

505 R.C.T. WWII

Regimental Combat Team



3830 Townsend Dr.
Dallas, TX 75229

DATED MATERIAL

The Panther

AUGUST, 2011



President's Report:

From Duaine Pinkston, President of the 505 RCT WWII Veterans Assn:

Hello to all:

What a long plane ride to Paris! Herb Lahout (who make Duaine and Fred's combat jackets) and Andy (from Austria)) arrived before we did and drove us to St. Mere Eglise. At the hotel, we met Michelle Coupey, who organized most of the events. We went to the La Fiere Bridge and met Ellen Peters and Jean-Marie, Kathleen, Flavie and Thomas Lemoigne. The persons in charge of making the plaque honoring the 82nd ABN 505 PIR medics were just putting it in place. We visited the Lemoigne home where Kathleen served us a delicious dinner.

Paratroopers from all over wanted to visit with us.

On Thursday, the mayor welcomed us to the city and later Michelle's group of AVA hosted a potluck dinner for the pilots of the paratroopers who were to jump.

Friday – Fred Morgan and son, Scott, arrived at Bill and Liz and Alexandra's home in Fauville. We all went to the La Fiere Bridge where CBS filmed Duaine and Fred recall events that happened then. The barn and other buildings housed all kinds of memorabilia from that area. Part of the day was spent at Omaha and Utah Beaches. It was cold and windy, but some people were swimming.

Saturday we were all invited to the Chateau l'Isle Marie by Henri Jean Renaud for a ceremony honoring the AVA. There was also a veteran's reception at the Airborne Museum in St. Mere Eglise. Each veteran was given an award and a medal honoring their visit to the museum. A liberty dinner banquet was served with 700 soldiers from different countries.

Sunday, after church services, veterans and honorees were served a lovely luncheon at the St. Mere Eglise City Hall. Later, we were taken by bus to the La Fiere Bridge for the parachute drop. A strong wind prevented this from taking place, so we proceeded to the ceremony dedicating the plaque to the 1st Btn. Medics. Fred Morgan and Duaine Pinkston represented the medics. A very moving message was given by Mayor Marc Lefevre.

After the ceremony at La Fiere Bridge, we were driven by bus back to St. Mere Eglise for the International Ceremony for Peace.

The Omaha Beach museum had many buses with adults and school children. The children were very curious and asked questions. Since we don't speak French, there was an interpreter there who was nice enough to answer them.

The new Utah Beach Museum was having an opening day ceremony that was very impressive.

We'd like to thank all who helped to make our trip so enjoyable and meaningful.

Thanks Scott and Fred for our ride to Paris airport. Good job!

We hope to see everyone at the reunion in October.

Duaine and June Pinkston

La Fièvre, June 5, 2011

*Speech Honoring Fred Morgan and Duaine Pinkston
Medics of the 505 PIR, 82nd AB*

Welcome and thanks to the 600 plus paratroopers participating here today. At this site charged full of history, this jump is a tribute to the memory of the 14000 parachutists who jumped during the night of 5th through the early morning of the 6th of June 1944. Their mission consisted of taking control of roads, intersections and bridges necessary to the success of the landing of troops at Utah Beach. Here like elsewhere, the battles were unmerciful but never was the enemy able to regain these first claims of liberty.

We are also particularly honored and proud to greet among us here some of the parachutists who touched down and fought here or in the vicinity. Welcome to Robert Noody, Lou Vecchi, Zane Schlemmer, Don Jakeway, Ray Fary, Bill Sullivan and Wilson Colwell. Welcome also to the veterans here today who landed at Omaha Beach, who served in the US Air Force or in the US Navy. Welcome to our British veterans, but also to the german veterans present here today.

This year, the AVA association, Friends of American Veterans, wished to particularly remind us of the memory and the courage of the medical teams in unveiling a plaque in their honor. We know how much the medics, doctors, nurses, and stretcher-carriers contributed to the morale and the commitment of their comrades. On the battlefield or in close proximity, they eased their suffering, their wounds and their pain. For these medics and doctors, any person wounded had the right to be helped and treated, certainly their comrades in arms but also the civilians and even those fighting for the ennemy.

We honor Robert Wright, who will receive tomorrow the Legion of Honor; he, with Kenneth Moore, is the medic who transformed the little church of Angoville au Plain in the middle of the fighting by the 101st Division into an first aid station, open to all.

We honor the presence of Fred Morgan and Duaine Pinkston of the 1st Battalion, 505 PIR, of the 82nd AB. In this area during the 3 days of battle for the bridge, the two of them treated their first wounded in Normandy. We are honored that 67 years later, they could personally unveil this plaque in the name and memory of their own.

La Fièrre, June 5, 2011

Fred Morgan began his paratrooper career in 1942 with the creation of his unit by then Lt Col Gavin, who would later become the General admired and respected by all his men of the 82nd AB division. Fred Morgan participated in all the campaigns of the 505, beginning in North Africa and parachuting in all 4 jumps of the 505 : Sicily, Salerno in Italy, Normandy and Groesbeck, Holland, then continuing into the Ardennes for the Battle of the Bulge before entering into Germany. In Normandy, he established a First Battalion Aid Station close to La Fièrre several steps away from here before following his unit to Montebourg, St Saveur and La Haye du Puits. He began the war as a sergeant and finished as a Lt Colonel. He is decorated with the Purple Heart.

Having just turned 20 years old, Duaine Pinkston made his first jump at La Fièrre in the same battalion as Fred Morgan. He went on to follow the same path with the C Company in Normandy then Holland and Belgium. Wounded 3 times, once in treating a wounded German, Duaine Pinkston believed that he had seen all the horrors of war in early May 1945. But the worst was to come when he participated in the liberation of the Wobbelin concentration camp, an annex created by the Nazis only six weeks earlier, as an extension of the Neuengamme work camp. He remembers that overwhelmed by such barbarity, the troops forced the nearby townspeople to enter the camp and bury the corpses.

The journey of these men tells us about the journey of all our liberators, their suffrance, their sacrifice and their immense generosity ; they show us also that their humanity was stronger than the barbarism and that all men in distress had the right to their help and their compassion. The rightness of their values fueled their force and their courage.

If these veterans come back again today despite the weight of the years, it's to remind us the price paid by their comrades, so that today we live in peace and as free men. Above their own lives, they held the values they esteemed essential to humanity and without which no peace nor liberty could ever be solidly built upon : these values called tolerance, respect for all men and democracy.

Today we need to measure the price of peace but also to be aware that it is fragile. We need to ensure that it shall never be compromised. This is our duty, we owe it to them.

*Long live the French-American Friendship
And long live the friendship and respect between all the people on this Earth*

Marc Lefevre, Mayor of Sainte-Mère-Eglise



Fred Morgan and Duaine Pinkston at 1st Btn, 505 Medics Memorial

CLICK THE LINK BELOW AND SEE THE STILL PICTURES OF FRED MORGAN AND PINKY PINKSTON AT LA FIERE BRIDGE

ALSO WHEN YOU OPEN THE PAGE CLICK TO WATCH THE VIDEO THAT APPEARED ON CBS NEWS LAST NIGHT

http://www.cbsnews.com/2300-18563_162-10008060.html?tag=page

 Herbert J. Lahout

2011 Normandie Report

This year marks my ninth trip to Normandie. After every trip I find my self saying, "This was the best trip ever." This year was no exception. It was a great trip. I ran into lots of old friends in the square in St. Mere Eglise. It was wonderful to see everyone again.

