

505 R.C.T. WWII

Regimental Combat Team



973 Gladys St.
Derby Lake
Stanton, Michigan 48888-9122

DATED MATERIAL

The Panther

#1

April 2008

ITALY

WESTERN EUROPE

ARDENNES

RHINELAND



Ste-Mère-Église



6 Juin 1944

NORMANDY

Sieff

Holland



505 PIR.



82nd A/B Div.

Bob Murphy

505th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

"I have returned" seems to be the famous words and I am back again as the 505 RCT Association President. My first order of business is to thank Don McKeage for his outstanding service and leadership as our President. Don has spent years as Publisher/Editor of our 505 RCT Newsletter which is a tedious job to put together all on quarterly news items. He and his lovely Jennie have spent years contributing their time and money on behalf of our 505 RCT and 82nd Airborne Division Associations.. We thank you Don and Jennie for your untiring service and friendship.

Our Ft. Bragg Reunion from October 24th to 28th was one of the best we ever attended with the 82nd/505 active duty members giving us great treatment and service from airport pickups to driving us all over Ft. Bragg. CSM Ted Gaweda, as always our number 1 man at Ft. Bragg, had every detail set up in advance. If there was any problem (rarely), Ted would fix it ASAP. He did a lot of planning over many months with coordination and scheduling by Ted, Star Jorgensen, Jim et al. Almost daily contact by Email or telephone with our Directors to put that great together in order to run a successful reunion and, this year, 2007, was just wonderful. And you will see the reason below.

Star Jorgensen, our extremely efficient 505 Family and Friends Association President worked almost on a daily basis to make the 2007 Reunion a success coordinating with Ted and other Board members. She and Ted finally got our rooms at Moon/Hardy Hall set up and guaranteed. There are many wounded warriors residing at both Airborne Inns so it was a close call, but they locked in our rooms. And to say the least, we had a wonderful Hospitality suite right inside Moon hall. I want to than Star for her outstanding non-stop service, ironing out any problems, and meticulous leadership. Star will continue on for the year 2008 as 505 F&F's President so keep your telephone and email lines open.

The Hospitality Room was amply supplied by Jim Blankenship and we never ran out of excellent little snacks, continental breakfast/ coffee and a full bar with lots of excellent drinks. CSM Ted even brought the left-over bottles from our reunion two years ago, not a drop missing. Thanks to Jim Blankenship for his daily PX shopping and bringing all those goodies to make a great and much appreciated Hospitality Room.

We attended two Fort Bragg airport occasions when our 505 troopers returned on private aircraft from Iraq. Many of their family and local friends were waiting in a hanger while they marched in formation and a short service was conducted. Then the families, wives and children charged into the ranks. It was a most gratifying scene. All of us can remember our return to loved ones and family in 1945.

The Memorial Luncheon and final Banquet had about 200 folks attending including many wounded warriors from Iraq and Afghanistan. It was great to talk to these troopers and get the news and combat situation from a trooper who has served on the battlefield. Our 82nd Commander was our guest speaker.

505th RCT WWII UNITS

505 PIR * 456PFA * B-307ENG * 307MEDICS * 80AA

To all the members of the Board of the 505 RCT and Family
and Friends

Associations, I thank you for your service and we will continue your assignment through 2008. Our next reunion is at Colorado Springs, where we had such a delightful time a few years ago. Our "Man on the Scene" Duke Boswell, will attend to the hotel and Air Force Academy details. Duke did a splendid job before and with our team we should have a good 2008 reunion during September so we don't get caught up in cold weather. It may possibly (??) be held during the week of September 10th, go home the 14th. Just diary your calendar right now for that week. Duke, et al, will settle the specific dates later.

Speaking of fees I want to thank Ellen Peters for her expertise as our 505 F&F's Treasurer who handles all our funds and records. All outgoing checks are signed by Ellen and Star. It is a long record keeping meticulous job. Lynn Rohde did it for many years and it was a lot of work. Thanks again Lynn and to Ellen Peters we thank you for your long and hard work. Ellen also goes to Normandy/Belgium and 505 events.

Emile Lacroix, our number 1 man on the scene in the Ardennes, Belgium, will again sponsor and run the favorite "March in the footsteps of the 82nd Airborne Division." in the Battle of the Bulge. The 2008 "March" will be held on the weekend of February 23d. About 30 years ago Emile began on his long journey as the 82nd Airborne historical researcher on the 82nd battlegrounds. For the past 25 years he has put together a team that follows the combat areas of every 82nd unit. There is no one in Belgium that works as hard as Emile and he has also designed 30 metal plaques (he is an engineer/designer) posted around the Ardennes. He receives veterans and family visiting and attends all the other D-Day Normandy and Belgium cemetery memorials. He is the most dedicated person in Belgium and has never sought notoriety, but has been officially awarded Honorary Memberships in our 505 RCT and 82nd Airborne Division Association.

Any veteran who has ever attended Emile's annual "March" in the Ardennes knows of Emile and his loyalty to our WW II combat men. He is also the man who designed all the hand drawn maps in my book, "No Better Place to Die", as well as obtaining from Army archives the D-Day Normandy photos. Emile is our man in Belgium and nobody can compare to him. I'll see you next Feb 23rd in the Ardennes Emile, God willing. If it snows in Belgium then maybe I'll bring some back to Florida.

After our Ft. Bragg Reunion last October 24-27th, I continued on to my Florida home where I will be for the winter and until about May 10th. Except I will be away from 30 November till 21 December while I go to Rome and take a Princess Line cruise back to Ft. Lauderdale. There are many city stops and I will visit two USA cemeteries in Italy and South France. Last year on another trip between Salerno and Rome, I did visit Anzio. A beautiful cemetery where we have our 82nd comrades resting in peace.

I'll be going to Ste Mere Eglise this June, as usual. The SME Museum has been improved a great deal with its new curator Director and President Count d'Aignieux. Our honorary member Henri-Jean Renaud spends a lot of time working and improving the entire museum. There are many new attractions and it is a pleasure to visit each year.

Since last August 2007 when I went to visit Emile Lacroix in Normandy and drove to the Ardennes, I met and joined up with him and about 1000 re-enactors with a few veterans. I am delighted I had the opportunity to attend on Feb 23rd, with the 505 Family and Friends treasurer, Ellen Peters along with Tommy McArdle and other 82 Airborne re-enactors. The "March" all day on Feb 23rd had 1200 men, women and even children marching with their Mom and Dad.

Emile Lacroix has spent thirty-three years of his life devoted to the historical facts and battlegrounds of the 82nd Airborne Division. Plus 26 years organizing the WW II "March in the footsteps of the 82nd Airborne Division" in the Ardennes" in the Battle of the Bulge. This year it was over the battlegrounds of our WW II 505 RCT and also the 551PIB. Emile and his friends, as well as the town of Dairmount erected a tall stone and Plaque in honor of the 551PIB, which dedication was blessed by our good and close friend Father Gerard Thuring, Groesbeek. The flowers for the Plaque were placed by 551PIB combat Troopers, Col (ret) Doug Dillard and Joe Cachiatorie. Also attending were Jeanne Melcher and Jan Bos, our very good friends from Nijmegen and the Groesbeek Museum Founders, plus a few other members.

Attending from Ste Mere Eglise was Henri-Jean Renaud and Claude. Henri-Jean spends a great deal of his time now upgrading and improving our Airborne Museum in SME which is most famous for the original D-Day C47, Airborne original equipment and WW II battle movies.

Glenn Mallen and 53 of his re-enactors from England with all their WW II uniforms and equipment made the 22 km March and attend the final dinner and award ceremony.

