

505 R.C.T. WWII

Regimental Combat Team



3630 Townsend Dr.
Dallas, TX 75229

DATED MATERIAL

August, 2013

The Panther





Message from the President:

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

As I write this, some of our 505 RCT veterans and family & friends members are just returning from another D Day anniversary trip. I know they all had a great time and I look forward to reading Ellen's report on her trip. I always feel like I was there with all the detail in which she reports. (She reminds me of my dad with all the details). Every year at this time I think back on the memorable 50th Anniversary trip I made with my mom and dad. Those memories are forever etched in my mind and my heart. Some memories bittersweet with so many of the veterans and their wives that I grew up knowing no longer with us.

At the reunion in 2011 a motion was passed and money donated for a Mount Soledad memorial plaque to be placed at La Jolla, Ca. This plaque was completed last year, and is in place. If you have the opportunity to visit that area in the future, please look up the plaque. A heart felt thanks for all the veterans and family and friends members who gave donations, and a thank you to George Rajner Jr, and Joanie (from the Soledad Memorial foundation) for all their work in designing the plaque. That is what this association is all about – keeping the legacy of the 505 RCT alive.

Our next reunion plans for Fayetteville, NC Oct 17 – 20 are being ironed out to the last detail. An airborne shout out to 508 PIR Lou Gutierrez, Reunion Chairman, and Rock Merritt, Reunion Co-Chairman for all their hard work. Every reunion is good, but the reunions that involve Ft Bragg are like 'going home'. Hope to see many of you there.

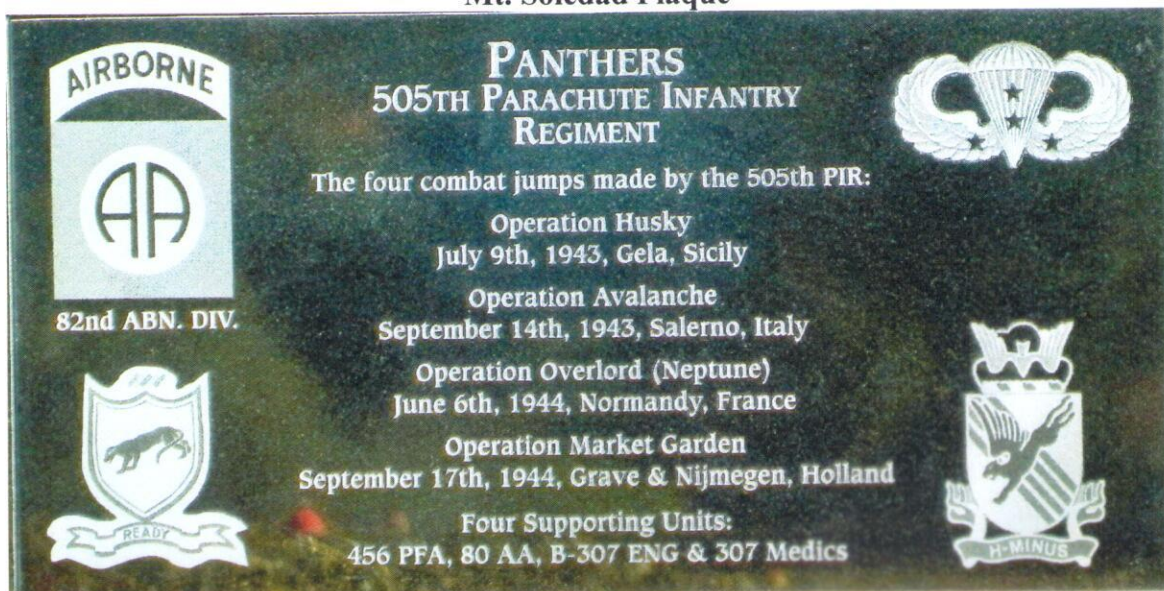
I would also like to thank COL(Ret) Keith Nightingale for his article 'They and There' in the January panther. My sister was deeply touched by it, and read it at the local VFW Memorial Day Parade/Ceremony.

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

Airborne!

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

Mt. Soledad Plaque



2013 Reunion

Family and Friends 505 RTC and Family and Friends 508 PIR Associations Reunion October 2013

I'm pleased to announce to everyone there will be a joint reunion of both the F and F's 505 RTC Association and the F and F's 508 PIR Association in October 2013.

The reunion will take place at the Holiday Inn located at 1707 Owen Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304.

The scheduled dates of the reunion are as follows:

Wednesday, October 16, 2013:

Registration Day,

Thursday, October 17, 2013:

Welcoming Breakfast to include a short briefing of event's taking place over the next three days.

Trip to downtown Fayetteville and visit the two Museums.

Friday, October 18, 2013:

Activities out at Fort Bragg, NC, to include lunch with active duty paratroopers at the 4th Brigade Combat Team Dinning Facility, and a visit to the U.S. Army Golden Knights Headquarters.

Saturday, October 19 2013:

Both 505 RTC and 508 PIR will have their BOD and General Membership meeting to include the election of new Officers, and any Awards to be given out. There will be a formal sit down dinner with both the 505 RTC and 508 PIR Associations around 6:00 PM at the Holiday Inn.

Sunday, October 20, 2013:

"Open Date" for return travel plans. As it stands right now, there will not be a Farewell breakfast.

Rock Merritt and I are working on the details with key personal of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 508 PIR as to what they will be able to provide in support of our reunion.

Last but not least: Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm confident this year's reunion could be as good if not better than any reunion of the past. Let's all get out and give full support to this wonderful event. Let's show our brave men and women of WW-II that they truly are the Greatest Generation that ever lived. Many if not all are in their 90's, or soon will be, and this very well could be the last reunion for many of them.

Airborne All the way

Luis J. Gutierrez
President, Family and Friends, 508th PIR Association

Registration Form

2013 Reunion

Family and Friends 505th RCT Assn. / Family and Friends 508th PIR Assn.

October 16 – 20, 2013, Fayetteville, NC

Registration Fee is \$85.00 per person

Name: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-Mail _____ Unit Affiliation _____

I will have _____ Guests. Their names are listed below for Identification.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

Number of rooms needed. _____ Special Needs _____

Please provide the following:

1. Arrival Date _____ Time _____ (AM/PM)

2. Departure Date: _____

Enclosed is: \$ _____ Registration Fee for _____ Persons.

Hotel Reservation Information

You are responsible for making your own hotel reservations at the Holiday Inn 1707 Owen Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304 by calling 910-323-0111. Be sure to mention that you are with the 505th and 508th reunion to get our group rate of \$89 per night. Reservations must be made by September 24, 2013 to receive this rate.

The hotel is equipped with handicapped accessible rooms.

REUNION REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED IN FULL IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND BUT YOU MUST CANCEL YOUR HOTEL ROOM AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE TO AVOID ANY CHARGES.