This year, I went over on May 21 to take a French class in Domfront, France, which is also in Normandie, for a week.

My plane was an hour late leaving Dallas and 4 hours late leaving New York. The only saving grace was that I was flying business class (thanks to my accruing enough points).

Upon arrival in Paris, I got my baggage and rented a car. While driving to Normandie, I thought I may as well go and see Rouen. In Rouen, I wanted to visit the church where Joan of Arc was executed and the church where Monet painted the same facade from different times of the day, and the church that Rollo, the Viking who originally conquered Normandie, built but no one ever heard of him - even in the tourist office! While visiting the church that Monet painted, I decided to go inside. As I was touring, on one side of the church, there was the tomb of Rollo and just down the hallway was the

tomb of Richard I (the Lionheart). Unfortunately, they were doing restoration work on the outside of the church and I was unable to photograph the façade that Monet painted. Then I headed out to the site where Joan of Arc was executed. On the way, I passed under a clock tower and it was open for tours. I climbed up to the top where one can go outside. It was very cold, but the view of Rouen was incredible.

When I was finished seeing everything I wanted to see, I went to the parking lot and got my car. It was 4:00 o'clock and I thought that was plenty of time to get to Domfront for the 7:30 dinner of all the French students. An hour later I was still trying to figure out how to get out of Rouen! I was wondering around and somehow made my way to the residential area. I had no idea where I was. I stopped and asked some teenagers walking down the street. They told me how to get back to the city center. They told me to look for the A13 there. My GPS device was not working and I had to get out the map and figure out how to get there on my own. It was not easy! My GPS device found the location I was looking for in France, but it was trying to calculate the route from my home in Dallas! I got a message saying "that route cannot be calculated! So, I had to get out my map and figure it out on my own. It was not easy.

I took a wrong turn somewhere and ended up God knows where. I got off the auto route and asked some guy on the side of the road. He spoke English and led me to the correct route and told me how to go. I arrived in Domfront around 8:30, so I had missed the dinner and ate on my own. The name of the B&B where we stayed was Belle Vallée. It is owned by a British couple and quite beautiful. I met the other students - they were all British. We drank some wine and chatted and then went to bed.

We had our first French class on Monday morning, May 22. It was very tiring. The class lasted until around 2:00 and we went to a Calvados factory. It was very interesting. They make Calvados, cider, Pommou, and some kind of pear drink. They gave us samples of all the different types of drinks including a 100 year old Calvados.

That evening, as soon as our French teacher left, the other students said they did not want to talk French and would only speak English. I was very disappointed.

Back at Belle Vallée, we had a four course meal - we had these every night! All the meals were wonderful.

During my week at Belle Vallée, we had classes in the morning and went on field trips in the afternoon. In addition to visiting the Calvados factory, we also visited a bisquiterie (cookie factory), a local market in Fler where we also visited the Chateau de Fler, and we visited the beautiful town of Bagnoles sur l'Orne.

Friday was our final class. I skipped the afternoon field trip and headed out to St. Mere Eglise around 3:00 in the afternoon. The week began with gorgeous weather, but around Wednesday it turned cold with intermittent rain.

I arrived at Sharron Pike's around 5:00. It was so good to see her.

We went to visit Howard Manoian in Chef du Pont. It was wonderful to see him. He is so dear to me.

Back at Sharron's she cooked a delicious chicken dinner and later we lit up a Chinese lantern and let it loose. Sharron told me of her plans for several of us to go up to Hill 30 the night of June 6 and write messages to Dave and set them off near his memorial stone. It would have been a lovely memorial to him; unfortunately the weather did not allow it.

Sharron and I stayed up until almost 3:00 AM talking, so I slept in Saturday morning. I finally got up and out. I went to the Super U to gas up. I went over to La Fiere and saw Chantal Poisson and had a brief visit with Vivian and Rodolfe Roger. They have really made a lot of improvements to their place. Then I decided to try and find Dave Pike's stone on Hill 30. I never did find it, but I saw the Hill 30 sign, Col. Shanley's marker, the 508th Park, the Millsaps and Polette marker and the road named after Tom Porcella. Next I went into town and visited Sgt. Stanley Smith's marker at the site where he and his machine gun crew were killed. I also visited the 507th monument and park.

I emailed Henri Jean Renaud to let him know I am in town. Within a few minutes of sending the email, the phone was ringing. It was Henri Jean asking me to meet him at the church the next day for *Sunday mass*.

I met Henri Jean at the church just prior to the service. Up front there was a picture of Otis Sampson with a French flag and an American flag. There were also some flowers in front of his photo. It was a lovely service and the priest spoke of Otis and his service to both America and France. I was deeply touched that Henri Jean had arranged this. It meant so much to me to be able to attend a memorial service for Otis. It is so difficult for me when we lose one of our beloved veterans and I am unable to attend their service.

Prior to the mass, I ran into Jean Marie Lemoigne with Flavie and Thomas. After the service, Henri Jean took photos of me and the kids with Otis's photo. Jean-Marie invited me to their home for lunch. Upon arrival, Jean-Marie, Thomas, and Flavie raised the American flag in their yard. Then Jean-Marie and Katie served a lovely BBQ. I did not realize it was Mother's Day in France until they served a delicious cake from the bakery in SME.

In the afternoon Sharron and I went to St. Come du Mont to visit Dick Cooper and Caroline. Several people stopped by while we were there. Dick took me around the garden and it is beautiful. He has really made a showplace of it and I highly recommend it to anyone looking for a place to stay over there. We had a very nice time, but drank too much and stayed too long!!

On the way home, we stopped off to visit Howard. It was around 10:00. He informed us that house rules are no visitors after 9:00 PM. *Sharron informed him that we will visit him when we want!!* We had a nice visit with him. It was pitch dark when we drove home. We drove along a hedgerow lined road and turned off the car lights. You couldn't see your hand in front of your face.

Monday morning I went into town and saw Elizabeth and Bill Sullivan. Then I headed to La Hayes du Puits to try and find Hills 131 and 95. I wanted to lay flowers on the marker there in memory of one of our 508th veterans, Ray Wilson, who passed away the day I left for France. I stopped at the Mayor's office and they gave me directions, but when I got there I discovered they had given me instructions to Hill 122.

In the afternoon, I stopped by Henri Jean's for a cup of tea and a visit. He had printed out the picture of me and Otis from the San Antonio reunion along with my F&F write up of Otis' passing. He showed me pictures of the Neuville au Plain battlefield after the battle. It was strewn with German helmets and all kinds of combat debris.

While at Henri Jean's, I noticed he had a cattle branding iron hanging on his wall, such as is often used here in Texas. He told me he bought it on a trip to Mexico many years ago. He purchased it because the brand was the initials A R – the same initials as his father, Alexandre Renaud.

When I left Henri Jean's I decided to go down to Utah Beach. On the way there, I saw a little sign that said "Mer 3km", so I took it. I ended up at the sea wall and drove along it until I saw a German

bunker. I stopped and went inside it and took some photos. The sea was at low tide and it was quite beautiful.