After a good meal with dessert, Lt Col Maria Eoff (US Army, Germany) presented a very large glass encased beautiful Army Appreciation souvenir Award with several metal pins along with the 82nd shoulder patch. It was about 34 by 31 inches in size. LTC Maria Eoff and her husband LTC (Robert) Eoff are stationed in Germany and also visit SME for D Day ceremonies. Ellen Peters and I presented Emile with our 505 RCT Family & Friends framed Certificate of Appreciation for his thirty three years of devotion to the 505 RCT and the 82nd. If it were not for Emile Lacroix there would be no "March" to honor to The Battle of the Bulge 82ns Combatants. The Col's Eoff Award to Emile was a much deserved honor for Emile Lacroix, our # 1 man in Belgium.

After our arrival at Brussels airport, Ellen and I were met by good friend Fritz Janssen of Mook, Holland with his friend Frank and were driven to our hotel in Coe. Next day I was with Fritz driving while Ellen did the March as she can tell you all about. Next day we were off to Liege for lots of visits.

We visited a grammar school that Emile had arranged. The kids asked all kinds of questions about WW II and the USA. These kids may take a trip this June to Ste. Mere Eglise to visit some veterans and see the fantastic parachute jump as LaFiere causeway on June 7th.

I had a wonderful time for two days at Emile Lacroix's home with several of his grandchildren who are my good friends. Nicole is a good cook and a pleasant hostess.

It was a busy trip with lots of visits with friends. And to clear up the problem with some other folks: that's settled as Emile Lacroix is our top man in Belgium and leader in honoring our Ardennes 82nd Airborne Division veterans.

Last September, a great 80th AA plaque was installed next to the 505RCT Memorial at Trois Ponts/ Ardennes. Ray Fary, our 505RCT combat 80th AA Ardennes veteran, arranged for the Plaque and it was installed with Frank Billich and Joe Schwan our 505 veterans present, along with some of our Belgium 505/C47 Club friends.

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Ellen Peters will also send out a 505 Family and Friends report on our 21-28 February trip with Emile Lacroix in the Ardennes with more details.

Next June I will make my annual trip to Ste. Mere Eglise. If anyone in the 505 RCT and F & F's Associations are going over, you can email me at ! HYPERLINK "mailto:a505@juno.com" ¶a505@juno.com¹ or call me at 239-947-1969 for travel information. You will sure be welcomed by our SME friends and on June 4th, there will be a tour to famous Mte. Ste Michel. On June 7th the big airborne jump will take place at the historical LaFiere battle site.

>> Airborne, all the way. Bob Murphy President 505RCT WW II Association<<

Hopefully, next June our 82nd Airborne Troopers can visit and jump into the LaFiere DZ and have a cold one at Roger Coueffin's famous Stop Bar. I've sometimes thought that if the Stop Bar was open on D-Day 6 June 1944, I expect we may have had to call a truce for a day or two! We have great 82d museums in U K, Ste Mere Eglise and Groesbeek

For all our Board members of our partnership associations, I thank you for all your separate individual time and effort to keep our friendship continuing to honor our comrades and to maintain our close contact with our friends in England, Normandy, Holland and Belgium and some in Sicily and Italy that General Ed Thomas stays in contact .

If any of our members are planning to go to Emile Lacroix "March" this Feb 2008 or to Normandy next June or to Holland next September, please let me know as soon as possible plan some events, USA Cemetery visits and dinner parties with our friends. I am available by telephone 239-947-1967 or email ! HYPERLINK "mailto:a505@juno.com" ¶a505@juno.com¹ anytime except 11/30 to 20 December as I have advised I am away on a trip.

Airborne all the way!

BOB Murphy, 505RCT President and F&F's Association Trustee



President 505 RCT Association
Belgium Ardennes "March" Report

Robert M. Murphy

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Subject: 1-505 Ceremony

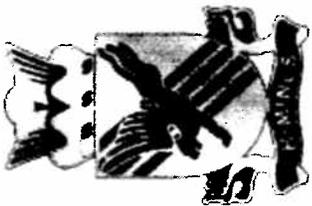
CSM Gaweda,

We're planning on dedicating our new HQ building in memory of LTC Arthur Gorham. The ceremony will take place on Wednesday, 21 May at 1400. LTC Gorham's son, COL (Ret.) Bruce Clarke, will be in attendance. I will send you an invitation in the mail.

Do you have a contact number for the 505th ASSN? We can't send out individual invitation to everybody in the ASSN, but we wanted to send out a general notification to the ASSN so that the members would be aware of our ceremony.

ATW!

Chaplain Philip Kramer
1-505 PIR



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



This Is To Certify

EMILE LACROIX

President of the Belgium Chapter of the 82nd Jeep Group, duly elected Honorary member of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, the World War II 505 Regimental Combat Team Association and it's

Family and Friends Association is awarded this Certificate in grateful appreciation and acknowledgement of his devoted and extraordinary service for over 30 years to the combat veterans of the 505 RCT, and to the memory of all the gallant paratroopers and glider men of the 82nd Airborne Division who sacrificed their lives in the winter of 1944 to 1945 during the campaign that became known as the Battle Of The Bulge to restore liberty to our Belgium allies.

Awarded 23 February, 2008

505 Regimental Combat Team Association

**Robert M. Murphy, President
505 Regimental Combat Team Assn.**

**Starlyn Jorgensen, President
Family and Friends of the 505 RCT Assn.**

Subject: Visiting the Ardennes

Dear Don: Going through the dozens of photographs taken during my trip to the Ardennes of Belgium last fall, I thought I would make a PANTHER report to our Family & Friends and all the veterans who fought in those hills and tiny villages.

First, it was an honor to be there with the veterans--Ray Fary, Frank Bilich and Joe Schwan, who were actually there in the winter of 1944-45. To participate in the laying of a wreath at the 505 Monument in the beautiful little square in Trois Ponts on the first full day there was a thrill. And to then have the opportunity to address the gathered crowd the next morning as we dedicated a monument to the 80th AA men who were KIA with the 505PIR on the afternoon of Dec 21, 1944--well that was something.

It was for me, a promise fulfilled to the men who sacrificed all. And hopefully, it brought some closure for Tommy Taylor, who was presented a folded American Flag by an USAF Lt. Col. from the US Embassy in honor of the valorous grandfather KIA he never came to know in life.

Our group was well received in Bastogne, that famous town where that "other Airborne Division got itself so badly surrounded they needed Gen. Patton to come to their rescue"...as my father used to tease a Screaming Eagle friend of his. (Rivalries last a long time!).

There was so much to enjoy...and ponder.

Thinking back, what I really enjoyed the most was the bus ride we took around the Ardennes, stopping at a half dozen monuments dedicated to the 82nd regiments and its attached units--the 517 and the 551st.

On that same bus were four members of a USAF Base Honor Guard from Germany and the Lt. Col from the embassy who participated in the dedication. Three of the four Airmen were combat veterans of Iraq. It was interesting to listen to their back and forth as they saw the terrain and looked at all the names on the memorials. They found it hard to believe that so many men were lost in one unit in such a short time frame and sometimes mostly in one life and death battle for a tiny bridge or town of seemingly little consequence they had never heard of before.

It must have seemed as bizarre to them as it might have been for the WWII trooper to understand the Trench Warfare of WWI, or the bloody battle of the Civil War where men lined up 100 yards apart and shot each other as they stood in formation.

To give them perspective from what they knew of war in Iraq where a terrorist enemy might kill 100 GIs with booby trapped bombs in a month, I helped their imagination along.

As we drove along I thought of the accounts given of the 504 attack on Cheneux, giving Piper's column its real first setback, and the 505's advance into Abrefontaine, and Goronne, facing down Tiger tanks, and the 325GIR heroic stand at Parker's Crossroads, the 551st with its bayonet attack to capture Rochelival where it lost about 70% of its men in a few short days.

I pointed to some open fields and fire breaks between forested and cultivated areas, some still with barbed wire fences.