**Please send this entire page with your Registration Fee to:
Ellen Peters, 3630 Townsend Dr., Dallas, TX 75229.**

**Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to:
"F&F 505th RCT Assn" or "F&F 508th PIR Assn"**

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Duaine Pinky Pinkston for receiving his Legion d'Honneur medal during the ceremony at Iron Mike in Normandy this year. I have been to several of these ceremonies, but I believe this was the best one. A French admiral presented Pinky with the medal. The medal must be presented by a Frenchman who has received the award himself. The Admiral took out his sword and knighted Pinky. It was a wonderful ceremony.



The Pinkston Family: June, Duaine (Pinky), Karen, Craig and Brian.

Congratulations to Emile Lacroix. At this year's "In the Footsteps of the 82nd Airborne" march, Emile was awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the highest award the secretary of defense can present to a private citizen, politician, non-career federal employee or foreign national. Emile is the most decorated foreign national by the U.S.

On the Belgian National Day – July 21 each town has its own patriotic celebration. The year, Emile's town of Fernelmont paid homage to Emile for his commitment to perpetuate the memory of the 82nd Airborne Division and to recognize his receiving of the two decorations (2012 and 2013) from the Department of the Army and the Department of Defense. The homage took place after the wreath laying ceremony at the monument in the town square. The flags of all the various associations of war veterans were flying as well as the American, Belgian, and European flags. A band played the American and Belgian National anthems. Deputy Morgan C. Hall from the U.S. Embassy in Brussels was present at the ceremony. A reception was held following the ceremony. ➔



The below article appeared in Stars and Stripes.

Belgian awarded DOD Medal for efforts to keep alive memory of American WWII exploits

By Matt Millham

BASSE-BODEUX, Belgium — Born in 1940, as Belgium was occupied by Nazi Germany, Emile Lacroix grew up hearing stories about the feats of American G.I.s who liberated his village.

He never forgot that.

For most of the last four decades, Lacroix has made it his life's work to keep alive the memory of what American soldiers did for his countrymen in World War II, especially those of the 82nd Airborne Division.

His efforts, well known by American veterans whom he's met and befriended over the years, were recognized Saturday as he received the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the highest award the secretary of defense can present to a private citizen, politician, non-career federal employee or foreign national.

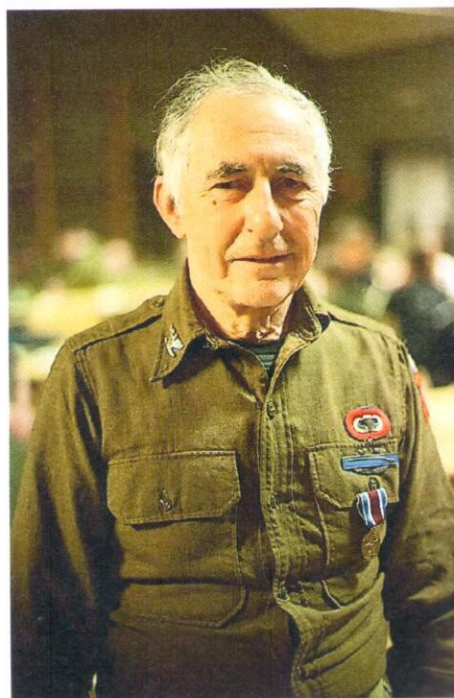
The award was sponsored by the 82nd, but was initiated by Larry Mallet and Christopher Schaede, Air Force retirees, who a few years ago took part in a walk organized by Lacroix.

The 31st edition of that walk took place Saturday — a 13.5-mile trek in the footsteps of two 82nd Airborne units during the Battle of the Bulge.

"The detail that he goes into to make this so realistic for families of World War II veterans like myself" is astounding, Mallet said at a banquet after the walk and medal ceremony. "What he's doing here, it motivated me to see this award all the way through."

Lacroix, a petite man with gray hair, said he never imagined that he'd be recognized in such a way for his efforts, and considers the work he does to make sure World War II veterans aren't forgotten a privilege.

"We were occupied, and they came to liberate us," Lacroix said. "It's something, I spend my life to thank them. Because when somebody asks me, 'Why do you do this?' I say, 'Because I like liberty.' This word is enough to say everything." ➔



Normandy, 2013

This year, I traveled with 508th veteran, George Shenkle. First we went to England and then to France. We had a fantastic time. Everywhere we went George was treated like a rock star and he loved every minute of it.

Wednesday, May 29:

Got up early and allowed just enough time to be ready and have breakfast before the shuttle arrived, however the shuttle was half an hour early, and I wasn't ready. I grabbed a piece of chicken from the fridge and an apple and ate them at the airport.

The plane left on time and I arrived in Philadelphia around 3:00 PM. George was already at the gate. They loaded the plane and we took off at 6:15.

Thursday, May 30:

We arrived in Brussels where we caught another plane to Birmingham, England. Adam Berry and his mom, Linda, were waiting for us. We drove to the Berry home which is a beautiful 300 year old farmhouse in the Village of Normanton Le Heath. The place was wonderful. I have never seen a home with so many bedrooms. Linda showed us to our bedrooms and brewed some tea. We had a nice visit while Adam's father, Chris, went to the train station to pick up Betsy Ostberg Mathes, daughter of LTC Edwin Ostberg who was the C.O. of 1st battalion 507th and later 2nd Btn 325th C.O. He was KIA in Germany on February 2, 1945, Roland Daniel of B. Co. 507th, and his partner Connie Archbald arrived with Betsy. Connie is one of the most amazing people I have ever met. she lost both her legs in a car accident at age 19. She has two prosthetic legs! She walks with a cane, but gets around great - even the stairs at the farmhouse were no problem for her. Rollie was in LTC Ostberg's battalion. He told a story of how LTC Ostberg would come around while the men were training. He would dismiss the officers saying, "I need to talk with my men." When the officers were away, he would ask the men if they had any complaints saying, "you can tell me anything - it won't go any further than me." And it didn't. Betsy told us of visiting the Belgian family her father was living with at the time of his death. She met with the daughter of the family who was eight years old at the time. The woman gave Betsy her father's LTC insignia that he had given to her during the war. She also gave Betsy a picture of her and her brother with LTC Ostberg.

While we drank our tea and visited, Adam went to the train station to pick up Marty Morgan, author of "Down to Earth". Every conversation with that guy is a history lesson in itself. Once Adam arrived with Marty, we all piled into the mini-van they had rented and went to Quorn. (Prior to the trip, Adam promised to show me all the 505 sites.) First we stopped at the Quorn Train station where the 505th first arrived. Next we visited Quorn House where the 505th officers were billeted during the war and Adam showed me where the tents were set up that the soldiers lived in. We visited a beautiful park on the Trent River that has a WWI memorial at the entrance and to the side was a plaque commemorating the 505th's time in the village.

By the time we returned to the Berry home, Adam's girlfriend, Sophie, had arrived. We had a wonderful dinner of chicken and beef, with Yorkshire Pudding, carrots, green beans, broccoli, and potatoes. It was delicious. We were all pretty tired so we turned in early.

Friday, May 31:

Got up, had breakfast and a cup of tea. 325th veteran, Herb Huebschen, and his son, Don, arrived at the house. We all piled into the mini van while Adam and Marty drove in Adam's car.