I came back to Sharron's and we had a delicious dinner - meat and potato pie with peas.

Tuesday morning, May 31, I got up and went to town with Sharron. I went to the tourist office to get an audio guide for the Musee de Ciel that they have this year. They give you a combination GPS device/audio guide that takes you to 11 locations and tells you about the events that happened there.

I also made another attempt at locating Hill 95 near La Haye du Puits. The previous night, Sharron *asked a friend of hers for directions to the location and he very kindly emailed it to her along with a map.* I had no problem finding it. I laid flowers and a note in memory of Ray Wilson of B Co. 508th PIR who passed away May 21.

I later visited several of the memorials in the St. Mere Eglise area and photographed them.

I came back to town in the afternoon and saw Keith Nightingale and Dave McNeil at the Stop Bar. Also, saw Bill Sullivan and his friend, Finbar. Had a Calvados and went to the Super U to get some things for Sharron. Went back to Sharron's and had a delicious dinner. Howard called and I had a nice chat with him. Sharron told me that Bob Evans from England called. I met Bob a few years ago when we were both staying at the 6 Juin hotel. He wanted an 82nd Airborne t-shirt and I sent him one. He was not able to come over this year and called Sharron to find out if I was here. She told him I am staying with her, but was out at present. He wanted to thank me for sending the t-shirt. He called around 9:00 and we had a nice chat. Then Sharron and I went over to visit Howard.

Wednesday, I visited the Grand Camp Maisy gun batterie. When I first pulled up to the place, I thought this cannot possibly be it. There was just a trailer there, but the sign said, "Grand Camp Maisy gun batterie". I couldn't see anything from the parking lot. Boy was I wrong – there was plenty to see! It was all hidden. The trenches throughout the batterie must have been 8 feet deep. It was very interesting and I am glad I finally had the opportunity to see it.

Visited Dave Pike's memorial stone.

I called Herb Lahout to see where he and Pinky were. They were at La Fiere, so I went over and saw him and June. Pinky told us all about D-Day and the following three days there. We went to the hotel and the nurses, Dorothy Sinner and her sister, Ellan Orkin were there as well. Those ladies are so amazing. I first met them in Washington D.C. at a Veteran's Day event in 2008. Since then I have seen them once a year in Normandie - always brief visits. I was so surprised that these ladies, well into their 90's remembered my name!!

While all of us were sitting around the bar visiting and having a beer, some active duty soldiers came in met Pinky. He signed several autographs and visited with them.

Later, I ran into Ray Fary and Bob Burns in the restaurant. Had a nice chat with them and made plans to meet them the following day to go to St. Sauveur le Vicomte for the 80th AA plaque dedication. Bob Neal came in and I had a nice visit with him.

Later I went down to the square. Ran into Jerry Payne and Bill Sullivan. Later, I returned to Sharron's for dinner.

On Thursday, I met Ray Fary and Bob Burns at the Hotel St. Mere and we all caravanned to St Sauveur le Vicomte with several C-47 Club members. Saw Bobby Feuillye and it was really nice to

see him. The ceremony was very nice and there was a reception afterwards. Bobby conducted the ceremony. Ray Fary laid a wreath and Bob Burns and Gary Kissinger unveiled the new plaque, which was beautiful. Two 101st veterans, Lou Vecchi and Robert Noody of the 506th PIR, attended as well.

Bobby had the key to the house where the woodcarver who made the plaque lived. We went upstairs and saw a lot of his work including the replica of the Bayeux Tapestry. We all returned to the hotel for lunch. A cute incident occurred. I was sitting across the table from the two nurses, Ellan Orkin and Dorothy Sinner. When Dorothy had eaten her grilled cheese sandwich, she got up from the table, picked up her plate and headed towards the kitchen. I asked Ellan what she was doing. Ellan replied, *"She is going to the kitchen to thank them for her meal!"*

Later, I ran into Bob Neal and Jerry Payne down in the square.

On Friday, I met Pinky and June along with Herb Lahout and his friend, Andy. We went to Omaha Beach. We visited a few of the memorials and had lunch at the D-Day house by the Vierville draw.

In the evening, I met Bob Burns, Ray and Irene Fary and Gary Kissinger for dinner. We had pizza at a restaurant in the square.

After dinner, I went to the Stop Bar where I saw Emile Lacroix and the people he was traveling with. It was basically the same people he was with last year with a few additional ones. They were all from the Dayton, OH area: Mark Easton, Doug Barber, Julie (last name unknown) along with veterans: Herman "Zerg" Zenger (36th ID – Texas National Guard division), Don "Jake" Jakeway (508th PIR), and Jim "Pee Wee" Martin (506th PIR – Pee Wee was one of the characters portrayed in the Band of Brothers series). I had met Zerg last year along with Mark and Doug. I have wanted to meet Jake since I spoke with him on the telephone back in 2004 and he sent me a copy of his book, "Paratroopers Do or Die". I was very surprised that he remembered speaking with me and sending me the book. Verg and Pee Wee told me they were having a kissing contest to see who could kiss the most girls. Of course, I kissed both of them.

One of the highlights of this year's trip was witnessing the reunion between Jake and Sharron Pike that night at the Stop Bar. Sharron and Jake had not seen each other in 25 years. Jake was a dear friend of Sharron and her husband, Dave. Dave passed away in 2008. It brought tears to my eyes to see Sharron and Jake greet each other.

While at the Stop Bar, I saw General Huggins, of the 82nd Airborne Division. I introduced myself and thanked him for writing to the family of Otis Sampson when he passed away. Gen. Huggins met Otis at last year's 505th Reunion.

Saturday morning, June 4, Sharron and I went to Dick Cooper's place and had a nice visit with Dick and Caroline. Sharron, Dick, and I walked from there to the ceremony at Angoville au Plain, the site where two 501st medics, Robert Wright and Kenneth Moore, earned DSC's for their actions there. They set up an aid station in the church on D-Day and rendered aid to 80 soldiers (American and German) and one child. There are still blood stains on the pews inside the church.

In the afternoon, I went to the ceremony at Amfreville to pick up Ray and Irene Fary. We drove to the Chateau de l'Isle-Marie where Maurice Renaud was hosting the Maureen Kennedy Foundation awards ceremony. There were two recipients of the award: Operation Democracy, an American foundation and the AVA. It was a lovely affair and a wonderful way to remember a lovely and gracious woman who always honored the American veterans. It was during the cocktail party that I first ran into Christina Murphy. She is on the board of the foundation and had broken her leg in her

4th qualifying jump with the Liberty Jump team a few weeks before. Her doctor had told her not to travel, but in true Murphy fashion, she ignored him. After the awards ceremony, Col. (Ret.) Keith Nightingale gave a great talk about the fighting in the area of the chateau. He also read the letter from Alexandre Renaud to General de Gaulle asking that the paratroopers receive the French Fourragere. Maurice estimates the letter was written by his father as early as July, 1944. Tommy McArdle found a copy of the letter in the National Archives earlier in the year. Veterans who attended the event include: Zane Schlemmer (508th PIR and honorary President of the Maureen Kennedy Foundation), Pee Wee Martin (506th PIR), Duaine "Pinky" Pinkston and Fred Morgan (both of the 505th PIR), Zerg Zergler (36th ID), Don Jakeway (508th PIR) and Ray Fary (80th AA Btn).