I said to the Air Force personnel...Imagine that you and 100 other men, with rifles and some light caliber automatic weapons had to cross this 300 yard deep open field in a foot of snow, you have left behind your overcoats in freezing temperatures, every 10-15 yards you have to go over barbed wire fencing, and you are facing 4, MG42 machine guns spitting out 1,000 rounds per minute each. Mixed into the fusillade of machine gun and small arms fire are multiple 20MM shell bursts from anti-aircraft guns aimed at you, not airplanes. Mortar shells are dropping and you must advance under fire and knock out all these MG nests and the infantry that defends them beyond the treeline. All around you men are dropping. You have no cover or concealment unless you bury your body in the blood red snow. There are no helicopter gunships to come in and take out the opposition. There are no fixed wing aircraft to

call to bomb targets sighted with lasers. There are no medivacs, so only you can save your comrades who are down and screaming with pain to the right and left of you as tracer rounds go inches over your head. You have no artillery support. There are no tanks or armor to shield your advance or keep the enemy pinned down. It's you and your semi-automatic weapon against an entrenched enemy of one of the best equipped, fanatical SS divisions who are sworn to die for Der Fuhrer. Within 10 minutes, all your platoon leaders and assistant platoon leaders have been mortally wounded in the first 50 yards of the attack. A handful of NCOs are still barely alive to direct the attack.

Think about what it took to have actually carried the day in that situation...what guts it took and the resultant casualties from a minor victory in a World at War.

They looked at me and each other with disbelief. I don't think they knew whether or not I was making this up or if the scenario I painted could possibly be.

Their silence and stares out the window at those killing fields said it all.

Putting my own imagination to work, I understood for the first time what my father would say to some veterans at the American Legion Hall who would be critical of some others... "If you were never in a foxhole in combat, don't ever talk down one who was because you have no idea what its like."

Bob Burns

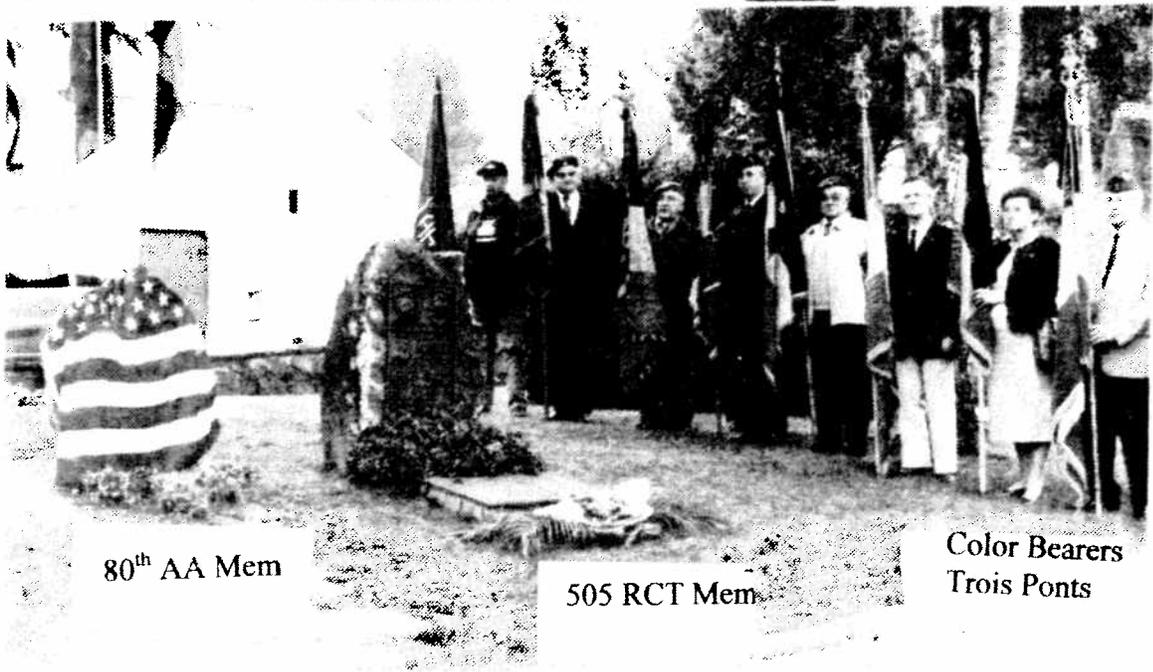
VP FF505RCT ASSN



WWII VETS
Frank-Ray-Joe



Tommy Taylor
Grand father KIA
80th AA



80th AA Mem

505 RCT Mem

Color Bearers
Trois Ponts

Barbara Gavin Fauntleroy

Gavin505
P. O. Box 1184
Ridgefield, CT 06877-1184

June 27, 2007

Don Mc Keage, President
505 PCHT RCT ASSOC
973 Gladys St Derby Lake
Stanton, MI 48888

Dear Don,

I have recently had a book published entitled, "THE GENERAL AND HIS DAUGHTER", and I'd like to tell you a bit about it.

The book is a collection of the letters written by my father, General James M. Gavin, to me during WWII. There are more than two hundred letters in the book. My Dad wrote with great clarity and grace—about his airborne command, about battles from Sicily to Germany, about the concerns and hardships he shared with his soldiers, and about America's new responsibility as a world power. Throughout, he wrote to me with his characteristic intelligence, directness, and honesty. Infused with love and concern for my welfare, his letters also sparkled with humor and attentiveness to the everyday affairs of his men.

I believe the paratrooper veterans in your association will enjoy reading this book and will relate to the many shared experiences about which my father wrote. Many of those who were with him and their families will remember these events and enjoy reading about the more personal feelings of their commander during the wartime period.

I would appreciate your publicizing this book to your members. Enclosed with this letter, you will find a flyer which tells a bit more about the book and its contents. The flyer contains our web site address, www.gavin505.com, which your members can go to on their computers, to enjoy more information about the book or browse among the interesting collection of airborne-related links.

An autographed book can be ordered at this web site. Buyers can write to me by letter or Email, regarding the book and how they would like to have the book inscribed. I look forward to hearing from them.

Best wishes,

Barbara
Barbara Gavin Fauntleroy

*Looking forward to seeing
you at Ft. Bragg.
My love
Barbara*



THE GENERAL & HIS DAUGHTER

THE WARTIME LETTERS OF
GENERAL JAMES M. GAVIN
TO HIS DAUGHTER BARBARA



"General Jim Gavin was one of the foremost combat commanders of WWII. He was also the father of a young girl who was only nine years old when he left home, and he stayed connected to her through these letters. They are touching and highly personal, even as they give us a remarkable view of some of the century's most momentous events. Writing from foxholes and airplanes, muddy tents and castles, he was a teacher, historian, strategist, and loving father. In this volume—a gift for historians and general readers—Barbara Gavin Fauntleroy is an articulate and sensitive guide to the personal life of a great warrior who also happened to be her Dad."—Ed Ruggero, author of *The First Men In: U.S. Paratroopers and the Fight to Save D-Day* and *Combat Jump: The Young Men Who Led the Assault into Fortress Europe, July 1943*

James Maurice Gavin left for war in April 1943 as a colonel commanding the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division—America's first airborne division and the first to fight in WWII. In 1944, "Slim Jim" Gavin, at thirty seven, became the 82nd's commanding general and the army's youngest Major General since the Civil War. Always leading from the front, this soldier's soldier became one of our greatest generals, and the 82nd's most decorated general officer.

Book: *The General and His Daughter* Price \$27.95 plus Shipping and Handling

Published March 2007 by Fordham University Press University Box L Bronx, NY 10458

224 pages. 32 Illustrations and a map of operation locations.

Copyright ©2007 Barbara Gavin Fauntleroy (prologue, epilogue, letters) Starlyn Jorgensen (commentary and notes), Gerard M. Devlin (preface), Rufus Broadaway (foreword), Gayle Wurst (editor's note)—1st edition.

