



17th Airborne Division's post-dissolution Newsletter #9
(Joe Quade Edition)

THUNDER MAIL CALL

Bill Tom, Editor/webmaster
154 Stanford Hts Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94127-2349

Email = kn6qd@arrL.net

This newsletter might be sent from thundermailcall@gmail.com

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

Date: Quade - December 2008

'til the end of Me-----

.....
In Remembrance of our 33 Troopers (Mostly from 194-C) who had perished in
December 12, 1944 in a glider crash during a training exercise in England.

+++++

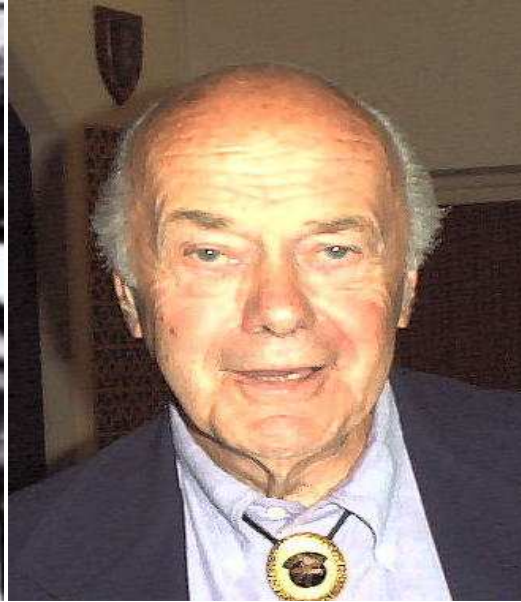
Joe Quade, PM Company (Parachute Maintenance)



Joe Quade, with wife Suzi, relaxing in their garden.



Joe Quade in 1944



Joe Quade 2004

Joe was born in August 1923 in Elizabeth, New Jersey; his siblings include a twin brother, Charles, and a younger brother, Bob, currently a college professor. Joe was attending Rutgers University when he was drafted into the army in 1943. After basic training at the Camp Fannin IRTC (Infantry Replacement Training Center), he was assigned to the ASTP program at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) to study engineering for six months before being transferred to Company E, 194th Glider Infantry at the tail end of the Tennessee Maneuvers. When he learned that glidertroopers were not wearing parachutes and the glider has no engine, he quickly volunteered into the paratroops, where he was assigned to the Parachute Maintenance Company, a task that required patience, intelligence, diligence and dependability. He served in parachute maintenance for the balance of the war and was awarded three campaign ribbons and battle stars earned in battles at the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. At war's end in Europe, Joe was transferred to the 13th Airborne Division, embarked for the Pacific War, when the atom bombs were dropped on Japan to end World War II.

That done and following his discharge from the army, he returned to Rutgers University to complete his Bachelors Degree at Cornell University before he attained his Masters Degree in Business. In 1949 he joined the Prudential Insurance Company where he held research and management positions in methodology, personnel, operations, and computers, before retiring in 1986 to commit his retirement as a humanity activist and community worker. Joe was recognized as the Citizen of the Year by his hometown of Montville, NJ and received the Prudential Humanitarian award given by the Prudential Insurance Company, as one of only 25 out of 15,000 employees for this much sought-after recognition.

Among Joe's affiliations of community and civic accomplishments are his leadership roles in the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, United Way, Library Boards, Recreation

Commissions, American Legion, VFW, Heart Fund, Republican Party, Little League, Board of Education, Community Education, as well as being the Past President of the 15,000-member Prudential Insurance Company Athletic Association. Upon his retirement, he became a substitute high school teacher, teaching a variety of courses, including algebra, football coaching and even becoming a football game announcer.

Of all the myriads of devotions to so many activities, the most important is that he was one of the co-founders of the 17th Airborne Division Association in 1953, and was its 9th President in 1962 after hosting a most successful New York City reunion. However, Joe's most accomplished role in our recent memory is his role of being the editor of the 17th Airborne news organ, the excellent "Thunder From Heaven" newsletter, a position that he has held for 38 years, since 1969. As busy as he was, he was also co-chairman of the Reunion Site Selection Committee, a member of the Memorial Committee and the designer and publisher of the annual 17th Airborne calendars.

As though he has so much time on his hands, he is also a veteran traveler, having taken airborne travelers back to visit the places of their training and combat roles during World War II. He has conducted pilgrimages to rendezvous with foreign paratroopers in China, Japan, Korea, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and England.



Yet, he has an excellent family life with his wife, Suzi, and his son, Jeff (a computer consultant in New York City) and his daughter, Kim (a special education and computer teacher in the New England region).

NOTE: I am proud to be associated with Joe ever since we trained together at Camp Fannin, and through our engineering pursuits at MIT, into the airborne services, and as his Mail Call editor in publishing the Thunder From Heaven newsletter. For us, it is now (2008) a 65-year continuous ongoing friendship! The Editor.

Our journey into destiny had started on Christmas Eve 1944. The ongoing rumor of that time was that the war in Europe would be over and we would be going home for Christmas. Our Generals were wrong and our troops had to pay that awful costly price of stopping the Germans and to defeating them in their homeland.

It is now a time of Christmas again to celebrate a true meaning of our service to our civilization. General George Patton once remarked that "There will always be wars, somewhere, as long as people inhabit this earth." Remarkable as it may seem, what we did in Europe in World War 2, had endowed peace in Europe for all their people. There had not been marching armies threatening neighbors for over 60 years. Their people have been very appreciative of their freedom and we acknowledge it with gratitude for all that they do for our KIA soldiers sleeping in their soil, in the only lands we had acquired from the war. The only conquest we had made was the friendship of their people, and we hope that to last forever.