After the awards ceremony, I drove Irene and Ray over to the Airborne Museum where there was another ceremony for the veterans. They each received a certificate and medal. Each veteran spoke as he received his certificate and medal. The ceremony was conducted by Henri-Jean and the Mayor of St. Mere Eglise.

The AVA banquet was held right after the Airborne Museum ceremony. It was a bit of a mess. They had to turn away 400 people who had bought tickets to attend, but there was not enough room for them. They also did not have enough room at the head table for all the veterans, but that turned out o.k. I had the privilege of sitting with June and Pinky Pinkston along with Jean Marie Lemoigne and his family.

After the banquet, we headed, once again, to the Stop Bar where I had a nice visit with Bill Sullivan, Howard Manoian, and Sharron Pike. Later, we watched the fireworks display and then went back to Sharron's house.

On Sunday, I went to the veteran's luncheon in the town hall where I sat with Pinky and June. They served a lovely lunch and then loaded us onto vans to go to La Fiere for the annual jump. Unfortunately, the weather was very bad – lots of rain – and the jump was cancelled. That is the first time I have seen a jump cancelled. They had tents set up and we stayed in there and visited until we learned the jump was cancelled. I met a B-24 pilot in there who had been shot down in 1943 and spent the remainder of the war in a POW camp. In two years of captivity, he lost 40 pounds. I remembered Zerg telling me that he was captured on February 2, 1945 and liberated (by his division – the 36th ID) on May 7. In three months as a POW, Zerg lost 50 pounds. He said the Germans fed him grass soup. Of course, the Air Corps guy was an officer. Don't know if that made a difference in treatment.

Next, we went over to Iron Mike for another ceremony and the unveiling of the 1st Btn 505 Medics memorial. The mayor of St. Mere Eglise spoke and Gen. Huggins spoke. Finally, came the unveiling. Pinky and Fred were escorted to the memorial which was covered by a parachute. They unveiled the memorial. Everyone crowded around and I was unable to get good photos. After the ceremony ended and people started to leave, I asked Pinky and Fred to go over to the memorial so I could get a good photo for the Panther.

Upon returning to St. Mere Eglise, there was yet another ceremony at the Hotel de Ville. It was the Ceremony of Peace. It was freezing cold, but I thought this was the best ceremony of all that I attended this year. The speeches were great and towards the end, they played the national anthems of five countries: France, the U.S.A., the U.K., Canada, and Germany.

That evening, down at the Stop Bar, I ran into Kevin Distel and Reg Jens. Reg was also staying at Sharron's house. Another big high light of this year's trip was meeting Reg. What a remarkable man. That guy knows history! (So does Kevin.) Reg is a Belgian tour operator who specializes in

Bastogne. Reg and Kevin were talking about their plans to get together the next day and I asked if I could tag along.

Monday morning, June 6, Reg and I had breakfast and picked up Kevin. We started the day going to Las Haras where Otis Sampson and John Perozzi fought. Kevin had reconnaissance photos of the area from just after the battle. One could clearly see where all the mortars had hit. It was quite interesting to me. We walked along the road using the aerial photo from 1944 as our guide. They showed me the approximate position where Otis and John would have had their mortar set up.

We also visited General Falley's HQ, but the gates were closed. I took them to Dave Pike's *memorial stone up on Hill 30 and showed them where his ashes were spread*. Sadly, Dave passed away in 2008. Kevin and Reg then took me to several 101st sites and battlefields: the Marmion Farm, General Taylor's HQ, Brecourt Manor, the "other" Hill 30, Purple Heart lane and the site of LTC Robert Cole's bayonet charge, the WXYZ complex, and the General Pratt Memorial where we attended the unveiling of a new monument. We ended the day by having a wonderful dinner at a restaurant called Le Grand Hard. Spending the day touring the 101st battle areas with Kevin and Reg was like getting a history lesson. This day was truly the highlight of my trip.

Tuesday, June 7 was my last day in St. Mere Eglise. In the morning I went to visit my French friends, Paulette and Michel Lecambaye. Tommy McArdle was there as well and he told me that he had been to General Falley's headquarters that morning and the gates were open. Apparently, the property has been purchased and it will be turned into a B&B. I decided to go back over there and see the place. When I arrived, the gates were open, but no one was there. When I visited the site several years ago, the windows were all boarded up. This time the boards had been removed and I was able to see inside, however the doors were locked. I was able to go inside the chapel, however and I took some pictures in there.

Later in the afternoon, I telephoned my friend, Pascal Hainaut, and made arrangements to meet him in the square in St. Mere Eglise. I had a gift for him and wanted to give it to him prior to leaving.

I spent the evening at Sharron's. She had recordings of some 508th veterans that we listened to. About 30 years ago, Dave corresponded with several veterans through tape recordings. They were later put on CDs. We listened to recordings of Jake Jakeway and Ralph Burris.

During the evening, Sharron revealed to me that she had some cracked ribs. There were three men from Nottingham staying at her home as well as Reg and myself. Two days before, one of the boys had had too much to drink and came up behind her to give her a big hug. He accidentally cracked her ribs. She was really in a lot of pain.

I had planned to try and get off early on June 8, but didn't. Sharron was in a lot of pain from her cracked ribs, so I went to the pharmacy in town to get her some pain medication.

I finally took off around 10:30 or so. My GPS was on the fritz, but I was certain I knew how to get to Paris. I got screwed up in Caen and it must have taken me an hour to get back on the right road. I finally made it and arrived in Paris in the afternoon.

I checked into the hotel and went up to my room for a bit. I came back down and in the lobby were Ray and Irene Fary, Gary Kissinger, and Jerry Payne. We had a couple of beers while waiting for the restaurant to open. I was so tired I fell asleep in my chair. We had a nice dinner and visit. I went to bed early and returned to America on the 9th.

Ellen Peters

From: Bos930@aol.com
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2011 4:14:59 PM
Subject: Interview

Hi everyone. FYI. Today is the 67th anniversary of "D" Day, June 6, 1944. I lived through it. This morning I was interviewed by Richard Randall, radio 740. Then he did a 20 minute audio and visual interview, which he said he would put on his web site. This afternoon, I was interviewed by Matt Stafford, in my apartment, for Channel 5 T-V. He filmed about an hour, but I know that will probably be reduced to a few minutes at best. It should be on the 5 or 6 o'clock news and then again at 10:00 pm. Hope you can see it. Matt said it would be put on file and you could google it at "Duke Boswell interview. June 6, 2011. Channel 5. I just got a call from Dr. Dobson's secretary. He is not with Focus on the Family, but has his own show. She asked for permission to broadcast an interview that I did at Focus several years ago. I agreed. It should be broadcast Tuesday, 7th at 9:30 on station 100.7. When this was first broadcast, Tom Marsh was riding around in his truck in Miss. or La. He heard the broadcast, recognized my voice, and called Ralph, in Georgia. Unfortunately, Ralph could not get it on the radio. I hope he will hear it this time. Airborne, Duke

Duke-

Way to go. You have been a busy paratrooper today.