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If you have questions or comments about the book or if you would like to order a personally autographed copy of the book, go to our web site

www.gavin505.com

or write to us at the address below and we'll be pleased to hear from you.

gavin505 P. O. Box 1184 Ridgfield, CT 06877-1184

In the Footsteps of the 82nd – 2008

This year, I had the pleasure of traveling to Belgium with Bob Murphy for Emile Lacroix's annual "In the Footsteps of the 82nd March". What a treat that was. I didn't realize I was traveling with an international superstar! We met in Newark, NJ and flew over together. Tommy McArdle, Philippe Chateau, and a couple of others from their re-enactor group were on our same flight. We were all sitting together and talking about the different actions of the 82nd during the war. Before long, the captain of the flight learned there was an 82nd Airborne veteran on board and sent the flight attendant to get Bob's autograph! Before long others on the flight wanted his autograph and the flight attendants brought him a snack tray of fruits and cheeses from first class! He was kind enough to share with the rest of us. It was a great flight, and I learned a lot between Bob and Tommy, who knows Airborne history better than anyone.

We arrived safely in Brussels where Bob's friends (and mine, too now), Frits Janssen and Frenk Derks van de Ven, picked us up. We drove to Coe and checked into the hotel. Col. Doug Dillard and some other 551st PIB people were at the hotel. Also, my friends, Nicole and Pol Meunier were there and I met their friend Anne Marie Lamont. They are all on Emile's committee and helped him with the march. I also met Lt. Col. Marie Eoff and her husband Lt. Col. Robert Eoff. They live in Germany and somehow met Emile and they also helped with the march. I also, met Bob's friend, Henri-Jean Renaud and his friend, Claude. It was wonderful to meet them both. What nice and interesting men they are.

We all had a nice visit along with a cup of coffee while waiting for our rooms to be ready. Later in the afternoon, Frits, Frenk, and I took off on a sight seeing tour. I wanted to find the location where E Co. made their valiant stand in Trois-Ponts. Using Phil Nordyke's "The All Americans in WWII" and what I could remember of Col. Vandervoort's account from Otis Sampson's book, "Time Out For Combat", we managed to find the location. I remember talking to John Perozzi of E Co. about the fighting there at last year's reunion. Those guys were amazing. We also visited Fosse and saw the location where I Co. fought in the January 3 attack and lost so many men. It is always so special to me to actually be at the location where these events occurred.

The next day was the day of the march and Emile and his staff really should be proud of the job they did. This year's march was in the footsteps of the 505th PIR and the 551st PIB. There were about 1,200 marchers this year. I was one of them! It was pretty muddy most of the way, but the scenery was really beautiful along the way. There was a whole town of re-enactors set up like an army encampment. It was like walking through history. It was great and I took a lot of pictures along the way. At Dairomont there was a ceremony and unveiling of a new plaque to the 551st PIB at the site where they made one of the rare bayonet attacks of WWII. Father Thuring was there to give a blessing as part of the service. Seeing him in his cleric's robes made the event even more special. Jeannie Melcher and Jan Bos were there also and it was really nice to see them.

After the ceremony, I had the opportunity to talk to Col. Doug Dillard and Joe Cicchinelli about the bayonet attack. I asked Joe what went through his mind when he heard there was going to be a bayonet attack. He said, "I can tell you my exact words, 'What son of a bitch gave that order!'" He told me they hadn't eaten in three days prior to the attack and hadn't slept in two days.

After the march, Bob was busy signing autographs. He took the time to personalize each one. By the time we left to go to the banquet, his hands were frozen. He had to run them under hot water to get the circulation back.

The banquet was a lot of fun. There was a whole table full of re-enactors from England and those guys were having the time of their lives. They were really funny (and loud!). At the banquet, Bob continued to sign autographs. There was a huge crowd around him. I had to tell them to leave him alone for at least ten minutes while he ate his dinner. During the banquet, Lt. Col. Maria Eoff presented Emile with a beautiful framed certificate and Bob and I presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation from the 505 RCT Veterans Assn and Family and Friends.

The next day was the beginning of the post march program that Emile arranged for us. A French family – the Taulpins joined us. They are good friends of Bob's and drove over to surprise him. Fred Taulpin was a French paratrooper and Bob met the family a few years ago in St. Mere Eglise. He had a lot of fun playing "Grandpa" to their two little girls.

We checked out of the hotel Sunday morning and drove to Vielsalm for a reception by the mayor. Doug presented the town with a painting of the 551st's bayonet attack that was painted by the granddaughter of one of their veterans.

Next we drove to Baugez for a visit to the Malmedy memorial and a visit to the museum. The museum was really excellent and I highly recommend a visit there. We ate a lovely lunch at the museum. Next we went to La Gleize and saw the Tiger tank there, but unfortunately the museum was closed.

We drove to Liege and checked into the hotel there and ate dinner. The next morning Emile took us to see the Belgian Fort Loncin. This was one of twelve forts built around Liege in the 19th century. At the beginning of WWI, Fort Loncin was the only one of the twelve forts that did not surrender to the Germans. However, it was taken by the Germans. During a bombardment of the Fort, a large German shell hit the area where the gun powder was stored and 11 tons of powder exploded killing 350 Belgian soldiers. The soldiers are still buried at the fort. On the tour of the fort, they gave us recorders that played descriptions of what we were seeing told from the perspective of a soldier in the fort. It was a very effective way to tell the story. It was very moving and interesting.

We ate lunch at an Italian restaurant in Liege and then drove to Huy for a special reception there. The Meuse River runs through Huy. While there, we visited the church there. It was really beautiful and I took a lot of pictures of it. By the time we got back to the Hotel de Ville, it was time for the reception. They gave all of us wine and champagne and presented Joe, Doug, and Bob with a book on the history of the area.

After the reception at Huy, we parted company. Doug left to go to Bastogne with Dan Frawley, Joe went home with a Belgian friend of his, Bob went home with Emile, and I went to the home of Nicole and Pol Meunier where I spent the next two days. Nicole and Pol have a beautiful home and I had a wonderful time in their home.

Tuesday morning it was raining. Nicole took me shopping for Belgian chocolates and I really stocked up!! Next, Nicole and Pol took me to the Ardennes American Cemetery where they have adopted several graves.

After our visit to the cemetery, we went to the Belgian paratrooper museum where we met the others. We had a tour of the museum and it was very interesting. During the Korean War, the Belgian paratroopers were attached to the 3rd Infantry Division.

The next day, Wednesday, Emile had arranged for Bob to visit the school some of his grandchildren attend. They took Bob around to several classrooms where he had a brief visit with some of the younger kids. Bob was really in his element. He is so wonderful with children and becomes a grandfather to all of them. They brought us into a large room where they had a table set up. Seated at the table were Bob, a Belgian WWII veteran, and a woman who had been a political prisoner of the Nazi's at the age of 16. All the children of the school came in. They presented Bob with a poster of peace they had made for him. The little ones danced to WWII music. They were really cute. The younger children went back to their classes and the older ones stayed. Everyone at the table spoke of their war experiences – Emile translated for Bob. Then they had a question and answer session. We attended a luncheon in another part of the school.

After the function at the school, Pol and Emile drove Bob and me to Brussels where we checked into the hotel there. The next day, we flew home. All in all, it was a wonderful trip.

Ellen Peters

Chaplains Corner, 505 RCT, Mar. 2008

A Soldiers Story.

Our freedoms have been bought at a terrible price and we are still paying for it. A soldier got the army call and fearfully boarded an ocean liner for France. He was a buck private inductee in the Army. His official title was Ammunition Bearer. He carried the ammo for the anti-tank gun as part of the Division 409 Infantry Regiment. Tanks shot at him and he shot back. You know who had the most protection. He was part of many young and older men called to fight due to our losses in Europe and the Pacific.