Nov 08: **Jos bex**, email = 00046@planet.nl>

Hi Bill, Hereby some words from a cold and humid Holland. In one of the TMCs you sent me there is printed a mistake which you by accident did not knew about, or I was not clear enough in my information.

In the Sprenger Edition, TMC #2, Part 1 you placed the article of Mrs Irma Rohler. She was NOT an inhabitant of the Bulge area, BUT she is German. She lives up till now, still at the same house she lived in as a child during Operation Varsity on the 24th of March 1945. On picture number.1750..you can see her standing in the kitchen holding up the book I made of you. So you might have cared for the wounded in this very kitchen Bill!!!

In fact it is the house where the famous picture is made of the glider who crash-landed practically on top of their barn (see picture number: 1855)

On picture number .1751 WITH SNOW...I am standing next to the same barn the glider crash landed.in, ...And it was also the area YOU landed Bill!!! Picture 1753 is the landing site farmland. (Landing Zone-"S" where the 194th Regiment had landed at Varsity)

She remembered that the US paratroopers claimed her parents' kitchen, but she told me she could not remember you Bill, unless I showed her your picture book I made for the reunion, remember???? The one you autographed for me. I hope all is clear to you now, for you might rectify the article.

I am also very busy making a " Now and Then " book from the Hamminkeln/Wesel area. When ready I will send you a copy.

Did you already receive my present???????????????? Quade,Gadd, Townsend, Macauley and Siergiej already got it. (Yes, thank you. I did receive your memento gift of soil from our landing zone)

On pictures 1927 and 1928 you can see the Varsity soil is very virtile !! After digging it up on the 24th of March 2008 the seeds inside spontaneously started to grow as you can see!!

The pictures are taken in my back garden, and you can see in the back the plants started to grow early this year 2008. (Sorry, I need to limit photos because I have to conserve megabytes in transmitting the TMC on the Internet for free).

Behind me you can just see a white Japanese lilac growing. Now almost all leafs are fallen off. Ok Bill, Hope to hear from you soon!!!

P.S. Did I already told you I have become a grand-dad??? It is my first one. At the age of 50 it is not bad ha??? If not, I will send you pictures of the little fellow called Milan. (Congratulations, Grandpa! I became first-time grandpa at age 63 and I was grandpa most recently at age 81. Linda is currently knitting a blanket for Milan)



The Rohler Farm where the 194th Medical Aid Station was set up during Operation Varsity.

Photo # 1751

Photos # 1750



1753



1855



Mrs Irma Rohler was then a young girl and she still lives in the same building. Bex ID'ing that house in a snow storm holding the 17th Talon and my book showing my photo.



Photo 1927

Photo #1753 Landing Zone "S", where the 194th landed, Photo 1855 a glider crash landing near the barn, and Photo 1927, Bex showing the fertility of that Landing Zone soil.

Bex sent me a story about the Rohler Farm many months before, and I reported that story in TMC #2 with the farm being located in Belgium. This is a correction of the fact that the Rohler Farm was actually in Germany during Operation Varsity! Bex sent me some fertile soil from the Landing Zone as a memento. He went through a bit of trouble and expense to have done that. I thank him for a memorable gift. I was a young 20-year, half-boy and half-man at the time, and battle wounds were such a bloody mess, so bloody that I had closed my mind to what was going on and to forget what I had to do! But I had learned enough of the human body such that I did not have to take the final examination to received an easy "A" grade in my college Anatomy-101 class !

Nellievantoer" <j.toer5@chello.nl>

Dear friends of America, I send you all in one time this message.

I wish all luck and wisdom with your choice next Tuesday 4 November.

Be happy that you can make a choice. Because my parents and grandparents taught me, that you have be grateful when you can life in a democracy, and that you can make choices. Once there was a time here in Europe that there was no democracy, it was from 1940 till 1945.

But your fathers bring the freedom and democracy back here in Europe, but they pay a high price for that. From a peaceful and respectful cemetery like Margraten we learn a lot, and we bring here in Holland generation after generation to Margraten and hope that they understand that democracy can be vulnerable, and the price is high to get him back. So dear friends make your choice Tuesday, and be proud of your beautiful country AMERICA. God bless your all. Your grateful friend, Hans van toer

COMMENT: America has a way of reuniting after each presidential election for the common good! There was a time in my youth in the army that I was forbidden by law to marry ein deutsche Fraulein, but things did change as we mature as a nation. Ich hatte einen Geliebten in Bad Wildungen, bei Kassel,in 1946.

Within the past few weeks, I have received several queries concerning whether or not the **17th Airborne Division Association** had "**Prepared and Published**" a Calendar for the Year 2009. The answer is To The Best Of My Knowledge The Answer Is NO!, (according to President Colonel Townsend)

3 Nov 08: **Jos bex**, email = josbex00046@planet.nl>

Hello Bill, Went to Margraten Cemetery today. Hereby the pictures of two brave 17th men. Loomis was the Colonels friend, as he refers in his article about Varsity.

Peters is well known. How touching it was this afternoon at a cold cemetery, I remember the picture you send me when you were playing the harmonica at Strykers grave, also a CMOH holder, like Peters.

Similarly, I stood at Peters' grave, not playing the harmonica , but in thoughts saying a prayer 10.000 km away they are buried, and the feeling is the same.....Sincerely, Jos Bex



The inscriptions on a Medal of Honor gravestone is painted in gold, as was in Stuart Stryker's grave. We met Peters' sister and family at one of our reunions. Lt. Loomis was a very tall man at 6 foot 8 inches. His nickname was "Five foot 20". He was In Operation Varsity, riding in the Headquarters glider that was hit by an 88 shell, caught on fire and crashed to kill everyone on board.