<http://www.newsfirst5.com/news/local-veteran-remembers-invading-on-d-day/>

<http://www.kvor.com/showdj.asp?DJID=47799>

Here is the link to the Richard Randall radio show for today on D Day. Scroll down to June 6th link. It is 47 minutes long and Duke comes on around 35 minutes in. It includes an FDR recording of DDay message to the country and Reagan's Pointe Du Hoc speech from 1984.

Barry O

Below is the text from Duke's interview:

June 6th, 1944 Allied forces stormed the beach of Normandy, France, fighting soldiers from Nazi Germany.

"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things," that's the first line of a plaque in the home of retired Army Major Duke Boswell. It rings especially true in his home because he's seen war in some of its ugliest moments; but even then, he says they knew what they were fighting for 67 years ago on D-Day.

"The sea was just covered with ships as far as you could see," Boswell recalls. "And the sky was full of planes as far as you could see."

"I thought to myself how can we lose with this many troops, and this kind of force."

Boswell -- who forged his parents signatures when he was 16 to join the Army -- had made two combat jumps as a paratrooper before in WWII, but he was about to jump into the largest military invasion of all time.

"We realized it would be the biggest battle we'd ever been in, and we realized the consequences -- that this was hoping to be the beginning of the downfall of Hitler's empire," says Boswell. "We did win, but it was a costly battle of course."

"I hate to think what it might have been if we had lost and Hitler and the Japanese had won."

Looking back at awards received through the years, Boswell says he's often wondered why he made it home, but others didn't. He says he realizes now that it's just the way it happened; they were all doing their job. For Boswell and other soldiers, he says the reason for their job was crystal clear.

"If you ask any American soldier why he was over there I think his answer would have been, I'd rather fight here than back in America," says Boswell.

The memory he hopes people take away, 67 years later, is that this is something we never want to happen again.

News First 5

CONCLUSION
By
Col. (Ret) Keith Nightingale

The Normandy invasion was the largest single military operation this planet has ever seen. Its significance could be the greatest single event in our civilization to date. The mass of men and material probably could not be replicated other than the sense of purpose. And this was but a small portion of the much larger efforts going on elsewhere-the Pacific, the Mediterranean and Russia. Despite its rather minor resourcing compared to the whole, its outcome would largely determine the future of the entire effort.

The passage of time has done little to diminish the significance of the invasion. If anything, its magnitude in human, physical and strategic import has been better appreciated. Without Normandy, there would likely have been a far different Europe and United States than we know today.

The appreciation of Normandy can be felt in two ways-the People and the Place. The People were the veterans who landed here and the civilian population they liberated. The veterans returned yearly to visit and to walk the long white marble rows of the Cemetery at Omaha and commune with their buddies who couldn't go back home. They walk the terrain where they fought and mingle with the ghosts in their mind.

Initially, they came in droves and represented all the ranks from senior generals to privates. Now the ranks are almost empty with an occasional ex-17 or 18 year old private *reminiscing with much younger visitors*. If they listen carefully, the tourists will learn something not written and sense the deep human emotions felt by each soldier who served that day. They all knew they were part of something of over-arching significance and were exceptionally proud that chance placed them there. Their memories are primarily of the soldiers with whom they served but there is an underlay of the immense stage on which they played. For one brief moment, all were stars and all were heroes-never to be repeated. These were ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

The other people were the French whom they liberated. This is a part of France that is far from the culture and lights of Hollywood France. It is not Paris or Marseille or the warm wine hills of Burgundy and Bordeaux. But it is France and they were the first to be free that cold windy 6 June 1944. And they have not forgotten. A visit to Point Du Hoc, Omaha Beach, St Mere Eglise, Pegasus Bridge, Ouistreham and the various National cemeteries will find copious numbers of local Normans and school children paying homage to the debt they feel they owe.

It is a sincere visit. If uniformed soldiers are spotted or the obvious veteran, the children will gather around and ask questions and quiz each other on arcane D Day facts. They care as did their parents and grandparents. It is unlike the rest of France.

The Invasion is current events. The elementary school in St Mere Eglise and the area High Schools all teach of the invasion and its significance for their predecessors. Every D Day, hundreds of children present songs and poems at each ceremonial location in honor of the soldiers who fought and died there. Every small *village in the peninsula that saw action has a memorial club and celebrates each anniversary with a town remembrance followed by a lunch or dinner with the modern-day US, British and German soldiers*. If there is a vet available, he will be royally treated, given a front row seat and asked to participate in the wreath laying to the monument that each town has for the specific unit and personality that liberated them that day.

Today, the anniversary period is so huge that a large part of the French military and foreign service is engaged. Over a million visitors crowd into the area during the week of events to observe the huge array of memorial ceremonies. These range from the President of France at Utah Beach to the President of the United States at Omaha-with hundreds of lesser stops at all the small villages and isolated farm yards where soldiers came-some to depart and many to stay behind. They are graciously and sincerely remembered.

The city of St Mere Eglise, arguably the first town liberated on D Day, has done two things that epitomize the depth of feeling and generosity of spirit toward their liberators. The city heraldry, drawn literally some thousand years ago, was changed in 1946 to reflect the recent events. One of the stained glass windows in the church, made famous by the movie, *The Longest Day*, depicts the new town seal. It is that of an 82d Airborne paratrooper descending from the sky into a burning town square.

Every year, the town hosts active duty and reserve soldiers en masse. Beginning with the 40th anniversary, the town has accepted the soldiers into their homes as billets and fed them for the entire period—usually a full week. A soldier cannot buy a drink or a meal without a French family paying the tab. Recently, this has included airborne soldiers from England and Germany—now a NATO Partner. St Mere Eglise would be considered a poor rural small town of no particular note but for the immensity of its spirit and generosity. This is not a commercial enterprise. It is led by no one but by everyone.

The physical place of Normandy is equally unique. The population of Place descends from Caesar's Legions and Viking raiders. They are quick to point out they are not Metropolitan French. They are hefty, strong, hard-working farmers and small business people with strong appetites and equally generous hearts. The relative poverty and isolation of the land has caused much of the battle sites to be near exactly as they were on D Day. There is no parking lot covering Antietam here.

The route up the cliffs to the right of Omaha taken by a platoon of desperate Rangers is easily spotted as are the trench works and bunkers once filled by the 352d German infantry division. If you walk to the edge of the cliff at Point Du Hoc and look back, you will see what ISgt Lem Lomell saw as he led the 2d Ranger Battalion up those cliffs. The only difference at Brecourt Manor, famous for The Band of Brothers, is the missing artillery pieces. Precisely where they were, is instantly recognizable. La Fiere Bridge, the location of what the Official US Military Historian called "the bloodiest combat per square foot in the war," is almost exactly as it was less the casualties covering most of the visible ground. At Neuville au Plaine, one can precisely see the ground and its effect on combat as Lt Turner Turnbull and his platoon held off a regiment the morning of 6 June 1944 and in so doing, saved the 82d Airborne.

Throughout this land, there are isolated markers, memorials and plaques. Each indicating a particular unit or persons who fought and died for that land so far away from their own. These were placed by both US military and local French over time. The Normans now tend them full time. Throughout the year they clean the grass, wash the monument and place flowers by it. Many are in very isolated, hard to reach places—Cpl DeGlopper, KIA, won a Congressional Medal of Honor at this site 8 June 1944. LTC Timmes occupied this orchard 6 June 1944. PFC Marcus Heim won a Distinguished Service Cross stopping three German Tanks. Aid Station 505PIR 6-9 June 1944. Largest military cemetery in the world 1944-1946.