Our first stop was Scraftoft where the 325 camped and trained during the war. Next we went to Tollerton Hall. The 507th was encamped in the fields behind the hall. Our next stop was Wollaton

Hall, where the 508th was billeted. As soon as we entered the grounds, George remembered everything. He showed us where the officers tents were and the brick wall he climbed over when he returned to camp after curfew!

My dear friend, Graham Lawson, was there as well as Kathy Price. Kathy was a young girl during the war and worked at one of the cafes in Nottingham. She attended our 508th reunion in 2008. George was really happy to see her again. There was a British veteran there as well. Ron Thorpe of the 47th Royal Marine Commandos Q-troop. He trained with the American 2nd Rangers in Scotland. He landed at Gold Beach with the objective of Port-en-Bessin. His landing craft took a direct hit and he was one of three survivors.

After our visit to Wollaton Hall, we went to the Admiral Rodney pub for a beer. This was the pub the officers of the 508th frequented during the war. We then visited Saltby Airfield where George took off for France on D-Day. On the way to Saltby, we had to stop for a bunch of milk cows crossing the road. In England, livestock always has the right of way! There must have been a thousand cows heading to be milked. I got out to take pictures of them and a couple of them were extremely curious of me.

After visiting Saltby Air Field, we visited Fulbeck Airfield where Roland took off with the 507th. We returned to the Berry home, where we had a wonderful barbecue. Adam's sister and her husband arrived with their baby as well as an active duty RAF pilot and his American wife who was retired from the U.S. Army. They met in Afghanistan. We had a wonderful dinner and visit with everyone.

Saturday, June 1:

We got up early and went to the unveiling of the memorials. It was a beautiful day, but rather cold. Present at both ceremonies were active duty soldiers of the 709th Military Intelligence Battalion which is based in England. Four of the soldiers were former 82nd Airborne.

First we went to Scraftoft for the unveiling of the memorial to the 325th and 504th. Both Adam and Betsy spoke as did all of the veterans: George, Herb, and Roland. The veterans unveiled the memorial and a chaplain blessed it. It was a beautiful ceremony.

Next we went to Tollerton Hall for a reception. During the reception Adam presented Betsy with a framed drawing of her father that he had commissioned. It was a very touching scene and brought tears to my eyes.

Betsy had a book with her that her father had sent to her during the war. The book was "The Tales of Robin Hood" and was signed by the 1944 Sheriff of Nottingham. The current Sheriff of Nottingham was at Tollerton Hall and Betsy asked her to sign the book as well.

Then we went into town for the memorial ceremony. There must have been around 300 people there!! Adam spoke at the ceremony as did Marty Morgan, Betsy Mathes, and Roland Daniel. In Marty's speech, he spoke of how all this came about because of the vision of Adam and how his parents should be very proud of him. They were beaming with pride as well they should be. That morning before we left the house, Adam's father said, "This is my proudest day.". It was a wonderful ceremony with a C-47 flyover. Re-enactors had a WWII encampment set up that we visited after the ceremony.

Adam and his family had a long drive to catch the overnight ferry to France, so they dropped us at the Radisson Hotel in the East Midlands.

Sunday, June 2:

Betsy, George, and I took the train to London where we said goodbye to Betsy and took the Chunnel to Paris. George fell asleep and I had to wake him when we were under the English Channel, so he wouldn't miss it, although there was nothing to see.

We arrived in Paris around 4:00 PM and got our rental car - a Mini Cooper- at the Gare du Nord railroad station in Paris. I had printed up directions on how to get to the A-1 from the station in case my GPS wasn't working. (Sometimes it takes it a while to realize I am in France, not Texas! And that was exactly what happened.). When I saw the sign for the A-1, I was about four lanes over and of course, there was tons of traffic. I went up the street and did a u-turn and came back. I knew there was no way I could "go around the block" and was scared to death I would get lost in Paris. So when I saw an opportunity, I made the u-turn wondering if it was legal!

We finally got on the A-1 and headed for St. Mere Eglise. I was so tired, I fell asleep while driving. George grabbed the wheel before I ran us off the road. I pulled over into a rest area and got out and walked around the rest area several times to wake up. Then I went up the road to a U-Total and got a double espresso! I was wide awake after that.

On the way to St. Mere Eglise, we stopped at the British Cemetery in Ranville, where I visited the grave of 6th Abn soldier, Sam Glass, as I do every year. The quote his family had engraved on his stone says, "His sun went down while it was yet day."

We arrived at the Hotel Le St. Mere around 8:30. Jean-Marie Lemoigne was there with his family: Catherine, Flavie, and Thomas. We had a brief visit with them and checked into our rooms. Then we went on a search for food! George was really hungry and every place was closed.

We went over to Sharron Pike's house and she had left a note on the door for me saying she was at Dick Cooper's place in St. Come du Mont, so we drove over there. It was really good to see Sharron and Dick. There were several people outside at the picnic tables - people who were staying in the Gites. I asked Sharron if they had anything that George could eat. She put together a plate of cheese and crackers. When we took it out to George, someone staying in one of the Gites had made a big plate full of scrambled eggs for him. While we were there, Sharron asked George to sign her "The 508th Connection" book. We returned to the hotel and turned in fairly early.

Monday, June 3:

Prior to our trip, I told George this trip was all about him and whatever he wanted to do was what we were going to do. One of the things George really wanted to do was visit the Bayeux Tapestry, so I put that first on our schedule. We drove over to Bayeux in the morning and I dropped George off at the building that houses the tapestry and went to park the car. I told him to go on into the film as I had seen it before. When I came back and went in, I asked the people selling the tickets if they had seen an elderly man wearing a jacket like mine. (We both had combat jackets made for us by Herb Lahout.). They said they had not seen him. I thought, "oh no!" They suggested I look in the gift shop which was in a separate building. He was in there buying a DVD of the tapestry. After he paid for it, he said, "o.k. - we can go now." I asked him if he didn't want to go see the tapestry. His reply: "I have the DVD. Why do I need to see the real thing?!" I certainly couldn't argue with logic like that.

George was scheduled to talk at Valerie Cardin's school that afternoon. We had some time, so I took George to Hill 30. Ever since I met George about eight years ago, he has said that he wanted to see Hill 30 one more time. He had not been there since the war. He was certain he would be able to find where he landed and show me the exact route he took to get to Hill 30 and where he first met up with Col. Shanley. When we arrived, he didn't recognize anything except for the flooded marsh area that

looks pretty much the same. He said during the war, Hill 30 was covered in trees. The trees are no longer there. He was disappointed. I also took George to Lucien Haisley's memorial wall.

In the afternoon, we drove to the town of Portbail where Valerie Cardin's school is located. She had asked George and some other veterans to speak to the school children. We had lunch in the school. In addition to George being there, Ray and Irene Fary and Jack Wormer of the Filthy 13 was there as well as Helen Patton, granddaughter of General Patton. I also met Neil Jones (Jonesy), his wife, Helen, and Ellen Wormer, Jack's daughter.

The students asked the veterans questions and there was a reception afterwards.