Glider troops in a glider enroute to combat



Glider hit by enemy artillery, crashed and burned.

3 Nov 08: **Judith Apple**, email =realizelife@aol.com. RE: **Oliver Apple (193-D)**

My Dad was my hero, not just for what he endured as a young man in war, but for the quiet, strong, dignified way he went on with his life, without complaining, or expecting anything to be handed to him without working for it. And boy, could he get a room laughing. He passed away a month before his ninetieth birthday four years ago. He loved reading the Thunder from Heaven newsletters and attended most of the 17th reunions until it was too difficult to travel.

I would appreciate if you could place an "ad" in the email news letter to see if anyone remembers serving with my Dad, or if children of those who served with him, or remember his name being mentioned. I have photos from Camp Mackall I should be able to locate if anyone is interested. I would love copies of any photos that my Dad was in the 193th GIF in D Company. I have his discharge card, dog tags etc. He was enlisted in Pittsburgh, PA and lived his retirement years in Boca Raton, FLA.

Thank you for your service.

My address: Judith Apple 10320 Grubbs Road Wexford, PA 15090

COMMENT: I have a niece living in Boca Raton. and my buddy, Sid Laufer, 513-F, also lives there.

Our Secretary, Ed Siergiej has printed out a list of all the 193-D guys for you to contact to get more info about your dad. Meanwhile, all you 193-D guys, please contact Judith, or the Editor, if you could contribute some information of your relationship with Oliver Apple during the war.

CAMP MACKALL

There is an effort to restore the historic memory and fame of Camp MacKall where many airborne divisions had trained. As most of us have known, the camp had been decommissioned and most of the buildings there have been demolished. The Richmond County Historical Collection, is in process of soliciting our 17th Airborne members who had trained at Camp Mackall to submit any comments, observations and recollections they have of the camp, including the community, the county and their personal family history information to add to the files. Photographs of this area, their life in the camp and artifacts of similar subjects are also welcome to be added for inclusion in the files.

Any submissions, contacts or questions may be submitted to Mr. Joe McLaurin, President of the Historical Society of The Collection at the Richmond County Historical Collection, P.O. Box 848, Rockingham, NC 28378. Telephone (919) 997-6641.

5 Nov 08: From: **Henri Rogister**, henri.rogister@skynet.be



Hello, In the last newsletter you ask me a question (Page 6). "Somewhere in Belgium, I had seen a statue of a little boy, peeing into the water at a fountain, Was it in Liège?"

It is at Brussels.

Thanks, now I know where I had been. It was such a long time ago.

I have now reached the senile age of wanting to do something like that myself.



A medic and a Captain helping an injured paratrooper (17th Airborne)

VETERANS DAY IN CALIFORNIA



The other guy is in a bloody-red T-shirt.

The average American soldier is really a composite of every culture from around the world. During World War II, 99.9% of Americans of Chinese descent was sent to the China-Burma-India Theater of Operation to fight the Japanese. Only 2 out of this photo group had served in Europe. It was the best for the West and the least in the East, I supposed. The shortest among of them in the photo had served in the lead tank in one of General Patton's tank destroyer units.

Aquarium Day in California



Jelly fishes do by nature what paratroopers do by training. I sat there for several hours watching this scene at the Monterey Museum that looked like a mass jump by the 513th Parachute Regiment. It was so mesmerizing that I almost went into a trance.

10 Nov 08: xavier van daele" <x_va@hotmail.com>

Dear Friends, Tommorrow, in my country, as in every November 11th, we commemorate the armistice, the end of WWI. In the occasion, we also celebrate the end of WWII. It is the occasion for me of still you thank so much for what you made for us!



To have sacrificed your youth, to have risked your life!

I am very proud and very honored to be in touch with you and I really hope to meet you one day!

By waiting for this day, God bless you and God bless America.

Friendly, Xavier . (Thanks much for your good thoughts. We are always grateful for your continued visitations at our overseas cemeteries to remember those who failed to come home. I am 10,000 kilometers from them for such a visit.)

**A VISIT TO SIMI VALLEY IN LOS ANGELES TO PAY HOMAGE TO
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN's TOMB AT HIS LIBRARY.
U.S. President 1981-1988**



Bill in contact with Ed Siegiej by cell phone at the Reagan Statue; The courtyard looking out from the main entrance; Reagan Library overlooks Simi Valley, in Los Angeles, California.



The garden area is patterned after the White House Garden. His tomb is located under the tree in the background; His tomb is very simple. His final words are, **“I know in my heart that man is good, that what is right will always triumph, and that there is purpose and worth to each and every life.”**, as engraved on his tomb, which is protected with a waist-high fence.



Reagan's Oval Office at the White House. The layout of Reagan's Library (the cage structure housed his full-size 727 Air Force-1 and Marine-One Helicopter. Indeed, any plane carrying the President is Air Force-1, by definition. His library occupies 100 acres on a hill top.



Our newest aircraft carrier is the **USS Ronald Reagan**. A piece of the Berlin Wall on display on the right, as a gift to Reagan for his effort in demanding, **“Mr Gorbachev, Tear Down that Wall!.**

The two Presidents that I have greatest respect for was Abraham Lincoln (1860-1865), who freed the slaves and kept our nation intact, and Ronald Reagan (1981-1989) who kept the Europeans from speaking Russian and to end the Cold War without going to war. For those reasons, I have visited both of their Memorial Libraries and tombs. Lincoln is buried in Springfield, Illinois, in an underground vault, and Reagan in Simi Valley, California. Lincoln was assassinated and Reagan survived an assassination attempt. My spine tingled as I approached each tomb.