These monuments are largely lost to all but the family that own the land. Regardless, when found by the dedicated tourist, they will be clean, repainted, re-mortared and usually with flowers. Very few people will know that but that is irrelevant to the family that tends the ground where others once stood.

The lack of physical interference since 1944 allows the visitor to become much more deeply engaged by events that occurred at a given piece of land. One can easily visualize where the combatants were, how the ground effected the action and where casualties were bound to lie. No one who visits Normandy leaves without knowing that this is a special place, made so by special people. Ordinary people but with something that caused extraordinary service. As you walk with the ghosts, listen to them, learn something—both about them and about yourself.

Congratulations to Col (Ret.) Keith Nightingale who was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame on July 27. Below is a listing of all the awardees and Keith's specific citation:

The 19th Annual (2011) Ranger Hall of Fame (RHOF) Ceremony is at 1:30pm, July 27, 2011 at the Bill Heard Theatre in Columbus, Georgia.

MG(R) Eldon A. Bargewell
LTC (R) Donald C. Bowman
LTC (R) Gary E. Dolan
CSM(R) Steven R. England
1SG (R) Sean T. Kelly
COL(R) Paul R. Longgear
COL(R) Keith M. Nightingale
CSM(R) Luis C. Palacios
CSM(R) Jim R. Pickering
1SG(R) Bonifacio M. Romo
SGM(R) Robert E. Spencer
LTC(R) Stanley Wawrzyniak

Colonel (Retired) Keith M. Nightingale began his military career (1965-1993) as a Distinguished Military Graduate from Claremont McKenna College's Army ROTC Program on June 6th 1965 and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer.

COL (R) Nightingale was a member of the founding cadre of the modern Ranger Battalion concept. He later commanded an independent airborne battalion task force in Italy with a broad North American Treaty Organization mission, a battalion task force in the 82nd Airborne Division, the First Ranger Battalion and the Ranger Training Brigade. His experiences in these commands included the liberation of Grenada, the security reconstitution support to Panama and a variety of special operations missions. As the RTB Commander, COL (R) Nightingale developed much of the present Army Ranger Training Program and initiated the Snowcap Model Training Program for Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) personnel assigned to operational missions in Latin America.

COL (R) Nightingale supervised a stand-alone Joint staff organization of 68 personnel including military, Customs, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) personnel as the Director of the Department of Defense (DOD) Counter-drug Task Force in Latin America. The organization, designed and managed by COL (R) Nightingale, was responsible for developing and executing a regional interdiction attack on the drug industry combining U.S. and Host Nation assets. His responsibilities included planning and executing the DOD and Customs Aviation Support to the counter-drug effort as well as supervision of the Andean Ridge Security Assistance Program and the Escobar Task Force. COL (R) Nightingale was the key CINCSO coordinator for DOD in the pursuit of Pablo Escobar which had a successful conclusion.

COL (R) Nightingale's military staff assignments included U.S. Special Operations Command, the emerging Joint Special Operations Command and the Special Operations Directorate of the Army Staff. Key programs included participating in the planning and execution for the Iran rescue attempt (Operation EAGLE CLAW), Achille Lauro resolution, the Dozier Kidnapping, TWA Hijacking resolution and the MIA (Vietnam/Laos) and Beirut Hostage Programs. Additional responsibilities included developing and executing the original zero based special operations budget exceeding \$300M USD. COL (R) Nightingale also served as Special Assistant of the first Commander-In-Chief, U.S. Special Operations Command and to US CincSouth.

COL (R) Nightingale is a graduate of U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (1976), United States Army War College (1987), Airborne and Ranger Schools, MATA Course and DLI (Vietnamese). He is a member of the U.S. Army Society Of Vietnamese Rangers and a Life member of the 75th Ranger Association. His military awards and honors include: Defense Superior Service Medal, Three Legions of Merit, Five Defense Meritorious Service Medals, Humanitarian Service Medal (Iran) and Four Bronze Stars With Valor, Vietnamese Medal of Honor, CIB, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, Jordanian jump wings and the BDQ Badge.

Upon COL (R) Nightingale's retirement from the military in 1993, he was employed as a corporate officer for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) to the U.S. Customs Service for contraband detection systems in the United States as well as the governments of Argentina, Greece and Jordan. He established the Corporate Due Diligence Program for high risk area employment and travel abroad. Following 9/11, COL (R) Nightingale coordinated all Corporate Homeland Defense initiatives for Ports, Borders and Force Asset Protection. COL (Ret) Nightingale was the Corporate POC for numerous technical support assets provided the City and State of New York and USG on the World Trade Center site.

COL (R) Nightingale supervised the corporate contract with the interagency Technical Management Organization (TMO) for the Office of Special Technology (OST) for direct support to the U.S. Special Operations Command, working closely with research laboratories, U.S. Interagency Personnel, Special Operations Forces (SOF) tactical elements and law enforcement entities.

COL (R) Nightingale as Corporate Senior VP/Director, International Business Administration and High Risk Area Coordinator (HRAC), is responsible for the security programs for 40,000 employees and 650 expatriates. He advises senior executives and board members on sensitive international issues, as well as manages the corporate physical risk programs, international due diligence programs and oversees sensitive classified programs on behalf of the Corporate Board Special Projects Committee overseeing more than six thousand classified contracts-many of which are in direct support of Rangers and SOF forces in the GWOT.

As International Business Administrator, COL (R) Nightingale supervises the International staff, oversees the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) process and insures corporate compliance with all U.S. policy regarding International business. He has administratively supervised over 1B\$ annual revenue in international business without an FCPA violation. COL (R) Nightingale is responsible for real time travel tracking of all SAIC employees abroad – averaging 1,000 travelers a day including in excess of 700 in the GWOT combat zones.

COL (R) Nightingale has been a distinguished lecturer to the Department Of State Crisis Response Program For Foreign Cabinet-Level Policy Members.

COL (R) Nightingale is responsible for corporate-wide support to DOD Special Operations Forces (SOF) and international operational support to US law enforcement entities. He is actively working with a variety of U.S. government elements in developing a coherent national investment strategy for Homeland Defense affecting SOF and law enforcement agencies, requiring extensive congressional liaison and the direct support of a variety of customers in the SOF and Government community.