I bought Jack's book and he signed it for me. Valerie presented all the veterans and Ellen Wormer and me with a bouquet of roses and a bunch of cookies from Le Biscuit in St. Mere Eglise.

We returned to the hotel and George had a little rest before dinner. We ate in the hotel dining room with Dorothy Sinner and Ellan Orkin, two women in their 90's who were nurses at a hospital in La Haye du Puit during the war. After dinner, we went to Bill and Liz Palfreyman's home in Fauville for a visit. There daughter, Alex, was there too. We drank champagne and had some snacks. We had a nice visit.

Tuesday, June 4:

Jean-Marie met us at the hotel and we drove to Lucien Haisley's house on Hill 30. Lucien was living there during the war. He really knows Hill 30. He showed us where LTC Tom Shanley landed and the path he took into another field where he ran into a group of about 200 paratroopers. We figure that is probably the field where George was. He told us he was with about 200 paratroopers when Shanley came along and rounded them up. He told George along with some others to dig in in the rear and protect that area. George was a radio operator for his platoon leader, Lt. Hetland, but never saw him again after the jump.

Lucien showed us where one of the roadblocks was set up, where Ralph Burrus killed two Germans and a Frenchman (the Frenchman had spent two years in a POW camp in WWI and spoke German. He ran into two Germans on the road and was talking to them in German. Ralph heard them talking and hurled a grenade at them and killed all three. Lucien also showed us where Chet Graham landed, the farmhouse where the paratroopers would go to and get milk, and the farmhouse where Harry Hudec was taken when he was wounded.

In the afternoon, George and I drove to the American cemetery in Collville-sur-Mer. We met Valerie and Dominique Portier there. We had a picnic lunch across the road from the cemetery. It was freezing cold, so George and I ended up eating in the car. After lunch, we went to the cemetery where we met the kids from Valerie's school. I told the head guy from the school that there were several graves that I visit and I would meet up with them later. He asked me if I would take a group of the kids with me and I agreed. We visited the graves I visit every year and I was able to tell them about each soldier buried in the graves. It was a great opportunity to practice my French. As we were leaving the cemetery, we met 4th I.D. veteran, Jack Port. He and George managed to get in a brief visit. Valerie told me later that the kids really got a lot out of our cemetery visit. These kids were around 16 or 17 years old. I tried to emphasize to them that the boys whose graves we were visiting were just a couple of years older than they are.

Later in the afternoon, we went to Angoville-au-Plain. The previous day, Jonsey told me that Doug Barber and Jim "Pee Wee" Martin of G Co. 506th were supposed to be there that afternoon. They were there when we arrived and it was wonderful to see them. I also met Paul Woodage at long last. We have been trying to meet for the last three years. He was having a book signing. I had previously

ordered his book, "Angels of Mercy" about 501st medics, Robert Wright and Kenneth Moore, who had set up an aid station in the church there on D-Day, over the Internet. Both men received the DSC for their D-Day actions.

There was a British veteran there as well and Jonsey and Helen. The British veteran was Ivor Stephens of the Royal Navy. He served on a mine sweeper during the war and was very interesting. I would have liked more time to talk with him. He was on the ferry from England with Doug and Jim. Jonsey and Helen were staying down the street in the building where Col. Sink had his Command Post. We walked down there just in time to see Bob Noody and his wife arrive. It was very touching to see Bob and Jim greet each other. Jack Wormer and his daughter, Ellen, were there also.

We walked back down to the church and George was there signing autographs. Matthew Pellett was there and he had a picture of George that he had downloaded from the internet and asked George to sign. It was then that I met the mayor of Angoville, Daniel Hamchin. What a lovely man he is.

Later, we drove out to Dick's place for another visit with him and Sharron. I was hoping to see Caroline, but she was visiting her mother at the hospital. We visited with them for a while and then went to the nearby restaurant, Les Pont D'Ouve, that Dick suggested. We had a wonderful dinner and then returned to the hotel.

Wednesday, June 5:

I had a nice visit with Ray and Irene Fary at breakfast and Ray told me a great story about Otis Sampson. There is a famous Robert Cappa photo of a knocked out 57 mm gun in St. Saveur le Vicomte. It appeared in Life Magazine. The gun crew was killed. Otis was the only man to fire that gun that day and he had never fired one before. Ray said the gun had no sights and he asked Otis how he fired it without sights. Otis said he bore sighted the weapon! That sounds just like Otis. I sure do miss that man. Ray later used that very same gun in Operation Market-Garden. A few years ago. Ray dedicated a plaque to the gun crew that was killed there in a ceremony that I attended.

Jean-Marie picked us up at the hotel with a reporter - Fabien Paillot of the newspaper Oest-France. We went to Hill 30 and Jean-Marie explained the fighting there to him. then we drove to Bauppte where the 508th fought. There was a man there who knew all about the battle, unfortunately, he was not at home. Ray Fary had loaned me the famous Robert Cappa, photo of some 80th AA men, but we were unable to locate the spot.

Jean-Marie had the address of a woman where a 101st veteran, Carl Beck, stays when he is in Normandy. (Carl fought with the 508th at Bauppte.) She was able to tell us where the German vehicle park was that was overrun by the 508th. George was involved in that. It was there that George picked up a German camera. He took a bunch of pictures while they were in combat and later left the camera at his English girlfriend's house when he left for the Holland jump. His girlfriend's husband had been away in India and she had not seen him in five years. George showed me pictures of her and her 10 year old daughter. George assumed they would return to England after the Holland operation, but they went to France. When one of his buddies went to England on furlough, George asked him to get his camera, however he was unable to get it as the woman's husband had returned. He relayed this story to the reporter and the next day in the newspaper, one of the sections was entitled, "Bye Bye Camera".

After Bauppte, we went to Hill 131 and Hill 95. George recognized it immediately. He showed us where they crossed an open field to get to Hill 95. Jean-Marie had a book with a map in it and he and George discussed the fighting there.

When we returned to the hotel, there were several active duty troops there who were stationed in Germany. They asked if they could buy us a cup of coffee. We accepted and they had a nice visit with George.

We had a wonderful lunch at Le Biscuit in SME. We sat next to a French couple who did not speak English. They were traveling and just passing through and had just happened to stop there for lunch. The husband thanked George for his service and wrote a note to him on a business card. The note said, "Thank you for your presence and especially your kindness. A Frenchman who thanks you." As we left the restaurant, George was mobbed by autograph seekers. Someone even had a helmet for him to sign.

Around 3:00 PM we went to Angoville-au-Plain to meet Doug, Jim, and Paul Woodage to go to Jim's D-Day location. A place simply known as "the wooden bridges" across the Douve River from Brevands. They were to defend those bridges and keep the Germans from crossing them. Jonesy and Helen were there as was Daniel and Paul Clifford. It was great to see Paul. I have not seen him in a couple of years. Jean-Marie was there and some re-enactors also.