President Reagan's famous quotes:

- * 'Here's my strategy on the Cold War: We win, they lose.'
- * 'The most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'
- * 'The trouble with our liberal friends is not that they're ignorant; it's just that they know so much that isn't so.'
- * 'Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the U.S. was too strong.'
- * 'I have wondered at times about what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress.'
- * 'The taxpayer: That's someone who works for the federal government but doesn't have to take the civil service examination.'
- * 'Government is like a baby: An alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other.'
- * 'The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program.'
- * 'It has been said that politics is the second oldest profession. I have learned that it bears a striking resemblance to the first.'
- * 'Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.'
- * 'Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed, there are many rewards; if you disgrace yourself, you can always write a book.'
- * 'No arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is as formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women.'
- * 'If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.'

Mike Woldenberg, email = geomike@buffalo.edu

Dear Bill, I have enjoyed reading the Thunder Mail Call. I found your personal story especially touching. Please keep these Mail Calls coming.

I just finished the John Magill a rigger and instructor at Fort Benning from 1943 until early 1944, and then applied for overseas duty in the ETO. He was a forward artillery observer and attached to the 513th PIR. There were many parallels to the career of my Uncle, Lt. Charles M. Willis. I emailed John and sent him a picture of Chuck and a resume' of his activities and locations during the war.

John definitely remembered him! This is the first paratrooper who was able to be definite about that. Sid Laufer thought that maybe he remembered him. John Magill suggested to me that Chuck may have been assigned as a forward observer with the 466th Field Artillery in Italy and France. (Chuck jumped with Operation Dragoon). I am following this up. For all this, I want to thank you! One last question: Did you attend MIT? *(Yes, I did.)* All the best, and thank you for your service in the war, and for the Thunder Mail Call. Mike Woldenberg, geomike@buffalo.edu

Note: Mike, Uncle Chuck was probably attached to another Field Artillery if he had jumped at Dragoon.

Bob Lenz, 17th MP, Hello Bill, Great newsletter, I always look forward to receiving it. In regard to the Army's Specialized Training Program, I too came to the 17th from that Program.. I was at the Univ. of New Hampshire when the program was terminated, I was then assigned to the 194th. I was only in the 194th for a short time when they transferred me to the Division Military Police platoon. There at Camp Forrest I qualified to become a paratrooper.

The MP Platoon was involved in combat, but not to the degree of the infantry.. When we came into Houffalize the shooting had basically ceased, but there were bodies of dead Americans and Germans all over. It must have been an awful battle. I was fortunate that I had no longer been with the 194th. We should remember and honor our friends and comrades who were killed or seriously wounded in this and the other missions. Best wishes and good health.-----Bob Lenz

Flory's vet day photos.

Our 2008 Veterans Day observation at Margraten was as memorial as it always was, as observed by the grateful people who had adopted gravesite as their own to honor. A large number of school children were also there, and I assumed that most were American children whose parents reside in the Benelux countries. It was a very windy day and several of the floral displays were blown over. Photo'ed here are Pierre Ackermans, Flory Somers, Irma Haex, Wesly Haex, Ton Haex and Joe Bissheroux. Not shown of course is Joe Somers, the photographer.



Color Guards and children attending the Vets Day Memorial.

The winds blew over some wreaths



We are indebted to them who do what they did.



Wesley Haex submitted his photos at Margraten, showing Joe Somers.



Our West Coast's Vets Day was a cozy luncheon that lasted 3 hours at an all-you-can-eat place.



We went back again and again for refills, but we simply could not deplete the available foods.

The Editor (in red) was the only WWII vet, among all those of Korean and Vietnam wars.

The older vets of World War 2 are rarely seen in public today. They might be hiding from their Draft Board which has a poster of Uncle Sam pointing a finger, "Afghanistan Needs You !.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE MOVEMENT OF THE 17TH AIRBORNE MONUMENT



Greetings: Within the past several days questions concerning the eventual movement of the 17th Airborne Division Memorial that was dedicated 21 October, 2004 at Sacrifice Field, Fort Benning, Georgia, to the new museum site near the main gate have surfaced. Initial queries provided very little information. In an attempt to obtain the best information available and provide that

information to key members of our now dissolved 17th Airborne Division Association, I have taken the following action. Today I phoned Mr. Dick Hagan, Associate Director of Development, National Infantry Foundation, phone (706) 653-9234, e-mail dhagan@nationalinfantryfoundation.org As most of you know the "Infantry Museum" is now closed pending the movement to the new location. The Opening at the new location near the main gate at Fort Benning, Georgia, is presently scheduled for 30 March 2009. The major effort now is the movement to the new location. Once the movement is completed and the new Museum is up and running, The Foundation Board of Directors will consider action concerning the movement of those Memorials on Sacrifice Field to the new location near the main Fort Benning Gate. Some of the original owners do not want their "Memorial" moved to the new location. The local Contractor felt there was a "Liability" problem in moving the 17th Memorial. The Clark Construction (the original builder) believes they can move it. I informed Mr. Hagan that the 17th Airborne Division Association Membership were unanimous in desiring the 17th Memorial be moved to the new location. We struggled concerning our War Room Memorabilia and after a very hard fought discussion gave the entire package to the Benning Museum. We feel very strongly that the 17th Memorial should be close by.

Mr. Hagan informed me that he hoped that in the future the 17th Airborne Division Memorial would be moved to the new location. Nothing can be done until 30 March 2009 concerning this matter.