Final Jumps:



CREWS, Jesse Albert, 86, of Mechanicsville, Va., died August 8, 2010. He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Sarah Wood Crews; daughter, Kathleen M. Medwid and husband, Steve; grandchildren, Kathleen Medwid, Nick Medwid and wife, Kathy, Alex Medwid; and great-granddaughter, Peyton Medwid; three brothers, Eugene W. Crews and wife, Grace H. Crews, of Richmond, Va., Cabell L. Crews and wife, Margaret E. Crews, of Lynchburg, Va. and James Dabney Crews Sr. and wife, June B. Crews, of Buckingham, Va.; as well as many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Harry A. and Bessie S. Crews of Buckingham, Va.; his sister, Christine C. Eades of Richmond, Va.; and his brother, Houston H. Crews of Buckingham, Va. Mr. Crews was born in Buckingham, Va. and served in [World War II](#) in Europe in the 82nd Airborne Division and was later called back to active duty in the [Korean War](#), where he served in the 780th Field Artillery. After serving his country in the U.S. Military, he attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), where he obtained both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Agriculture. He worked until retirement at the Virginia State Federal Surplus Property Agency. He was a longtime, active member of Mulberry Grove Baptist Church in Buckingham, Va., where he served as a Deacon and held many other church offices. He was a member and past master of Buckingham Masonic Lodge #242 A.F. & A.M. He was also a member of the Richmond Scottish Rite Bodies and the ACCA Temple Shrine, where he was in the ACCA Chanters. He served as a volunteer barber at the Masonic Homes of Virginia in Richmond, Va. Family will receive visitors on Monday, August 9, 2010 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Dunkum Funeral Home in Dillwyn, Va. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, August 10, 2010 at 11 a.m. at Mulberry Grove Baptist Church in Buckingham, Va. Interment services with Masonic graveside rites immediately following in church cemetery.

Sadly, Sarah passed away on August 20.

From: [John Jackson](#)

Date: 8/11/2011 3:33:47 PM

To: jimspix@charter.net

Subject: Death

Jim, You probably know by now but just in case, we lost another trooper on Monday 8th Aug. His name is Cecil DePriest. Was in the 505 in the Bulge. A very good friend of mine. Address; 2117 Barterbrook Road, Staunton, Va. Visitation Friday and full Military funeral on [Saturday](#). His daughter's email-martha.bushman@gmail.. Airborne, John Jackson

Mon, June 6, 2011 2:48:34 PM

Henry Scott

From: Betsy Scott

<bscott0216@gmail.com>

Add to Contacts

To: ceptx@sbcglobal.net

Dear Ellen,

I'm sad to report that my husband, Henry Scott, died on April 26, 2011.

Please remove him from THE PANTHER mailing list ([17 Signal Hill Road - Brookfield CT 06804](#))

Thank you,

Betsy Scott

2011 Reunion Information

For our 2011 reunion, we will be joining the Family and Friends of the 508th PIR Assn. and heading to Ft. Benning, GA. The dates will be October 12 – 16, 2011. Our reunion schedule has changed a bit from what was shown in the previous Diablo. The revised schedule is below.

Wednesday, October 12 – Registration Day

Thursday, October 13:

-9:00 AM--Welcoming Breakfast;

-1:00 PM --Visit to the "Little White House" in Warm Springs, GA. where President Roosevelt used the hot springs medicinal properties to help manage polio. It is also where he was at the time of his death.

Friday, October 14:

-8:00 AM – Visit to Ft. Benning We will be attending the graduation of the latest class of paratroopers where our WWII veterans will pin the wings on the new paratroopers. We will also have an Airborne training demonstration.

-11:30 AM – We will head over to the officer's club for lunch..

-1:00 PM – A visit to the Infantry Museum

Saturday, October 15 – Veteran's forum and General Membership meeting. Banquet.. Col. Brian Mennes, commander of 4th BCT will be our speaker.

Sunday, October 16 – Departure

Call For Dues!

Dues for the new fiscal year of Family and Friends of the 505th PIR Assn. were due beginning **July 1**.

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

If you would like to submit something for publication in the Panther Newsletter, kindly make your submission to eeptx@sbcglobal.net or Ellen Peters

3630 Townsend Dr.

Dallas, TX 75229-3805

Registration Form
2011 Reunion
Family and Friends and 505th RCT Assn; Family and Friends 508th PIR Assn.
October 12 – 16, 2011, Columbus, GA

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 North; 2800 Manchester Expressway; Columbus, GA 31904 by calling 877-410-6667 (toll free) or making them on the web site: www.holidayinn.com/columbus-north. Be sure to mention that you are with the 505th and 508th reunion to get our group rate of \$79 per night. Reservations must be made by September 21, 2011 to receive this rate. This rate includes a full southern buffet breakfast in the hotel restaurant. The hotel is equipped with handicapped accessible rooms if needed and has a shuttle service to and from the Columbus airport.

**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"

Thank you

Special thanks to Jennie McKeage, Alberta West, and Mark Kurisko for their very kind and generous donations to our Family and Friends of the 505 RCT Association.

Books

John Sparry's book about his grandfather, Mark Alexander, **Jump Commander** is available at www.amazon.com or for an autographed copy, call John at 408-637-8427. Price is \$32.00 including shipping.

I received the below email from Keni Thomas. Keni was the Airborne Man of the Year at the 2011 Airborne Awards. He was one of the Rangers who fought in Mogadishu in the famous "Black Hawk Down" battle and can be seen interviewed in the documentary on the subject. Keni is also a musician. Prior to receiving his "Man of the Year" award, Keni sang a beautiful song he wrote entitled "Last Band of Brothers" (available on iTunes). Keni has written a book on his experience in Mogadishu experience entitled "Get It On!".

Could use your help

From: Keni Thomas

<kenithomas@aol.com>

To: eeptx@sbcglobal.net

Hey Ellen,

It's Keni Thomas. I know its been a little while since we talked, but I thought about you because I sure could use your help. I've got a new book coming out in Oct and I'm reaching out to as many folks as I can to spread the word.

It's called GET IT ON! What it means to lead the way. It follows the story of my squad during the battle of mogadishu which you know as the fight in Black Hawk Down which in and of itself is a very inspiring story. But mostly what I hope you get out of it is just how important you are as a person who sets the example for others to follow. You are being counted on by the people on your left and on your right. I'm very proud of the book and I think its gonna motivate a lot of people.

Pre Order Get It On Today – www.premierecollectibles.com. In the search box type Get It On.

That being said, I can't do it alone which is why I'm asking you for your help. Maybe you have some ideas on how we can reach the folks in your community or workplace. For every two pre-orders we get the publisher has agreed to send one for free to our military serving overseas. So I want to maximize that offer. If you think you have a way to help, please let me know and I can send you some more info on the book.

Again, hope all is well! You are appreciated.

Godspeed,

Keni

John Cebellas of the Benevidez-Patterson chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association has invited us to have our 2012 Reunion at their Sun City "All Airborne" Fiesta IV in El Paso. The 508th F&F Assn. has already accepted the invitation for their 2012 Reunion. The 508th had their 2009 reunion there and had a wonderful time. To follow is the invitation letter from John. We will be voting on this in Columbus, so please be thinking about if this is something you would like to do.

**Roy P. Benavidez - Robert Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter
82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc.**



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Tel: (915) 562-9969 Fax: (915) 566-7089
E-mail: bp82cmdctr@bpaac.org
WEBSITE: www.bpaac.org



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OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

February 18, 2011

TO: Ms. Katie Troccoli, President
F & F, 505th RCT Assn.
E-mail: katiet1@sbcglobal.net

Dwaine "Pinky" Pinkston, President
WWII, 505th RCT Assn.
1223 10th Circle, SE
Largo, Florida
33771-3136

Mike Briseño, President
504th PIR Assn.
E-mail: mibpi@aol.com

Dearest Katie, Dwaine & Mike,

The paratroopers, family & associates of the Roy P. Benavidez-Robert Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter will sponsor SUN CITY "ALL AIRBORNE" FIESTA VI in El Paso, Texas from July 4, through July 8, in 2012.