We drove as close to the site as we could get and got out of the car when we came to a padlocked gate. We all had to climb over it and Jim, at 92 years old, climbed right over with the rest of us. He is so amazing. George talked about it for the next three days. he kept saying, "Did you see that guy? He's a year older than I am." We walked down a gravelly road and across a pasture. I am such a klutz. I tripped in the field and fell. Daniel helped me up. He is such a nice man. The field was pretty muddy in places. Across the field, we climbed up a levy on the Douve River. Jim remembered everything. He showed us where they were dug in on the levy just below where we were standing. The Germans were firing artillery at them and every man in the line was hit. The last man hit was next to Jim!

Jim's platoon leader, Lt. Turner Chambliss, was killed trying to cross one of the bridges and they held a little memorial service for him on the levy. Lt. Chambliss was a West Point graduate and "very G.I.". He was very tough, but fair and his men had all the respect in the world for him. He was very, very proud of having attended West Point. While in training in England Jim thought perhaps 2nd platoon should be known as belonging to West Point as opposed to belonging to the army. He stenciled "West Point" over the breast pocket of everyone's jump suit. The next day at formation Lt. Chambliss didn't say a word about it and the men thought he hadn't noticed. As he was dying a sergeant from H Co. was with him. Lt. Chambliss asked if any of the men from 2nd platoon were around, but there weren't. With his dying breath, he told the sergeant that he wondered why the men had put "West Point" on their jackets and he wondered if they were mocking him. Jim said he cried when he heard that. He couldn't understand how Lt. Chambliss could be unaware of the pride and affection they had for him. Lt. Chambliss is buried at West Point. I visited his grave when I was there in 2011.

Later, George and I went to a barbecue at Jean-Marie's house. We had a lively evening with him and his family.

Later we took George back to the hotel and went to Utah Beach to watch a parachute jump there. Of course, I went off and left our invitations at the hotel! I didn't really care. It was so cold, I didn't want to stay long. Herb Lahout was there and we left early. Right after the jump.

Thursday, June 6:

Saw Fred Hoek in the hotel restaurant in the morning and we learned that we were on the front page of the paper, so we went to SME to buy copies. I bought one for myself, one to take to Sharron Pike,

and one for George. George got a little upset that my name wasn't identified in the photo. I explained to him that I was not the important one there!

Next we went over to La Fiere to say hello to Vivian and Rodolphe Roger. They were not at home. George wanted to see Iron Mike and General Gavin's "foxhole". He took a picture of the sign - not the foxhole, just the sign!

We went to Dick's to give the newspaper to Sharron. A ceremony for Lt. Schmidt was about to begin. I was so pleased that I was finally able to attend a ceremony for him as his is one of the graves I visit. The plaque was dedicated on the 65th Anniversary of D-Day. Lt. Schmidt was in E Co., 501st. He was killed at Dick's farm and awarded the DSC posthumously. We stayed for the ceremony and the BBQ that followed. During the ceremony, George was sitting next to an elderly English woman who kept talking throughout the ceremony. George reprimanded her and told her she was being disrespectful to the French people. Later, several people thanked him for this. There was an English singer there who sang famous songs from the war time era. There were also a bunch of re-enactors there and as we were getting ready to leave, one of them said they would like to salute George as we drove out. They lined up outside the gate on either side of the drive, stood at attention, and saluted as we drove through. George saluted back.

When we left Dick's place, we went to the hotel and then to the American Cemetery for the ceremony there. It was a lovely ceremony. I managed to get George a ride in a cart to the seating area. We sat with Vivian and Rodolphe. There was some kind of screw up and there were no chairs with our names on them. It was the same for the Sullivans and for Vivian and Rodolphe who were with the Secretary of the Army. They didn't have a seat for him either. Saw Jim Martin and Doug Barber there. Jim was chosen to lay the wreath for the American veterans. Despite the snafu, the ceremony was lovely.

We drove back to SME and George got in a half hour nap. Then we went to the ceremony at Signal monument. All the veterans laid flowers there. Immediately following that ceremony, there was a memorial service in the church for the 82nd and 101st divisions. I didn't think we were going to make it. George was mobbed by autograph seekers. I had to chase them away! The local priest shared duties with an American army chaplain, Jerry Young. At the end of the service, Cathy Soref called out the site names and Keith Nightingale called out the names of soldiers who fought at the various sites. After the service, George was mobbed once again. This time, he had plenty of time to sign autographs while I went to get the car.

That evening Maurice Renaud hosted a dinner at the hotel. It was a wonderful event with several members of the American Legion (from the U.S. and France) in attendance. Pinky and June Pinkston arrived that afternoon and were at the dinner with their kids, Karen, Brian, and Craig. Emile Lacroix came up and spoke to me and at first I didn't recognize him - he was wearing a suit!! Of course, it is always wonderful to see Emile. I sat with Bill and Elizabeth Sullivan. Elizabeth's sister, Margaret, was there from Ireland, along with her daughter, Denise, and her partner, Paddy. There were ten WWII veterans there with the Greatest Generation, a group that brings veterans back to their battlefields. Maurice spoke and asked me to introduce the 82nd veterans that were there and then the head guy with the Greatest Generation introduced the veterans he brought over. He did a much better job than I with the introductions. Col. Keith Nightingale spoke about the D-Day actions and he was great as always.

One of the veterans was Bill Colwell of H Co. 502. After the dinner, I went over to talk to him. I asked him if he had been on Purple Heart Lane - he had. He asked me if I knew the number of wounded on that causeway. Of course, I didn't. He was also in the Cabbage Patch and part of the bayonet charge with LTC Robert Cole and told me he was with LTC Cole in Holland when he was killed. He

said they were surrounded and had requested air support. He and LTC Cole were putting out a tarp to indicate their position when he heard "Umph". He looked over and LTC Cole was dead.

Later, I went to the Stop Bar with Herb and Pinky's sons. Elizabeth Sullivan was there with Margaret and Denise. Keith Nightingale was there as well as Bev and Shawn Fitzpatrick. We had fun.

Friday, June 7:

George and I went to the ceremony at the 508th Park in Chef-du-Pont. First they had a picnic style luncheon next door to the park. We sat with representatives from the U.S. Consulate and the mayor of Chef-du-Pont. The U.S. Consulate spoke fluent French - he was amazing really - later at the ceremony as well as other ceremonies, where he spoke - he did his speech in both English and French! I asked him to approach the mayor and ask if they would like for George to lay one of the wreaths during the ceremony. He was the only 508th veteran there this year. They did.

Next we went to the park for the ceremony there. It was a beautiful ceremony. The mayor spoke and a representative from the U.S. Ambassador spoke. There was a group of school children who sang songs in English. It was really amazing.

After the ceremony, I took George back to the hotel for a nap to rest up for the dinner later tonight. I went to gas up the car and then went to Dead Man's Corner Museum to see Michel de Trez. Last year, MSG Jason Schmidt, asked for my assistance in helping the 505th headquarters at Ft. Bragg get copies of all the books about the 505th. They were doing a display of all the books in their headquarters building. The final books are Michel's books on LTC Ben Vanderrvoort, Col. Bob Piper and Doc McIlvoy. Michel very kindly gave me a copy of each requested book and also threw in a copy of "Sainte-Mere-Eglise photographs of D-Day". I had him sign each book.