He arrived in Marseille, France, formed up with his unit and fought his way across northeastern France, across the Rhine into Germany and ended up at Innsbruck, Austria. He survived the war and when he came home he rarely talked about his experiences. Years later after his death, a small booklet of bible verses were found. In this booklet, on a sheet of paper in his own handwriting, was the following poem:

Look, God, I have never spoken to you
But now I want to say, How do you do.
You see God, they told me you didn't exist
And like a fool, I believed all of this.
Last night from a shell hole I saw your sky
I figured right then, they had told me a lie
Had I taken the time to see the things you made
I'd known they weren't calling a spade a spade
I wonder God if you'd shake my hand
Somehow, I feel that you will understand
Funny... I had to come to this hellish place
Before I found the time to see your face
Well, I guess there isn't much more to say
But I'm sure glad, God, I met you today
I guess the 'Zero hour' will be here soon
But I'm not afraid since I know you are near
The signal...well God I have to go
I like you lots, this I want you to know
Look... now, this will be a terrible night
Who knows, I might come to your house tonight
Though I wasn't friendly with you before
I wonder, God, if you'd wait at your door
Look! I'm crying! Me! Shedding tears
I wish I'd known you these many years
Well, I'll have to go now, God, Goodbye
Strange, since I met you I'm not afraid to die

Best Wishes
Jesse

TAPS

Robt O'Connor	A Co.	2-10-08
Paul D Medich		2-23-08
Delbert G. Bragg	Hdqs 1 st	Recently
Alfred J. Cappa	B 307 Engs	8-28-07
John P. Scarlato	E 505	7-05-07
Leo A. Traeder	456	Recently
Wm A. Clark	SV CO.	2-18-08
Elmo E. Bell	C-Co	10-01-07
Thomas W. Hagy	G-Co.	12-26-07
Marshall R. Herman	1HHC	1-28-08
Joseph W. Vincent	C-Co	4-13-07
Walker G. Wood	HHC	3-22-08

Our Condolences to the Family & friends

Many of our comrades are not feeling so perk Cheer up
And get well soon.

Remember when our Veterans pass away, Send notice to our
Editor Don McKeage 973 Gladys St. SW Stanton, Mi. 48888-9122

Subject: Airborne Awards

This Past week in Atlanta the Airborne Awards reunion was held. Starting Wednesday April 9th thru Sunday April 13th. On Sat. night our speaker and guest of honor was General David Petraeus, Supreme Commander in Iraq. Honored as the "Airborne Man of the Year" Gen. Petraeus joked that he felt relieved to be in Atlanta. "After the past week in Washington, I can say that being here with you is the highlight of my visit to the states," he said.

During the banquet I was honored as the "82nd. Airborne 505RCT Man of the Year." As you can imagine I was at a loss for words to receive this honor and to meet Gen. Petraeus.

 Jim Blankenship

Dear Friends,

As the years pass and we meet at reunions I always feel very humble. I missed Normandy and Holland and I know that there are veterans present who fought at their side with great courage and saw many of their comrades die. They surely know that they did their part and still have vivid memories of some of the greatest and most successful battles won by any Combat Team in the Army.

We were fortunate to have great leaders like, Gavin, Ridgeway, Patton, Eisenhower and Norton, but battalion and regimental commanders such as Vandervoort, Kellam, Alexander, Gorman and Eckman gave us the front line leadership that caused many Generals to say that the 505th Regimental Combat Team was the most effective fighting unit in the U S Army.

Today we are again blessed that the addition of the Families and Friends of the 505th to our Veterans Organization gives us the ability to carry the heritage of a great combat unit on into the unseen future.

I hope to see many of you in Colorado this year.

Airborne – All The Way,
Sincerely,

Edwin M. Sayre
US Army Col.(Retired)

Dear Don,

Thanks for dropping me a line and waking me up. I feel I am house bound and do not get out much with my legs, but I still have the feeling they will get better as time goes by, I was just showed how I can write you a letter on the computer, I used to do this when I had my other computer and with this new one there is so much I don't know, my daughter in law just showed me, simple.

I received a call this morning that another of our men in E Company has been taken to a hospital, Eddie Arndt, a very good friend of mine, his son called and said he was in bad shape and didn't think he would last. I tried to get him to forward a message from me, but he said he was too far gone.

I have been going to go over all the letters I had received and reread them, one letter from your daughter. And when I got around to it I could find none of them. My daughter in law to keep my desk cleaned up had collected them all and put them in a box, so last night I started to reread them, and counted 64. That was nice of you to have them send me those Birthday Cards, thank you, each and every one of them meant a lot to me. The year before one of my sons took me to a nice restaurant in Palm Springs and as we were about to eat a couple of my E Company buddies showed up, John Perozzi, my last Mortar Gunner Who went through Normandy and Holland with me, he was from, New Jersey and John Keller, from my Platoon in E Company, he was from Florida, you will never know how nice it was to have them with me again. My regular first gunner had been sent to the states from malaria, and Perozzi had taken his place, he went on to take over the squad till the end of the war, when ever we have a reunion he will be there with me and we have it planed for Colorado Springs in September, we are hopping Keller will be with us to if he can get released from the hospital. He is sweating it out. I know my son Otis L. Jr will be with me to see to my care and I know my dear friend Ellen Peters will be there along with my other friends, Barbara, and Starlyn, and the rest of them , looking forward to seeing them again, It was a very pleasant surprise to be sent me the book of , The General and his daughter, Barbara and Starlyn sent me a copy straight off the press, what a wonderful present, I know my eyes filled up many times before the book was finished bringing back many memories, Our General was a man of men, he seemed to know the value of all of his men. Just knowing him has enriched my life. You all are doing a wonderful job of keeping Family & Friends going. We must never forget Don Lassen, for the job he has done these many years keeping us all going with our many reunions and trips to Europe and such, he is one of my devoted friends, we have been through a lot together, as he too is an E Company man. It all started out with E Company Poop Sheet, and ended up World Wide with his, Static Line. An God Bless, Family & Friends too. My last rating, Pla. Sgt Otis L. Sampson Thank you all for sending those Birthday Cards, I will try and make a hundred, I believe a Paratrooper is a breed of their own. I always want to shake the hand when I meet one.

Airborne all the way, Otis L. Sampson E Company, 505th. 82nd Airborne



82D AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Updated 1 January 2008

Under the leadership and guidance of its succession of Presidents, Executive Secretaries/Directors and Members of the Board of Directors, the 82d Airborne Division Association has been able to surface as the largest divisional size airborne veterans' organization in the world.

#	YEAR	NAME
1.	1946-47	MG Robert H. Wieneke*
2.	1948	James E Odum*
3.	1949-50	Rev George B Wood*
4.	1951	William A Merholz*
5.	1952	Chester W Novak*
6.	1953	William A Tucker
7.	1954	Joseph P Schwan
8.	1955-56	Carl L Davis*
9.	1957-58	A Ross Pattullo*
10.	1959	Carl A Helgren*
11.	1960	Robert M Murphy
12.	1961	Walter S Van Poyck*
13.	1962-63	George T Alex*
14.	1964-65	John J Lynch*
15.	1966-67	Herbert M Altman*
16.	1968	Robert M Porter*
17.	1969	Frank Ruppe*
18.	1970	Donald W McKeage
19.	1971-72	Jesse Buck*
20.	1973	Gerald L Mitchell*
21.	1974	Charles M Andersen, Jr
22.	1975	Leslie F Rodgers, Jr*
23.	1976-77	John L Mooneyham*
24.	1978	James M Campillo
25.	1979	George D Ketchum*
26.	1980	Lawrence J Rizzo*
27.	1981	Shirley R Gossett
28.	1982	Troy L Dickens*
29.	1983	Walter M Weiss*
30.	1984-85	Bobby V Teague
31.	1986	Shirley R Gossett
32.	1987-88	Fred C Spataro* *DECEASED
33.	1989-90	Lawrence L Law
34.	1991	Melvin T Greene
35.	1992-93	H Joe Rodello*
36.	1994	Robert M Murphy
37.	1995	Bernard H Mc Gonagle*
38.	1996-97	Robert D. O'Brien*
39.	1998-99	David R. Foy
40.	2000-01	Byron B. Beekman
41.	2002-03	Duke Armendariz
42.	2004	Richard G. Becker
43.	2005	Raymond P. Gilbert (Honorary)*
44.	2005	Thomas C. Graham
45.	2006-07	Ronald H. Rath
46.	2008	Steven A. Frazer

DON Jennie I forgot to include an article about my Book, "No Better Place To Die" for the Panther Newsletter Will you please print this article in the Newsletter. >>>>

Bob Murphy, just back from Belgium, has the newest edition of his book, "No Better Place To Die" about the Normandy D-Day battles at Ste Mere Eglise, around the LaFiere Manoir and Causeway from June 6 to 10th. There are eye witness accounts by many combatants and lots of photographs of veterans who participated in the battles by all three 505PIR Battalions and our Regimental Combat team comrades Units like the 307Engineers, 80thAA 456PFA , Medics and our 82nd comrades, the 325GIR, as well as the 507/508PIR, many of whom mis-landed but were involved in these battles. . It is probably the most accurate description of the battles in this area and by the veterans who were involved.