If you feel this information may be beneficial to other Members I will attempt to spread the word. Sincerely, Del Townsend

Comment: The attached photo shows the grand scale of the projected new Infantry War Museum at Fort Benning. Donation paver bricks that line the walk ways are offered at \$25.00 each. I assume Mr. Hagan could supply further donor information by phone.

Hitler's Atlantic Wall Bunkers Revealed, a story submitted by Ken Kasse, 513-I.

Sea unearths secret Nazi bunkers that lay hidden for more than 50 years:

Three Nazi bunkers on a beach have been uncovered by violent storms off the Danish coast, providing a store of material for history buffs and military archaeologists. The bunkers were found in practically the same condition as they were on the day the last Nazi soldiers left them, down to the tobacco in one trooper's pipe and a half-finished bottle of schnapps.



This bunker was entombed under the sand dunes until a violent storm swept away the sands three months ago.

The bunkers had not been touched since the war.

The bunkers were three of 7,000 built by the Germans as part of Hitler's 'Atlantic Wall' from Norway to the south of France. But while the vast majority were almost immediately looted or destroyed, these three were entombed under the sand dunes of a remote beach near the town of Houvig since 1945. They were uncovered only because recent storms sent giant waves cascading over them, sweeping away the sand and exposing glimpses of the cement and iron structures.

Kim Clausen, curator of the Ringkoebing-Skjern museum views a heater retrieved from the bunker, and Stamps of the German Eagle of Adolf Hitler and the Swastika were also retrieved.



They were located by two nine-year-old boys on holiday with their parents, who then informed the authorities.

Archaeologists were able to carefully force a way, and were astounded at what they found.

What's so fantastic is that we found them completely furnished with beds, 'chairs, tables, communication systems and the personal effects of the soldiers who lived inside,' says Jens Andersen, the curator of the Hanstholm museum.

The discovery of the fully-furnished bunkers was 'unique in Europe ,' said Bent Anthonisen, a Danish expert on European bunkers.



Expert Tommy Cassoe: 'It was as if the Nazis had just left yesterday' .

And a third expert, Tommy Cassoe, enthused: 'It was like entering the heart of a pyramid with mummies all around. What I saw blew me away: it was as if the German soldiers had left only yesterday.'

The team working with Cassoe emptied the structures within a few days of boots, undergarments, socks, military stripes, mustard and aquavit bottles, books, inkpots, stamps featuring Hitler, medicines, soda bottles, keys, hammers and other objects. All of the objects from the shelters have been taken to the conservation centre at Oelgod museum, some 20 miles from the beach to be examined.

The centre's German curator, Gert Nebrich, judged the find 'very interesting because it is so rare.' "We don't expect contemporary objects like these to be so well preserved. Maybe it's because they were kept for 60 years in the cold and dark like in a big vacuum," he says, carefully showing four stamps featuring Hitler's image and the German eagle, found in one bunker. The Germans left the bunkers in May 1945 after the Nazi surrender.

Historical records show that Gerhard Saalfed was a 17-year-old soldier with the German army when he arrived at the bunker in January 1945.

Germany surrendered on May 8 1945, but it wasn't until two days later that he and his fellow soldiers left their remote station. They shut the steel doors of the bunker behind them on their remote beach and went to the nearest town ten miles away to surrender.

'The remote location of the bunkers and the drifting sands that covered them saved them from being ransacked," said Cassoe.

19 Nov 08: Camille Kohn, emasil = <kohncam@pt.lu> Honorable Mr. Siergiej and Honorable Colonel Townsend, Just for the time being I would like to thank you so very much for your unmatched kindness, especially for the 17th Abn donation to CEBA and finally for the magnificent 17th Abn plaque. Great !!!! I would like to assure you once

more that we will organize on every "Memorial Day" (end of May) a special wreath laying at a 17th Abn grave in Luxembourg-Hamm and if possible send you a picture of that small ceremony. This picture shall include the cross or Star of David on that grave, selected by CEBA, so that you may be informed every year about the name of the fallen Airborne man, honored *by your flowers*. Dear Mr. Siergiej it would be so good to stay with you in contact furthermore. Please transmit my kind regards and appreciation to Colonel ret.

COMMENT: Camille, I need to verify with you the Internet address code for Luxembourg is LU or LX?

A HISTORY OF THE GLIDER CRASH AT GREENHAM COMMON IN DECEMBER 12, 1944.

The 17th Airborne Division arrived in England in August 1944. The 194th Glider Infantry Regiment was stationed near Swindon. In preparation for possible commitment across the channel we continued our small unit and glider training. We used mainly the US CG4A gliders that would carry some 13 Soldiers, a jeep and four men or a 75mm howitzer and a crew of four. Both a single tow and a double tow were used in training. As part of our training we were "cross training" with the British Horsa Glider. This was a large glider that could carry some 31 soldiers and two pilots. Those individuals who did not complete jump school were required to participate in a glider flight every three months for pay purposes.

On 12 December, 1944, 31 members of the 17th Airborne Division, (mostly from C Company, 194th GIR) gathered at the Greenham Commons Air Base for a Horsa Glider Flight for training and pay purposes. The flight ended in a horrific crash killing all 31 Members plus the two pilots. I personally knew three of the victims quite well. Major James Klock was the 194th Regimental Surgeon. During my early days at Camp Mackall, Major Klock treated me for an allergy to Poison Oak and kept me from being thrown out of the Army. Chief Warrant Officer Ira Smith was an Assistant Adjutant to Capt William Hunter. Lieutenant Charles Albury was a Platoon leader in C Company, 194th GIR who I saw almost on a daily basis.