In the evening, I hosted a dinner at the John Steele Restaurant. We had around sixty people there. It was a wonderful evening. Jean-Marie had previously made arrangements for George to receive a medal from the French Senate. Maurice presented the medal to George. It was a really beautiful medal. Keith spoke about the D-Day activities of both divisions. Several people commented to me later that they really enjoyed his talk. Unfortunately, we had nine no shows, so I was out an extra 225 Euros, but that's o.k. For the most part, it couldn't be helped, besides I had help paying for the veterans and other guests.

Saturday, June 8:

George and I went to the ceremony at Angoville-au-Plain. I dropped George off and went to park the car. When I returned, I didn't see George anywhere, but I did see a large crowd of people standing around in a circle. As I approached, I saw George on the other side of the crowd signing autographs! Sharron Pike and Dick Cooper were there and I also saw Patrick, Beatrice, and Marc Elie. The ceremony was very nice and there was a reception at the town hall afterwards.

Later we went to an Operation Democracy reception outside the tourist office in St. Mere Eglise. There was a painting exhibit by school children from Locust Valley, New York and St. Mere Eglise. Locust Valley is the sister city of SME. Operation Democracy was originally formed by Mrs. Renaud and the people of Locust Valley. Just after the war mothers began writing her asking her to visit the graves of their sons. Locust Valley adopted SME and began sending clothing and toys for the children of the town. Operation Democracy was re-founded when the documentary, "Mother of Normandy" came out. At the reception, I had the opportunity to speak with Kay Winnegar, the president of Operation Democracy. She told me about their "Paintings for Peace" project. Children of all ages from Locust Valley and SME created paintings depicting scenes of peace. They were really wonderful.

Next we went to the Peace Ceremony at the Town Hall (Hotel de Ville). It was really something. The children of the town participated throughout. They had a children's choir and there were children in the upstairs windows of the Hotel de Ville who spoke throughout the ceremony. Over to one side, they had a billboard sized display of a wall with words like hate, vengeance, and terror on it. At one point in the ceremony, the children pulled down the "wall" while Pink Floyd's "The Wall" was playing. The wall of hateful words was replaced with words of peace, friendship, and harmony. The children laid the wreaths and then gave out paper flowers to all the veterans. The flowers had words of peace written on them and were signed by the children who had made them. I received one made by a child in Locust Valley. Next, the veterans were escorted by the children to the opposite side of the Hotel de Ville and participated in planting a tree for peace. It really was a wonderful ceremony.

In the evening was the AVA banquet. In ten years of attending AVA banquets, this was truly the best one I have ever attended. The color guard was active duty 82nd Airborne soldiers dressed in WWII uniforms. These guys paid their own way over to SME this year. There was a German band who was wonderful and the German ambassador also attended.

Certificates of Honorary membership in the AVA (Amis de Veterans Americain - Friends of American Veterans) were presented to the veterans. Also, a painting was presented to the mayor of Graignes. The painting depicted the townspeople helping the American soldiers. It showed a young Frenchman with a boat going across the flooded marsh area with American soldiers in the boat. It was really nice.

Later the kids came and got the veterans and seated them in an area at the front. They pinned blue cornflowers on them. They explained that in France these are like the poppies are to the English. Then the children sang a few songs for the veterans. When the children first came to get the veterans, one of the Greatest Generation veterans came to my table looking for an empty bottle of the 69th Anniversary wine. When he was seated, I went over and asked him if he wouldn't like for me to hold the bottle for him as it was somewhat bulky with the children giving various things to the veterans. He thanked me and I took the bottle back to my table. About five minutes later, this same veteran stood up and pulled a full bottle from his pocket and brought it to me to hold for him saying, "This is for later." I couldn't help but laugh. I had a few moments to speak with him later. I can't recall his name, but he was a Navy man. (My dad was in the Navy in the Pacific theater, so I am somewhat partial to Navy guys). He told me he made 32 runs into the beach on D-Day and later dropped Marines on shore at Iwo Jima.

Earlier, prior to the church service, someone approached me and George and asked if we knew Zane Schlemmer. We said we did and he said a few years prior, he had interviewed Zane for a documentary he was doing and asked if he could come by the hotel and interview George. We were to meet him after the AVA banquet. We were well over an hour later than I originally thought we would be. When we arrived at the hotel, he was just finishing up an interview with Ray Fary. I left George with him and went to meet Elizabeth and her family at the Stop Bar.

Sunday, June 9:

Pinky's big day. I think I was as excited about today as Pinky was. We had all been waiting for months for this. This was the day Pinky was to receive his Legion d'Honneur medal. The medal was designed by Napoleon and is the highest award the French can bestow upon a foreign national. It must be pinned on by a Frenchman who has received the medal himself.

First, we went to a luncheon at the Hotel de Ville. We arrived a bit early and they had not yet opened the dining hall. I took the opportunity to get a photo of all the Greatest Generation veterans. There were ten of them and getting them to line up was no easy feat, but I got my photo!

After the luncheon, they took us in vans to La Fiere. It was freezing cold, but fun. They had tents set up for the veterans and provided them with blankets. Sadly, there were no Americans jumping this year, but French, Dutch, and German paratroopers jumped. Later the Round Canopy Parachuting Team jumped from a C-47 wearing WWII uniforms.

After the jumps, we went over to Iron Mike for the ceremony there. After the wreath laying, some French soldiers came and escorted Pinky and his family up to Iron Mike. I ran over to where the press were waiting, determined to get some good photos. the press can be pretty pushy, but I pushed back. I thought, "I'm getting my photos and I don't care if I have to knock someone over to do it!".

A French Admiral presented the medal to Pinky. The Admiral took out his sword and knighted Pinky and then pinned the medal on him. I asked for a family photo and his family lined up with him and I got a good photo of them. Next Maurice and Keith dedicated a new memorial to the 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions. The veterans unveiled the memorial which is in the shape of a flame and has both the 82nd and 101st insignia on it with a paratrooper beneath. Just below the paratrooper are the words, "In Memoriam". Under those words, written first in French and then in English, is the quote by Herodotus, "In peace, sons bury their fathers. In war, fathers bury their sons".

After the dedication, I ran into Dave Mustow, my friend from Jersey in the Channel Islands. He gave me a "Help for Heroes" bracelet. That is the U.K. Version of Wounded Warriors. George and I had a brief visit with him before getting back on the vans to drive to the outskirts of St. Mere Eglise where we exited the vans and Pinky led the parade into town. The parade included all kinds of military vehicles including tanks!

George and I went back to the hotel to rest a bit, before dinner. We were invited to a dinner at the home of Henri-Jean and Yvette Renaud. It was a lovely dinner. When we first walked into the living room, the first person I saw was Bob Murphy's good friend, Yves Tariel. His face lit up when he saw me and he said "You are the girl who sent me the photo." I have not seen Yves in several years and I only met him once before, so I was surprised he remembered me. I met him in 2009 at a cocktail party at Henri-Jean's. I asked for his address, because I had a great photo of him and Bob that Jim Blankenship had taken on one of his trips with Bob. It was a really great photo and I wanted him to have it, so I framed it and sent it to him. He wrote me the nicest thank you note I have ever received. I think it really meant a lot o him to have that picture.