We have received a firm commitment from the F & F of the 508th and would like to extend an invitation to the personnel of the 504th and 505th as we are hoping to sponsor one grand event for the personnel of all of our organizations.

Should your organization wish to join us, we will assure that accommodations are available for your unit to hold separate meetings or gatherings, should you so desire.

We are forwarding the Schedule of Events (tentative) for your review. Once the schedule has been finalized you will also be forwarded a copy of the finalized document.

For now, we would like to make available to you (and the members of your unit) a photographic slide show of events sponsored during FIESTA V in 2009. Please visit: <http://bp82cmdctr.phanfare.com/> to view the slide show and get an idea of some of the events that will be available for your enjoyment during FIESTA VI.

Should your organization plan to attend, please notify us of your request for meeting space and the proposed time, so that your individual events may be added to the final schedule of events.

The (proposed) Schedule of Events follows:

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES (PROPOSED)

MONDAY JUNE 25, 2012

0900 - 1000 Sun City Fiesta Proclamation @ County Commissioner Court meeting

TUESDAY JUNE 26, 2012

0900 - 1000 Sun City Fiesta 2012 Proclamation @ City Council meeting

WEDNESDAY - JULY 4, 2012

0800 - 1000 Hospitality Room - Coffee, Juice, Fruit, Pastries
1000 - 1600 Tours on Request
1200 - 1600 Tour to Old Messilla
1300 - 2400 Hospitality Room
1900 - 2100 Mariachis & Folklorico Dancers Jose Luis Garcia & Letty Rublcava
740-6217

THURSDAY - JULY 5, 2012

0900 - 1600 Registration
0800 - 1000 Hospitality Room - Coffee, Juice, Fruit, Pastries
1300 - 1430 Meeting with National President
1500 - 2400 Hospitality Room
1900 - 2030 Entertainment (Mariachis) & Disco
1000 - 1700 Tours on request * (Must sign up)**
0800 - 1600 505 Airborne Activities
0800 - 1600 508 Airborne Activities
*****Tours on request include but are not limited to: El Paso Museum of Art, Fort Bliss Artillery Museum, Mt. Frankin Tramway , War Eagles Museum, Selected Merchants and shopping malls**

FRIDAY - JULY 6, 2012

0900 - 1600 Registration
0800 - 1000 Hospitality Room - Coffee, Juice, Pastries, Fruit
1000 - 1130 VA Benefits Session
1000 - 1600 Tours on request (Must sign up)
1130 - 1300 Welcoming Luncheon
1400 - 2400 Hospitality Room
1700 - 1800 Ballet Folklorico
1900 - 2000 Mariachis
2000 - 2030 Benavidez-Patterson Tequila Shooters
0800 - 1600 505 Airborne Activities
0800 - 1600 508 Airborne Activities

SATURDAY – JULY 7, 2012

0900 - 1600 Registration
0800 - 1000 Hospitality Room - Coffee, Juice, Pastries, Fruit
1000 - 1200 Ladies Social
1000 - 1600 Tours on request
1400 - 1700 Airborne Demonstration a War Eagles Museum
1800 - 2400 Hospitality Room
1800 - 2300 VIVA El Paso (No Host Event) At Mckelligon Canyon
0800 - 1600 505 Airborne Activities
0800 - 1600 508 Airborne Activities

SUNDAY - JULY 8, 2012

0800 - 1000 Hospitality Room - Coffee, Pastries, Juice, Fruit
1000 - 1600 Tours on request
1400 - 1600 Tigua Dancers & Matachines
1800 - 1900 Social Hour (Cash Bar)
1900 - 0100 Dinner Dance (Sierra Band)
0800 - 1600 505 Airborne Activities
0800 - 1600 508 Airborne Activities

MONDAY - JULY 9, 2012

0900 - 1200 Farewell Menudo Breakfast at Partida Hall

Respectfully,

JOHN CEBALLOS, M.S.

Public Information Officer/Newsletter Editor

Roy P. Benavidez-Robert Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter

82nd Airborne Division Association, Incorporated

2608 Fort Boulevard El Paso, Texas 79930-2116

Personal E-mail: JohCeb@msn.com

Personal Cell Phone: (915) 240-8104

PROGRAM OPERATION MARKET GARDEN 17-20 SEPTEMBER 2011

SEPTEMBER 17th



Annual Monument Tour Groesbeek Airborne Friends

Location: St Anthony Church, St Antoniusweg 2, 6562 GM Groesbeek

09.45 hrs: Arrival guests
10.00 hrs: Ceremony Capt Stefanich Monument, Church Tower
10.30 hrs: Ceremony Halifax Monument, St Jansberg
11.00 hrs: Ceremony General Gavin Monument
11.30 hrs: Ceremony Den Heuvel
12.00 hrs: Coffee and Tea



Contact: Marco Cillessen, 0031-6-3404504 mcgrb@hetnet.nl

Ceremony Thompson Bridge Grave

Location: near bridge, Mars va Wijthdijk 1, 5361 MA Grave

19.00 hrs: Opening of a permanent exhibition in two WWII Casemates near the bridge



Unveiling new Boulder of the Liberation Route. **Liberation**
<http://www.liberationroute.com/> **ROUTE**

Contact: Jan Timmermans, 0031-6-20290469 jantimmermans@zonnet.nl

Ceremony Lt Foley (508) Monument Beek Ubbergen

Location: H Bartolomeus Church, Kerkberg 1, 6573 DN Beek Ubbergen

19.00 hrs: Church Service in Holy Bartolomeus Church
20.00 hrs: Ceremony Lt Foley Monument



Contact: Wim Warmerdam, 0031-24-3603307 w.warmerdam2@upcmail.nl

SEPTEMBER 18th

Re-enactment Jumps from C-47

Location: Wylersbaan 8, 6561 KT Groesbeek

11.00 hrs: Parachute Group Holland

13.00 hrs: Liberator Jump Team

SEPTEMBER 20th

Program Remember the day 20 September 1944 (Waal Crossing)

Location: De klif, Pijlpuntstraat 1, 6679 DJ Oosterhout (Nijmegen)

Morning

10.15 hrs: Welcome

10.20 hrs: Play (children)

10.35 hrs: Word (Jeanne Melchers)

11.05 hrs: Questions asked (children)

11.35 hrs: Poems (children)

11.40 hrs: National Anthems

11.45 hrs: Lunch for those invited

13.00 hrs: Departure to monument



Afternoon

13.15 hrs: Arrival at monument

13.30 hrs: Arrival Loco Mayor of Nijmegen
and representative US Embassy

13.40 hrs: Word (Loco Mayor of Nijmegen)

14.00 hrs: Poems (children)

14.15 hrs: Flag raising

14.25 hrs: Wreath laying

14.35 hrs: Prayer

14.45 hrs: Peace pigeons

Contact: Peter van Afferen / Theo Adriaansen 0031-24-3489955 / 0031-6-40537273

theo.adriaansen@wanadoo.nl

**Note: The Waal Crossing monument at the
Waal river has been temporarily removed
due to the construction of a new road bridge**