On 12 December, 1994, a Memorial there on the former Greenham Commons Air Base was dedicated to the Memory of those 33 HEROES who perished in that terrible glider crash on 12 December, 1944. We are deeply indebted to Mr. Chris Green of the Royal British Legion for his leadership in the Annual Memorial Ceremonial effort. The Greenham Common Trust which now occupies and operates a major portion of what was the original Air Base where the Horsa glider crash occurred has been very active in the task of Remembrance and Perpetuating the Memory of our Fallen Heroes who perished in that crash. A major part of this effort is the naming of various streets, buildings, etc in the Business Park after the individuals who perished in the crash. 12 December, 2008, will mark the 14th Anniversary of the dedication of this memorial.

I would like to express our sincere Thanks and Deep Appreciation for your continued efforts of Remembrance. Unfortunately, our Association is in the final days of

dissolution. While we may not be around next year to express our gratitude for your very kind efforts: PLEASE REMEMBER, WE WILL NEVER FORGET!
THANK YOU, Sincerely, Col. Del Townsend

From John Magill, 466-HQ,

Greetings Del, With heartfelt thanks we are answering your thanksgiving message not only for the message itself but for shared comradeship in our beloved 17th airborne and for our shared friend-ship in our reunions. We, too, have been blessed and spared in the awe-some losses suffered by our long overlooked airborne division. In the extensive interview with Larry Coppetto for the upcoming PBS program in the Spring of 2009, I tried to honor our buddies who paid the supreme sacrifice and in my address at Penn State on Veterans Day I did the same. Del, please pass my e-mail to Bill Tom. I received his newsletter and his tribute but for some reason, Anna and I have problems sending one to him. I will forward my words from Penn State via regular mail. Once again, to you and all of our beloved living comrades, we must take the torch from the faltering but honored dead comrades, and hold it high in the hope that our succeeding generations will take it from our faltering hands when we join our comrades in 'the new adventure'. Our love and prayers to all our glorious comrades. **John & Anna**

11/11/08, Fasi, From: Fasi, Rich <RFasi@harleysvillegroup.com>
Subject: **RE: Pfc. William Joseph Nemecek, 17th Airborne Division, 513-C.** I was



showing my step-dad your web site, specifically the section on the 17th Airborne Division. We looked up his unit, 17th Airborne Division, the 513th PIR, and found his buddy Edward G. Tipton. However, my step-dad's name was not listed. I figured Veterans day would be a good day to add him to your records. He graduated from Jump School in 1944 and was deployed to England for staging to the European Theater. He participated in the Battle of the Bulge, and while engaged with an SS Panzer tank unit outside of Flamierge, Belgium on January 4, 1945 was captured along with most of his Company. His company suffered heavy losses in the engagement prior to surrender. He was held in Stalag 1B, and was eventually liberated when the German guards withdrew in the face of the Red Army advance in June of 1945. During the firefight with the Panzers, he and Edward Tipton were using a split rail fence for "cover", when an 88 round from one of the tanks hit Ed Tipton in the head, killing him. The shrapnel from the tank round wounded my step-dad. He was subsequently awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze star for his action, and later the POW medal authorized by act of Congress. I've attached a couple of pictures for your use at the web site, and would be pleased if you could add my step-dad's name to the "honor roll" of the 513th PIR. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Thank you, **Rich** (Richard A. Fasi, CPCU, API, AIM, AIS, Assistant Vice President Personal Lines
Mid West Marketing, Harleysville Insurance, 1-800-968-2090 extension 5542
Fax 231 946 1013

16 Nov 08 From: Curtis Gadd

What a small world it is becoming! Just read a story in our local newspaper about an event that happened in Maastricht. A man, Paul Curfs, using a metal detector, found a cache of 39 gold and 70 silver coins minted in the middle of the 1st century BC as the future ruler Julius Caesar led a campaign against Celtic tribes in the area. What an exciting story and worthy of printing in our local newspapers. Curt

Flory Somers' response: Hello dear Curtis, Thank you for your mail...

Yes, it's a small world! The coins have been found very close to the Margraten cemetery just outside the center of the city of Maastricht. It even could have possible that the 17th Airborne had dug out the coins when they were using their metal detectors to locate mines. Like the 17th Airborne found those Harmonicas at the Hohner factories in Essen Germany. Bill Tom told us that story.

Maastricht is the oldest city of Holland.

This weekend there was already an exposition where people could see the coins. There were 6000 visitors in one day!

If you go to this website you may like to see a small film and an audio fragment about the coins:

http://www.l1.nl/L1NWS/_rp_links4_elementId/1_3068485



Here the village of Flamierge seen from road N4 from Bastogne to Marche.

Levert Smith (194-C) decorated on Veterans Day at Margraten. This picture is the



grave of Levert Lindell Smith and our bouquets for him when Bill Tom asked for special attention in his story published in the TMC #6. As Robert (:Levert's brother) knows we always visit his grave on Veterans Day and other events. Greetings, Pierre Ackermans

Reply: Thank you, Pierre. I comfort in knowing of your attention for Levert and for so many others.

Note: I thank you for the special favor I asked that

Levert be remembered. I now know that he will never be forgotten, as long as freedom lasts in your land. I am very grateful to you, Pierre, and to so many others like you!

14 Nov 08: **Jason Karpa, re: John Karpa (194-B)**

Mr. Tom, I was wondering if you would be able to find any information on my grandfather John Karpa. All that i know is that he was in the 17th and was part of the gliders, he did attend MANY reunions as i have gotten t-shirts and sweatshirts as a young child. He passed away from natural causes in June or July of 1997. Any information would be helpful as I did not ask him as a child about his time in the 17th.