This June there will be a film production company at Ste Mere Eglise with a lot of uniformed reenactors who are making a movie about Murphy's' book. To order a copy of this book send your check for \$28.75 plus \$4.60 for Priority Mail postage (a total of \$33.35) To> BOB MURPHY at : 11188 Tangelo Terrace Bonita Springs, FL 34135 (Tel 239 947 1965) (Note the price of printing the book has gone up about 10%)

If you get to Ste Mere Eglise this June you can watch the filming. Bob will be there.

The Garbage Truck

How often do you let other people change your mood? Do you let a bad driver, rude waiter, curt boss, or an insensitive employee ruin your day? Unless you're the Terminator, for an instant you're probably set back on your heels.

However, the mark of a successful person is how quickly she/he can get back her/his focus on what's important.

Five years ago I learned this lesson in the back of a taxicab in Indianapolis. Here's what happened:

I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his breaks, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches! The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy.

And, I mean, he was really friendly.

So I asked, 'Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!' This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, 'The Law of the Garbage Truck.' He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they'll dump it on you. Don't take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets.

The bottom line is that successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day. Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so...Love the people who treat you right. Pray for the ones who don't.

Keep Moving Forward, Only Make Sure You Are Going In The Right Direction.

Presentation of a Statuette to the town of Loughborough.

President Joseph Schwan, President of the C-47 Club, asked the Leicester (UK) Chapter to present a bronze statuette of a WW2 paratrooper to the Mayor of Charnwood, Ken Pacey, for the Loughborough War Memorial Museum. This was one of four statuettes presented to museums around Europe, the others going to Normandy, Belgium and Holland. Loughborough is nearest town to Quorn where the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment was camped in 1944 and the museum houses a unique display to the memory of the Regiment.

On November 16th 2006 the Chapter members gathered in the Mayor's Parlor along with the members of the Museum Committee and local dignitaries to witness Chapter Chairman Deryk Wills make the presentation. The statuette was very much admired by the Mayor who jokingly threatened to keep it in the Town Hall, but we are pleased and relieved to say that it is now on display in the museum.

The photograph shows Ken Pacey, the Mayor of Charnwood, Deryk Wills, Anne Wills, Dorothy Tipping and Henry Hemsley. Rob Burrow, son of Roy a C Company 505th paratrooper can be just seen between Deryk and Anne.

Loughborough is the principal town in an area now known as Charnwood.

Report from the Leicester (UK) Chapter.

I am coming to Ste-Mere-Eglise with my son, David, and my 11 year-old grandson James, this year to celebrate the 64th Anniversary of D-Day and we are all looking forward to it. This will be the first time that James has visited this famous Normandy town.

We will be meeting up with some very old friends, including Bob Murphy and watching the film company getting ready to start filming his book, 'No Better Place to Die'.

Unfortunately I had to miss the Static Line Awards again this year as I am finding those nine hour transatlantic flights a great problem due to my arthritis, but more importantly, I will be celebrating my eightieth birthday with a family party on the day the Awards start. I know I am a late starter as most of you have already reached and passed this magic age. Flying these days is no fun what with all the airport delays, high security and with airlines' great reputation for losing suitcases, never to be seen again.

The British Government have given me generous birthday present on reaching this milestone as they are increasing my old age pension by about 50 cents a week and I am now looking for suggestions on how to spend it. They say they are being very generous, they must be joking.

Here in the UK, just as it is in the States, the numbers of World War Two veterans are shrinking fast.

The Royal British Legion branch at Loughborough is down to four members and their town centre club premises has now been sold. Many other branches are facing the same problems as the Government is increasing taxation on beer and spirits and has banned smoking in bars and public places. They have even increased the taxation on cars and gasoline saying that is because of global warming, but everyone knows they have overspent their budgets and need to rake in the money fast. Survival is the important task these days.

All being well the Chapter will be attending Memorial Day at Madingley again this year to pay our respects to all the 82nd troopers who are buried there.

Deryk Wills.

Dear Don,

I'm so happy to hear from you and the Easter Bunny. It looks as though we'll get through this winter without any blizzards in Connecticut. We've just returned from a couple of weeks in Florida, which helps us get through the winter. I hope that you and Jenny have been well.

Clancy and I are looking forward to going South to Atlanta for Airborne Awards. I hope that you'll be there. Then we'll be at All American Week and, of course the 505 Reunion. I've done a lot of book talks and signings around here and as far away as St. Croix. I believe that the last one will be at George Mason University in Virginia in June. Writing and selling the book of my dad's WWII letters has been a great experience. I've had wonderful letters from old friends and other people who have read it. And the book has reminded people of the remarkable heroism and accomplishments of the 505th RCT and the 82nd Airborne. The world must never forget.

Thank you for all that you have done with the "Panther". You keep everyone informed and hold us together. I look forward to every issue.

My love,

Barbara

Subject: Re: "No Better Place To Die" feature film

Hello folks. Vivian thanks for your kind words about me as well. I also wish to say something that is very important. We all know the bridge and causway call La Fiere is also called "Marcus Heim". Marcus and Gloria while members of the 505 Association were always on the annual trip each year to Europe conducted by OB Hill. Marcus as a young man was awarded the DSC. He is in the famous picture of General Bradley pinning on the DSC's to 5 soldiers in La Hay Du Puyes. We lost Marcus back in 2002. He was like a brother to OB Hill. Since the passing of OB and Marcus I have always felt a little sad when I go to Normandy and know they are no longer with us, but I am sure there souls are.

Marcus's bravery" along with many others, mostly 505 at that particular time, but with some from other Airborne units", helped stop a major German counter attack to take the bridge and drive onto Saint Mere Eglise. Marcus admitted to me that had the tanks been Mark 4's or larger, that the anti tank rockets they used to stop 3 tanks during the attack would not have worked and in his view they would have driven right on across the bridge with the assault troops following. Around 2000 as tour of the battle area was conducted by Colonel Nightingale in which many were in attendance. He cover and Manor La Fiere and the attack on the bridge. When a young active duty soldier asked Marcus what was the range of his anti tank rocket launcher Marcus answered "Far enough!!!!". Everyone laughed, but it was the typical answer I think a citizen soldier would give. I was lucky enough to have been in Normandy in June of 1997 when the Marcus Heim Causway was dedicated to Marcus. His wife Gloria of course was there as well as his daughter Arnelle Blinderman. What a privilege!!!! Gene Garren

Pearl Cornioley, WWII Secret Agent, Dies

By D'ARCY DORAN, AP

13 hours ago

LONDON — Pearl Cornioley, who parachuted into France as a secret agent during World War II to help arm and organize the Resistance, has died. She was 93.

Cornioley was one of Britain's greatest agents operating behind German lines, according to historian Michael R.D. Foot, who has written extensively about British special operations in France.