During the evening, I had the opportunity to speak with his wife in French. She was very helpful to me and I enjoyed talking with her. The other guests at the dinner were: Emile Lacroix, Maurice Renaud, Elizabeth and Bill Sullivan, Margaret, Paddy and Denise, Kay Winnegar, along with her sister (can't recall her name), and her husband, Rick, and Keith Nightingale.

The whole week, I never could understand a word Paddy said, but that night after a few glasses of wine, I understood him perfectly! It was a lovely dinner and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

We returned to the hotel and packed our things to leave early, early the next morning.

Monday, June 10:

George and I met down in the lobby at 4:00am and drove to Paris, returned the rental car, and checked in for our flight. We flew to Philadelphia where I said goodbye to George and caught my flight to Dallas.

My photos can be seen at www.eeptx.phanfare.com. →

New Airborne Memorial

A new airborne memorial was dedicated on June 9, 2013 during the ceremony at La Fiere in Normandy, France by Maurice Renaud, President of the AVA Association. Below is the text of Maurice's speech at the dedication:

"EACH GREAT NATION POSSESSES A NUMBER OF MONUMENTS RECALLING ITS MAJOR HISTORICAL EVENTS. SUCH IS CASE OF THIS MEMORIAL SITE OF THE BATTLE OF LA FIERE, WHICH WE COULD ALLUDE TO AS THE GETTYSBURG OF LIBERTY.

IT ILLUSTRATES A PAGE OF HISTORY, A PAGE WRITTEN WITH THE BLOOD OF SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS, A PAGE KNOWN BY FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE TODAY IN THIS RURAL AND PEACEFUL COUNTRYSIDE, FROM THE MANOR HOUSE TO THE CHAPEL ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MARSHES, THAT A FIERCE BATTLE TOOK PLACE IN JUNE 1944. THESE FLOODED MARSHES ENCIRCLED THE ROAD. 37 AMERICAN PARATROOPERS DROWNED HERE. A HUNDRED FEET AHEAD, IN FRONT OF US, 40 PARATROOPERS FROM THE 505 PIR WOULD LOSE THEIR LIVES. AT THE MANOR HOUSE, 2 BATTALION COMMANDERS AND 20 PARATROOPERS WERE KILLED. THE BARN WAS FULL OF WOUNDED AND NEAR DEAD. ON THE CAUSEWAY, MORE THAN 100 PARATROOPERS LAY DEAD, GUNNED DOWN WHILE ATTACKING. AT THE CAUQUIGNY CHAPEL, WE DISCOVERED A VISION FROM HELL AS THE CORPSES OF THE SOLDIERS LAY INTERTWINED. OVERALL THE AMERICAN LOSS GREW TO 300 KILLED AND 600 WOUNDED DURING THE 4 DAYS OF BATTLE.

MAJOR KELLAN LEADS THE ATTACK OF THE 505TH TO LIBERATE THE MANOR HOUSE. MARCUS HEIM AND LEONARD PETERSON DESTROY 3 TANKS ON THE CAUSEWAY. THEY WILL LATER BE DECORATED WITH THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS. SERGEANT BILL OWEN, SUFFERING TREMENDOUS LOSSES, SUCCEEDS IN HOLDING THE BRIDGE. PRIVATE BOB MURPHY, UNDER A HAIL OF BULLETS, BRINGS A MESSAGE TO OWEN ASKING HIS PERMISSION TO WITHDRAW. THE SERGEANT SNAPS BACK: "STAY HERE, THERE IS NO BETTER PLACE TO DIE." CHARLES DE GLOPPER SACRIFICES HIS LIFE TO SAVE HIS BROTHER IN ARMS. HE'LL RECEIVE THE MEDAL OF HONOR POSTHUMOUSLY. AT THE REAR, GENERAL RIDGWAY IS PREPARING TO ATTACK THE CAUSEWAY. CAPTAIN SAUL LEADS THE CHARGE WITH HIS 37 SOLDIERS, ONE OF THE MOST HEROIC AND UNKNOWN EVENTS OF THE WAR. GENERAL GAVIN, FROM THE MANOR HOUSE, GIVES THE ORDERS TO CAPTAIN WRAY TO ASSURE THE DEFENSE OF THE BRIDGE.

THE FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE AREA TRY TO ESCAPE THE CATACLYSM OF THE WAR. CERTAIN HELP THE PARATROOPERS IN GIVING THEM FOOD OR HELPING THE WOUNDED, GIVING THEM COMFORT WITH A SMILE OR A THANK YOU.

JUNE 10TH, THIS SOIL WAS FINALLY FREE. FROM THERE WOULD START THE LIBERATION OF NORMANDY AND FRANCE. TODAY, OUR ASSOCIATION, FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN VETERANS, FOUNDER OF THIS MEMORIAL SITE OF LA FIERE WANTS TO EXPRESS ITS ETERNAL GRATITUDE TO THE HEROIC AMERICAN PARATROOPERS OF THE 82ND AND 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISIONS WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES FOR OUR FREEDOM. WE WILL NEVER FORGET AS WE INAUGURATE NOW THE MEMORIAL "IN MEMORIAM" IN HOMAGE TO THESE VALIANT PARATROOPERS.

THIS MEMORIAL WAS INITIATED AND REALIZED BY THE AVA ASSOCIATION WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM OPERATION DEMOCRACY OF LOCUST VALLEY, NY AND THE FRENCH NATIONAL OFFICE OF VETERANS. IT WILL BE UNVEILED BY MR MARCHAND LACOUR, SUB-PREFECT, THE NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION MR KOUTZ AND COLONEL KEITH NIGHTINGALE, FORMER COMMANDING COLONEL OF THE 505 PIR OF THE 82ND AIRBORNE, AND IN PRESENCE OF VETERAN PARACHUTISTS FROM BOTH DIVISIONS, DUAIN PINKSTON, BILL SULLIVAN, GEORGE SHENKLE, RAY FARY, JOHN CIPOLA AND

WILSON COLWELL AS WELL AS KAYE WENINGER, PRESIDENT AND CATHY SOREF, VICE
PRESIDENT OF OPERATION DEMOCRACY.

GOD BLESS AMERICA MERCI. ➔



Tribute to Col. Ekman

Several 505 and 82nd men have been recognized by having chapters of the 82nd Airborne Association named for them. To my knowledge Col. Ekman has not been so recognized.

One writer has suggested that General Ridgway never quite let loose of the 82nd. One could also say that General Gavin never quite let loose of the 505, or conversely the 505 never quite let loose of General Gavin. Col. Ekman came to the 505 a few months before the Normandy campaign in the shadow of the newly advanced General Gavin.

Ekman had a tough job. He did not try to remake the 505 in his image. He accepted things as they were. He accepted a couple of battalion commanders who were not always easy to deal with. He did not try to emulate the popular actions of General Gavin. He simply maintained his professional self with dignity and led the 505 in longer and more difficult combat than had his predecessor.