Thanks You, Jason Karpa

COMMENT: I knew that John Karpa had passed on, but I did not know him. However, our Association President, Colonel Del Townsend, was a Lieutenant in your grandfather's 194-B unit during the war. I will refer your request to him who might be able to give you some answers.

Meanwhile, I will publish your request in our newsletter to see if there are others who knew him. I will also send you copies of our newsletters that might give you a general idea of what Grandpa did. We all did about the same things in the airborne, but I understand that grandpa was a very jovial man with a good sense of humor..

I am attaching the first copy of our newsletter. Currently, we have 8 past-issues that you could save to a DVD for your future reference, or for your children/grandchildren to know him. *I will send you an issue every few days. Your letter will appear in issue #9 coming out in December-1 via email.*

Our newsletter also list a URL website address for you to look into the history of the 17th Airborne. Bill

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Golden Gate Chapter

December 13, 2008 Meeting of the Golden Gate Chapter, VBOB

The December 13, 2008 meeting will be held at Ft. Miley Medical Center, in San Francisco, CA **(in the auditorium).**

SFVA Medical Center

4150 Clement Street San Fran., 94121

Start Time: 11:00 AM (ceremony will start at 11 AM)

Our guest speakers will include the Honorary Consul General of Belgium, Mrs. Rita Bral and the Consulate General of Luxembourg, Mr. Georges Faber. We will have another

guest, **Kerry McLaughlin ((Gold-Star Son of Howard McLaughlin (MIA-KIA) from Arizona)** who will be give a short presentation entitled:

In Search of My Father -- Reflections of a Gold Star Son

No need to return an RSVP this time (since there is no meal choice). This time, just call Doris (650) 654-0101 and leave a message. Tell her your name (speak clearly) and the number of people in your party so she can plan the right amount of food for lunch. Family and friends are welcome.

Please let Doris know how many people you are bringing by Thursday, December 11 by 7 PM.

Please call Doris Davis (650) 654-0101 and leave your name and how many people in your party so she can plan the right amount of food for lunch (see page 5).

NOTE: Ft. Miley in San Francisco was named after our General Bud Miley's father, who was Major John Miley, who had designed the fortifications around Fort Miley. The hospital grounds is located on the active portion of Fort Miley where General Miley had played as a boy. The plot of land where the BOB Monument is located, was General Miley's boyhood playground.

THANKSGIVING DAY (Weekend).

A THANK YOU , for all Information Bulletins, and "PPS" sites, for the learning and pleasure, received during the year.

A THANK YOU, for granting a monetary gift to commemorate your friends at the American Military Cemetery in coming years.

A THANK YOU, for granting us a plaque in appreciation from the 17th ABD.
THANK YOU VETERANS OF THE 17TH AIRBORNE.

GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU,

Margraten Memorial Group, **Pierre Ackermans**

Note: We have also received Thanksgiving Day well-wishes from Frederic DeHon, Xavier van daele, Roger Marquet and a multitude of others from around the country.

OBITUARY

. **Ernest (Ernie) V. Kubanka, A Btry, 680th GFA** passed away on 5 September 2008. Following his service in World War II **Mr. Kubanka** was employed by the **Eastman Kodak Company** where he spent his entire working career. His work included An Automatic Screw Machine Operator, Camera Design, a Machinist and an Estimate and Methods Manager. Following his retirement **Mr Kubanka** was an avid Bowler, he loved Gardening and Fishing. His **Number One Activity for Retirement** was the **Card Game of Euchre**, an activity that he dearly loved.

Mr. Kubanka joined our Association in 1970 and became a Life Member in 1990. They attended some 17 Annual Reunions with the last one being in Ellenville, New York in 1993. The cause of death was cancer at the age of 89.

Mr. Kubanka is survived by his Wife of 62 years, Mary. She is in very poor health and residing in St Ann's Nursing Home in Rochester, NY. Correspondence and messages of Condolence may be address to **Kubanka Family** through his Sister **Mrs. Marion Wowkowych**, as follows:

Mrs. Marion Wowkowych
80 Villa Nova Road
Rochester, NY 14617

Mr. Foster P. Lickliter, Co B, 194th GIR, passed away on 5 November 2008. I made contact with the Family early this morning to obtain the details for this message.

Following his service in World War II, **Mr Lickliter** entered a career field of owning and operating "**Automobile Service Stations**". Even in his retirement years he enjoyed working on all kinds of Automobiles. He enjoyed "Hunting" but had a passion for working on Automobiles.

If I may I would like to insert a very personal observation. I joined the 194th GIR in May 1943. In those early days we had a Battalion Mess Hall in lieu of the normal Company Mess Hall. **Foster** was a "Cook" and spent most of his time in the Mess Hall. By mid 1943 **Foster's** talents as a "**Barber**" came to light. From that time on **Foster** spent most of his time "Cutting Hair" for members to the 1st Battalion, 194th GIR. Ask any member of the 1st Battalion, 194th GIR in the early days of Service from Activation until the day we were de-activated and all, without exception, will remember **Foster Lickliter as the UNIT BARBER**.

Mr Lickliter, joined our Association in 1967 and became a Life Member in 1990.



Foster and his **Wife, Cleo**, made at least one trip overseas with the **Quades** and attended some 18 Annual Reunions. The cause of death was Cancer at the age of 87.