Cornioley died at Blois Hospital in the Loire Valley on Feb. 24, Caroline Cottard, the secretary at her retirement home in Chateaufieux, southwest of Paris, said Friday.

She parachuted into France in September 1943 to work as a courier for an underground unit. It was believed the Nazis were less likely to suspect a woman, and she posed as a cosmetics saleswoman to deliver coded messages.

When the Nazis captured the leader of her unit in May 1944, she took over the cell in the north Indre department of the Loire River valley, about 55 miles southeast of the Normandy beaches.

Using the code name "Pauline," she led a 1,500-strong team in efforts to cut railway, road and telephone communications and start guerrilla operations. The Nazis put her face on posters offering a 1 million franc reward for her capture — but she always evaded them.

In June 1944, the month of the D-Day landings, her unit interrupted the Paris-Bordeaux railway line more than 800 times and regularly attacked convoys, she wrote in her 1995 autobiography.

"We didn't actually have anything to do directly with the D-Day beach operations, but we were in more or less a rear guard — trying to prevent the Germans getting up to them," Cornioley told The Associated Press on her 80th birthday.

Born in 1916 in Paris to British parents, she was the oldest of four daughters. Her father was an alcoholic and a spendthrift and she once returned home to find all her family's furniture on the curb.

"I don't blame life at all for having given me this difficult childhood, because it gave me the strength to fight for the rest of my life," she wrote in her autobiography.

She took a job at the British Embassy in Paris to help support the family. She and her family were still in France when it fell in June 1940, but fled to London when the Germans started rounding up British citizens.

Bored by her desk job at the Air Ministry in London, she volunteered for the Special Operations Executive. After seven weeks of training for armed and unarmed combat and sabotage she parachuted into France.

After the war ended, she married Henri Cornioley, a French prisoner-of-war who escaped and joined the Resistance.

They spent the rest of their lives in France, and he died in 1999.

After the war, she was recommended for Britain's Military Cross medal, but as a woman she was not able to receive it.

Queen Elizabeth II made her a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2004 during a visit to Paris. She also received France's Legion d'Honneur.

But the award that meant the most to her came when Royal Air Force officers presented her with her parachute wings in 2006 in a ceremony at her Paris retirement home.

"I've been moaning about the fact the girls who parachuted into occupied countries were not allowed to wear the wings when we came back from the field," she said.

"I thought it was an injustice and really wrong because we went through the same dangers as the men."

She is survived by a daughter.

Subject: In the Footsteps of the 82nd

Jim,

It just occurred to me that I never sent in my photos from Emile's annual "In the Footsteps of the 82nd March". This year was the 505th and the 551st PIB. My photos can be seen at www.eeptx.phanfare.com. Just click on the photo of Bob Murphy at the 505th Monument.

I was traveling with the international superstar, Bob Murphy! We met in Newark and flew over together. What a treat traveling with Bob. The pilot of the plane asked for his autograph as did several others on the plane. The flight attendants brought him treats from first class.

Frits Janssen and Frank Derks van de Ven picked us up at the airport in Brussels and we drove to our hotel in Coe. While Bob rested, Frits, Frenk, and I drove to Trois Ponts. I wanted to find the area across the Salm where E Co. made such a valiant stand against Joachim Pieper's 1st SS troops. I had read an account by Col. Vandervoort and wanted to see the area. We managed to find it.

That night we all had dinner with Emile. He and Bob were going over maps. Frits, Frenk, and I were sitting across from them and people were standing on chairs behind us and leaning over to take pictures of Bob and Emile.

Saturday was the day of the march. I was the only one of our group that did it, but I only did half. I must be getting old - it was a lot harder this year than last, but I made it. It was very muddy most of the way.

After lunch, there was a brief ceremony at Dairomont for the unveiling of a monument to the 551st. They made a bayonet attack in the area. Father Thuring was there in his cleric's robes to give the blessing. It was very moving. Doug Dillard and Joe Cicchinelli of the 551st were there and what an honor to meet these brave troopers. Joe told me they hadn't eaten for three days nor slept for two days prior to the attack.

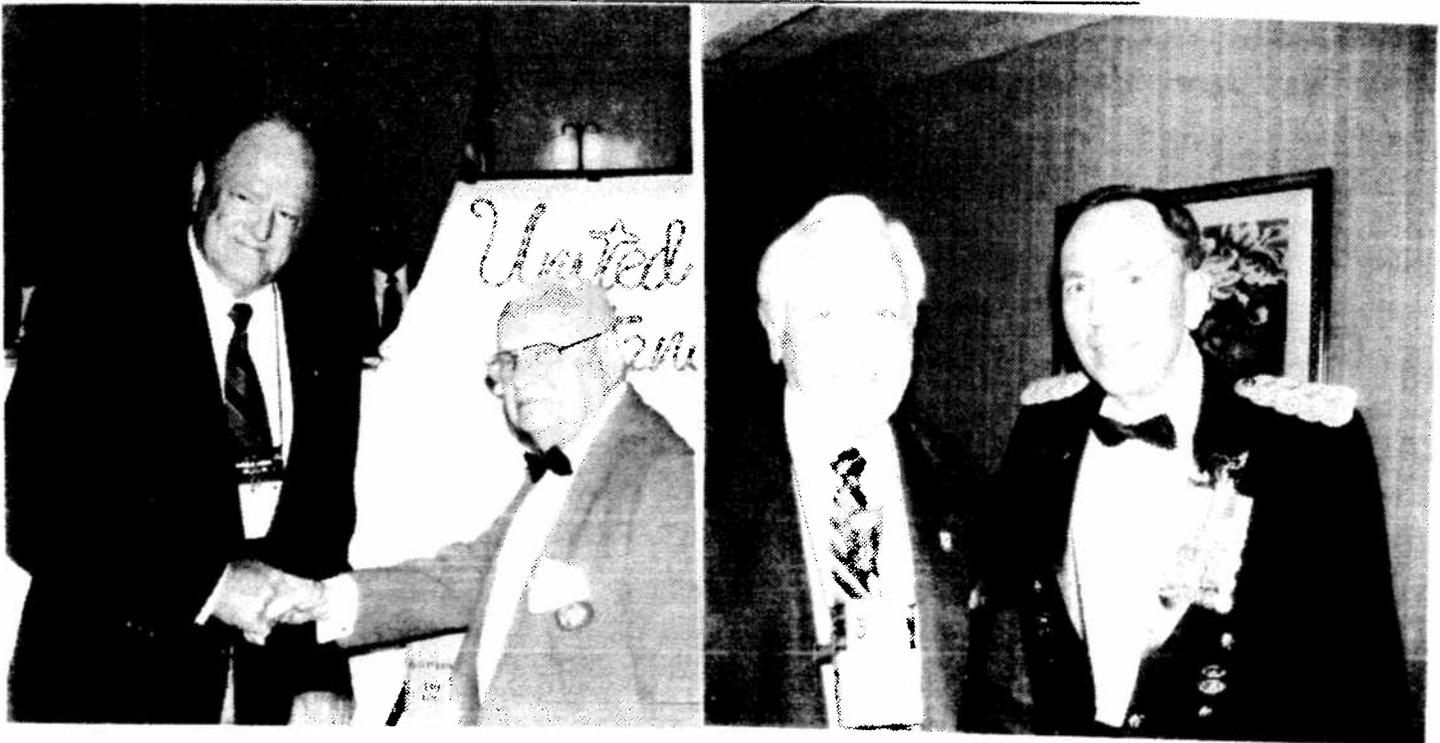
We returned to the Norfontaine Farm where the march started and Bob signed autographs. There were 1,200 people on the march and I think he signed autographs for all of them. His hands were frozen. It was the same thing at the banquet - a big crowd waiting for his autograph. I asked Emile to tell them to come back in 10 minutes so Bob could eat his

dinner! I looked at the other table and it was the same thing with Doug and Joe. During the banquet , Bob and I presented Emile with a certificate of appreciation. He also received a couple of other awards.

