rangers and Special Forces, would it be possible to get Ranger and SF Displays there? Who should we contact? How about Airborne Re-Enactor groups?

ATW,
Tom Laney, Editor
Badger Airborne News
Badger State Chapter
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