Foster P. Lickliter, age 87, of Kissimmee, Florida, passed away Wednesday, November 5, 2008 following a brief illness. Born June 22, 1921 in Knox County, Kentucky, Foster was the son of William R. and Abigail O. Smith Lickliter. He was owner and operator of several service (gas) stations in the Kissimmee area. He was a veteran of the United States Army having served during World War II. Foster is survived by his daughters, Charolette Cook and Wilma Sexton; sons, Robert B. and James W. Lickliter; seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and 1 great-great

grandchild. **Mr. Lickliter** is survived by two Daughters, two Sons, seven grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and one great great grandchild. Correspondence and messages of Condolence may be addressed to the **Lickliter Family** as follows:

Mr. James Lickliter
204 Auburn Meadows Ct.
Carlise, OH 45005
E-mail address jlickliter@cinci.rr.com (Son James's address)

ROSAEMARY WILSON SCHLOCKER, "Every life is precious in eyes of God"

Rosemary passed away on Thursday, September 18th, 2008 in Newport Beach . She was born on October 8th, 1926 in Los Angeles . Rosemary and her husband, Marty met in 3rd grade in grammar school and have been in love ever since. She had an amazing spirit, a great sense of humor and always put others first. Rosemary will be cherished as a caring and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

Rosemary is survived by Marty Schlocker, her husband of 63 years; her brother, Dar Wilson as well as her two children, Bonnie and Rip and their spouse Bill and Linda; her five loving grandchildren Stacy, Amy, Mark, Jana, Clay and constant companion, her dog, Buddy, will all deeply miss her.



A celebration of her life will take place on September 24th, 2008 at 10am at Miller-Jones Mortuary in Sun City, Ca. Rosemary will be laid to rest at Riverside National Cemetery . In Lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center at (916)366-5372 or at www.northcalifornia.va.gov/giving/.

Arrangements are being handled by Miller-Jones Mortuary & Crematory-Sun City , 26770 Murrieta Road , Sun City

Mrs. Schlocker is survived by her Husband of 63 years, **Marty**, one Son, one Daughter and five grandchildren. Correspondence and messages of Condolences may be addressed to the **Schlocker Family** as follows: **Mr. Leo "Marty" Schlocker, 118 47th St, Newport Beach, CA 92663. E-mail = donnadon1997@mchsi.com (a Neighbor Friend)**

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Schlocker Family.

Harold D Fowler Co C 513th

Steve Wright to me

Would be glad to receive any information on the death of Harold D Fowler (513-C -- ASN 34812187). He took part in Varsity and is listed on the Roster as Missing. His family presumes he was killed on 24th March. His body was eventually found and repatriated to his home state of Alabama.

Steve Wright. Any pertinent information about Harold Fowler should be forwarded to Steve Wright at email = marfleetwright@tiscali.co.uk

Mrs Pinear Epps graduated from East Carolina Teachers College in 1945 and began a Teaching" career that lasted over 40 years. **Mrs Epps** was very active in assisting families living in subsidized housing. Until her illness prevented her from continuing to serve she taught Sunday School, played the Piano and sang in the Choir. The cause of death was Cancer at the age of 84.

Mrs. Pinear Mae "Pat" Windley Epps, 84, of 310 White Oak

Drive, Edenton, died Sunday, November 23, 2008,
in her home after a courageous battle with cancer. She



was the widow of Rev. Ralph I. Epps, her husband of 60 years, who died last year. Pinear Mae Windley was born in the Yeatesville community of Beaufort County, NC, to Charles Sylvester "Wes" Windley and Ella Keech Windley. She graduated in 1940 from Bath School and in 1945 from East Carolina Teachers' College, now ECU. She began her teaching career at Brogden High School in Dudley, NC, and continued for more than 40 years, with time spent out to raise her children, to teach gifted education, social studies, and home economics in secondary schools all over Eastern North Carolina, including Weldon, Orrum, Alamance, Zebulon, Washington, and Columbia. In the, she was the Director of Operation OURS in Graham, a program established to assist families living in subsidized housing. Under her direction, the program offered activities for

senior citizens, child care, after-school programs, and classes in sewing, cooking, and parenting. In 1947, she married Ralph Isaac Epps, a student pastor studying at Duke Divinity School. They served together in ministry in Stem, Maxton, Laurel Hill, Grifton, Weldon, Fairmount, Raleigh, Washington, and Edenton, becoming known to their congregations as "Preacher & Pat", a true team. Until her illness prevented her from continuing to serve, she taught Sunday School and played the piano for services at Bethany UMC in Belvide, her husband's last charge. She sang in church choirs and was active in United Methodist V. She is survived by her children, Barbara Tuttle of Richmond, VA, Ralph Isaac, Jr. of Edenton, and Karen Owens of Raleigh; her grandchildren, Carolyn Tuttle, Debbie T. Phillips and husband, Jon, David Epps, Malia Epps, and Jonathan Owens. She is also survived by her brother, Charles "C.B." Windley and wife Jean of Yeatesville; her sister, Barbara "Bobbie" Windley of Oxford; her brother-in-law, Case Van Wyk of Terra Ceia; and a loving family of nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sisters, Lucille Windley and husband James, Ethial Stell and husband, and Ellene Van Wyk. **Mrs Epps** is survived by one Son, two Daughters, and five grandchildren. Correspondence and messages of Condolence may be addressed to **Mr. Isaac Epps, 310 White Oak Drive, Edenton, NC 27932**

OUR CHORAL SCENE



The Editor is the conductor, 'directing' his entire family of children, siblings/spouses, grandchildren, nieces and nephew in singing the Christmas carol: "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht, Alles schlaf, einsam wacht, a delightful Christmas hymn, unterrichtet mir durch meinen geleibten in Deutschland, und nach 62 jahren jetzt langsam vergessen. The editor's painting serves as the backdrop.

The Editorial staff of Thunder Mail Call wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year



Bill & Linda, having lunch at the Huntington Art Museum, wishing you all a Jubilant Christmas and a Magnificent Year in 2009.