Over the next few days Emile had several things planned for us including a visit to the Malmedy Museum, a trip to Ft. Loncin. a WWI fort near Liege, and a trip to the Belgian Paratroopers museum. We also attended two ceremonies in Vielsalm and Huy where the mayors of those towns honored Bob, Doug, and Joe and presented them with gifts. During the week I spent three nights in the lovely home of Nicole and Pol Meunier where I had the opportunity to practice and improve my French. One morning, on the way to meet Bob and Emile, we went for a visit to the Ardennes American Cemetery where they have adopted several graves.

The last day of the trip, Emile had arranged for Bob to visit a school and talk to the children there. There was a Belfian veteran there as well as a woman who had been imprisoned by the Germans as a political prisoner. The children danced to WWII music and presented Bob with a Peace Poster they had made. They had a nice luncheon for us at the school. When we left the school, Pol and Emile drove us to Brusells where we spent the night and returned to the U.S. the next day. It was a great trip and I had a wonderful time.

Ellen



Static Line awards

Jim Blankenship don Lassen
505 RCT Man of the yr

Robt Murphy
Gen. Petraeus Abn Man of Yr.
Commander in Iraq



82d AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION
OLDEST MEMBER ROSTER
UPDATED 1 MARCH 2008



<u>DATE OF BIRTH</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>
<u>UNIT(S) SERVED</u>	<u>DATES SERVED</u>	<u>CHARTER MEMBER</u>	
10 Sep 1910 307 ENG BN	97	Wiggins, John O. Sep 44 - Jan 47	TLS - Texas Lone Star No
19 Jan 1911 505 PIR	96	Sampson, Otis L. Mar 42 - Oct 45	SCC - Southern California Yes
7 Jun 1911 325 GIR	96	Reinig, William L. Oct 44 - May 46	IDC - Idaho Yes
15 Jan 1913 505 PIR	94	Paul, Carl W. Jul 42 - Sep 45	IDC - Idaho Yes
27 Feb 1914 OSS	93	Hamblet, John B. Apr 44 - Dec 48	CIN - Cincinnati No
8 Apr 1914 505 PIR	93	Franco, Robert T. Oct 41 - Mar 46	TLS - Texas Lone Star Yes
4 Jul 1914 504 PIR	93	Phillips, Roy M. Feb 42 - Sep 45	RTC - COL Rueben Tucker Yes
17 Feb 1915 82 SIG	92	Morse, Lindon B. Dec 42 - Dec 45	NCF - North Central Florida Yes
11 Sep 1916 504 PIR	91	Hanna, Roy M. Jul 42 - Nov 45	RTC - COL Rueben Tucker No
13 Sep 1916 504 PIR	91	Looney, Russell F. Jul 42 - Sep 45	RTC - COL Rueben Tucker Yes
7 Jan 1917 504 PIR	90	Castellanos, Joseph R. Feb 42 - Jun 45	GDC - Greater Daytona Yes
16 Jan 1917 504 PIR	90	Kuehl, Delbert A. Aug 42 - Sep 45	RTC - COL Rueben Tucker No
26 May 1917 13 th ABN DIV	90	Rosgaard, Alfred I. Oct 43 - Dec 45	SR. MTC - Montana No
27 Jul 1917 13 th ABN DIV	90	Rosofsky, Manni E. Jan 44 - Nov 45	NCF - North Central Florida No

<u>DATE OF BIRTH</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>
<u>UNIT(S) SERVED</u>		<u>DATES SERVED</u>	<u>CHARTER MEMBER</u>
8 Nov 1917 504 PIR	90	Pettit, Robert R. May 43 - Nov 45	SCC - Southern California Yes
4 Jan 1918 505 & 187 PIRs,	90	Steele, William SFG-A 1942 - 1965	FAY - Fayetteville No
16 Mar 1918 504 & 507 PIRs	89	Gieringer, Howard F. Apr 43 - Jul 46	CIN - Cincinnati No
25 Jul 1918 1 st SF/Canada	89	Lytle, Lawrence L. Jun 40 - Sep 44	MTC - Montana No
23 Feb 1919 17 th -82d-101 st Ads	88	Holtan, Irving Nov 42 - Dec 45	TBP - Benavidez-Patterson No
19 Sep 1919 325 GIR/AIR	88	Gelber, Aaron Aug 41 - Oct 64	FAY - Fayetteville Yes
30 Dec 1919 325 GIR	88	Huebschen, Herbert E. Mar 42 - Sep 45	"Robert" WBC - Badger State Yes
17 Mar 1921 DIV Recon, 82d AD	87	Prendergast, Richard A. Jun 42 - Dec 45	DCC - Dan Campbell Yes
2 Mar 1922 2671 Special Recon,	86	Disanto, Joseph OSS Apr 42 - Aug 45	DCC - Dan Campbell No

Bob Murphy, just back from Belgium, has the newest edition of his book, "No Better Place To Die" about the Normandy D-Day battles at Ste Mere Eglise, around the LaFiere Manoir and Causeway from June 6 to 10th. There are eye witness accounts by many combatants and lots of photographs of veterans who participated in the battles by all three 505PIR Battalions and our Regimental Combat team comrades Units like the 307Engineers, 80thAA 456PFA , Medics and our 82nd comrades, the 325GIR, as well as the 507/508PIR, many of whom mis-landed but were involved in these battles. It is probably the most accurate description of the battles in this area and by the veterans who were involved.

This June there will be a film production company at Ste Mere Eglise with a lot of uniformed reenactors who are making a movie about Murphy's' book. To order a copy of this book send your check for \$28.75 plus \$4.60 for Priority Mail postage (a total of \$33.35) To> BOB MURPHY at : 11188 Tangelo Terrace Bonita Springs, FL 34135 (Tel 239 947 1965) (Note the price of printing the book has gone up about 10%)

If you get to Ste Mere Eglise this June you can watch the filming. Bob will be there.

505th Parachute RCT association
BobBurns V-President family & Friends. 2008 Reunion chairman
2453 Loft Ave Baldwin,NY. 11510
Home Ph: 516-867-2918 Cell Ph: 516-770-1815

Panther Reunion 208 Bulletin # 1
Early Arrivals Sept 2nd & 3rd Reunion Sept 4th 5th 6th Home Sept 7th

Hope Hotel & Conference Center 10823 chidlaw Rd (823A) Dayton. OH 45433
No 800 # 937-879-2696 Tell them you are with the 505 Rct. Use your Credit Card

Rooms Double & Queens \$ 70.00 Plus Tax
We urge you to get your rooms schedule without delay with Hotel and your Reunion
Registration of \$ 85.00 each paid do our Treasurer ellen Peters. Registration slip
Below. Cash will not be accepted by our treasurer. Your check or Postal Money order.
Reservations for rooms must be made to Hotel by August 4th for these rates. Don't delay.

Your guests may call 937-879-2696 or go on our web site to make their
reservations. Our web site is www.hopehotel.com

For transportation to and from the airport I recommend Charter Vans. Their
number is 1-800-874-0934. Their web site is www.chartervans.com

If you need transportation for your group after you arrive, I would suggest
Wilbur R. Dahmer & Sons @937-372-8596 or 937-750-0292.

This group has 40 sleeping rooms each night of the event. Please call 937.879.2696 ask for the 505 Reunion block a front desk representative will assist you. You will have until 8/04/08 to book your room>>>>> at the \$70.00 + tax rate. THIS RATE WILL ALSO APPLY 2 DAYS PRIOR TO 9/4th AND UP TO SEPTEMBER 7th<<<

REGISTRATION

It is essential that we know how many will attend. Please complete the form below and mail it with the
Registration Fee to Ellen Peters, 3630 Townsend Drive, Dallas, Texas 75229-3805

Registration fee is \$85.00 per person. Increase is due to increased cost of fuel for the buses.

I plan to attend: _____

Number of rooms: _____ Number in party: _____

Name and address: _____