Ekman had the look of a tough commander – a square protruding jaw and a serious demeanor. I observed him over the next fifteen months and learned that he had a neat sense of humour and a wry little smile that endeared him to his associates. He was a great regimental commander and a fine officer and gentleman.

I would hope that his name would become more prominent in the 505 history.

Bob Gillette
S-2 Section Leader, 505 . ➔

Mail Box

Dear Ellen Peters,

In my role as the newly elected President of the Amis des Veterans Americans (AVA), which was founded by my mother, Simone Renaud, I am pleased to inform you of our upcoming events for your information and participation. We are continuing our mission of gratitude with our efforts to "Never Forget" the sacrifices made by our American soldiers and veterans.

As we begin planning for the 70th Anniversary in which we will honor our precious few remaining Veterans, the AVA's role is evermore needed to ensure that the legacy and the memory of their sacrifices are meaningfully passed on to the next generation. All this is made possible thanks to the efforts and time of our increasing AVA membership and supporters.

The AVA is currently seeking a 501-C3 not-for-profit tax-exempt status, which we hope to secure in the near future. However, donations are currently much needed to support these efforts. We cordially invite you, if you feel inclined, to send a donation and to encourage others to become a member of the AVA. To facilitate these payments, we have a PAYPAL account: ava50480@gmail.com.

With eternal gratitude,

Maurice Renaud
President of the AVA



Amis des Vétérans Américains
Boite Postale 02
50480 Sainte-Mère-Eglise

(If anyone would like to join this worthy organization, dues are \$15.00. Donations are also encouraged. If you do not have a PayPal account, you can send a check to me at: Ellen Peters; 3630 Townsend Dr.; Dallas, TX 75229-3805 and I will make the PayPal donation on your behalf. Please note "AVA Donation" in the memo line of your check.) . ➔

Dear Madam Peters,

My name is Marion and I am fascinated by the Second World War since the age of 9 years. To write you this letter, I have to use a translator on the internet, so please excuse me if my English is not correct.

I write you this letter because I would like to contact veterans of the 505 RCT, because I shall like having their testimonies with a photo dedicated.

If it is possible for you could you please transmit my letter with my address so that they can answer me and if of course with their agreement.

Please approve Madam, my best regards,

Marion Fava
292 allée des fougères
62730 Marck (Pas De Calais)
France

In 2010 I retired from the Army, I was a Paratrooper. I decided to start a non profit mobile Military Museum. The name is Winged Warrior Inc. We specialize in documenting Airborne Operations, although we collect from all eras.

I've done pretty good with collecting Fallschirmjager gear while in Germany, but finding it difficult to collect authentic American or allied items. Normally I buy all of my artifacts, but that is proving too expensive. An M1942 jump uniform is over \$1000. That may be a reasonable price, but since I'll never sell anything I get, because it is for educational purposes, it does me little good. My service to the school system is free.

So now I think I should generate interest directly from the Veteran, if their story doesn't get told... it will die with them. My interest is video interviews with as many WW2 Veterans as I can, and if they are willing ...any item they are willing to donate or sell. I'll never work again and this is my way of staying busy.

I feel that someday my story will need to be told and when that time comes.... I really don't want everything I worked for and saw my friends die for end up in some private collection or on eBay... I need help generating interest in this project and Erwin thought you would be the person to talk to.

SFC (Ret) Timothy A. McCoy
4024 Steepleridge Dr
The Colony, Texas 75056
(817) 443-7430
tamccoy357@yahoo.com

(I asked Timothy to send me a synopsis of his military career and he sent me the following. His family has produced three generations of paratroopers. He is Airborne All The Way!)

I started my active duty military career in 1986 after completing 2 years with GaNG, I completed Airborne school with A Co 507th and reported to 82nd Replacement, (only because I broke my leg on my final jump, I was scheduled to report to R.I.P Ranger Indoc Program) I was assigned to 505th PIR, but detached to 82nd Combat Aviation Battalion, after a reorganization of 82nd C.A.B, I was assigned to 2nd Battalion Aviation Brigade, my next assigned was 143rd Signal Battalion, 3rd Armor Division in Frankfurt Germany, after return from Desert Storm, I was reassigned back to Fort Bragg with HHC 327th Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade (with 1SG Jordan, Michael Jordan's brother). After 1 year I requested a transfer and was accepted to 5th M.A.S.H the army's last Mini Mash hospital. (both 327th and 5th Mash were Airborne). I was reassigned to ASG-Kuwait at Camp Doha, Kuwait. my next assignment was to Fort Hood Texas with E Co, 52nd Infantry (ABN) (LRS), under 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, under 504th MI Bde. after the unit was deactivated I was temp assigned to 3/8 Cav, 1st Cavalry Division, then reassigned to F Co, 58th Aviation (ABN) (ATC) (although based from Ft Bragg, this unit was NOT on jump status) I was selected for assignment to Korea with 2nd Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. (initially I was scheduled for 2nd Inf (LRS) but because of an illness I was sent to AVN). After Korea I was reassigned to Ft Hood to HHC Divary (Division Artillery). I was once again chosen for reassignment overseas to Caserma Ederly Italy to activate 503rd PIR under 173rd Airborne Brigade, while gearing up to activate 503rd, events surrounding 9/11 cause a transfer to United States Army Southern European Task Force- USASETAF, there I worked in the PLEX as a Plans NCO, under which Operation Northern Block was constructed, Operation Northern Block was the 2003 Combat Jump into Northern Iraq headed by 173rd Abn Bde, I was later transferred to Germany to the multi-service organization.. Warrior Preparation Center as Plans NCOIC. after my overseas tour I was assigned to Ft Drum, N.Y and after my deployment to Iraq in 2009, I requested retirement, I retired on 28 Feb 2010. there are quite a few paratroopers in my family my oldest brother has a combat jump and worked at the Airborne School was an Instructor and Schools NCO, another Brother deployed with me to Desert Storm, he was with 82nd Artillery. My daughter is now assigned to 4th Bde 25th Inf AIRBORNE!!!, My father and a brother were both Airborne and served in Vietnam, My father completed 3 tours (he was my hero) that is a brief history of my military career ..minus a few Operations.

Searching For

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

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

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

505th RCT HATS FOR SALE



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

Copies of "Ready" Available

Several copies of the original "Ready" were found in the Static Line wear house and are available for purchase. Price is \$250.00 + \$25.35 postage for a total of \$274.35. Contact Jim Blankenship at 2135 Saint Thomas Way; Suwanee, GA 30024-3285; Home: (678) 349-2262 Cell: (404) 906-5646 email: jimspix@charter.net or ff505ret@charter.net or Ellen Peters at 3630 Townsend Dr.; Dallas, TX 75229-3805; Home: (214) 352-7002 or Cell: (214) 632-1360; email: eeptx@sbcglobal.net.

Call for Dues!

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

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

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

Changes of Address

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

Panther Submissions

Panther Submissions:

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

Dedication

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

MY HEROES

