

505 R.C.T. WWII

Regimental Combat Team



3630 Townsend Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75229

DATED MATERIAL

# The Panther

## DECEMBER, 2011





## Message from the President:



### From Katie Troccoli, President of Family and Friends 505<sup>th</sup> RCT Assn:

A Good time was had by all! What a great reunion we had at Fort Benning. A huge thank you to everyone for participating! A very special thank you, to Troy and his wife for their efforts. To Ellen, Jim, Rock, and everyone who helped in the planning. It was wonderful to bring the 505 and 508 together.

As I write this, we just celebrated Veterans Day. A wonderful time to give thanks to our Veterans for our freedom. The words "All gave some, some gave all", remind us of the sacrifice given on our behalf. Thank you.

Soon the winds of winter will be on us. My Dad, Bob Dumke, hated the cold. He would say "Someone is suffering out there". His thoughts were in the Ardennes Forest during the Battle of the Bulge. The holiday season, would bring Dad's story of Christmas Eve in the battle. The front was moving forward and he, along with others from Battalion Headquarters had to ask a family to leave their home. A mother, father, and two small children, out into the snow and cold on Christmas Eve. They took with them only what they could carry. Dad would quietly, tell one of us kids this story. Each time, with tears in his eyes, and cracking in his voice. Even though, he would be quiet about it. We all knew it was coming. No one in the room would have a dry eye. He knew it was for the families safety. It broke his heart, and he carried it with him forever forward. We pray they found safety and comfort.

With the thought of the holidays before us, I send my warm affection, love and hugs to you, my Airborne Family. May your holidays be all that you could ever wish for! God Bless!

Airborne, All The Way!

Katie Dumke Troccoli, a paratrooper's daughter

## 2011 REUNION REPORT

This year, the 505 RCT Veterans Assn., Family and Friends of the 505<sup>th</sup> RCT Assn., and Family and Friends of the 508<sup>th</sup> PIR Assn. joined together in Columbus, GA for the annual reunion. It was a huge success.

Having attended reunions of both regiments, I combined traditions of each regiment as best I could. The 508<sup>th</sup> typically has a "Welcoming Breakfast" while the 505<sup>th</sup> has a "Memorial Luncheon" where the president lists the names of veterans we have lost since the prior reunion. On Thursday morning, October 12, we combined the two events and had a "Memorial Breakfast". Katie Troccoli listed the names of the 505<sup>th</sup> veterans we have lost since last year's reunion and Troy Palmer, President Family and Friends of the 508<sup>th</sup> PIR Assn. listed the names of the 508<sup>th</sup> veterans. Troy told a very moving story of one of the 508<sup>th</sup> veterans on the list and his father who served in the 508<sup>th</sup> PIR. A few veterans from each regiment stood up and told stories of their own of their buddies who made their final jumps in the past year. I heard from a couple of 505<sup>th</sup> veterans who said they preferred the Memorial Breakfast to the luncheon and I was very pleased to hear this. Several 508<sup>th</sup> veterans commented on how much they appreciated the reading of the names. Katie and Troy conducted the service. Father Steve Jeselnick, our new Association Chaplain, forwarded a beautiful prayer for the event. The text reads as follows:

"Let us pray,  
Heavenly Father,



We lift up our hearts to you this day in thanksgiving for our time together and to remember our beloved comrades-in-arms who have gone home to their eternal rest.

During this weekend reunion, bless our spirits with joy and laughter. We treasure all those who have traveled here and these wonderful friendships, and we bless our friends who could not attend.

Lord, watch over all our Family & Friends of the 505th and 508th. Give them health and your abiding spirit. Watch over all men and women deployed to dangerous and isolated missions, and their families who wait for their safe return.

We pray for our beloved dead, especially those who have died during the past year. We honor those men from our 505th and 508th and all those men and women who have given their lives from World War II, Korea, the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan. They left their families to serve their country and the mission of freedom and peace. They will always be remembered in our hearts, and we honor them with our thoughts and prayers. Give them rest in your heavenly home.

Heavenly Father, you know our thoughts, and you support us with your abiding Presence. Bless our food, and nourish us with good faith, good health, and your eternal love.

We ask this in your Holy Name,  
AMEN”

Special thanks to Father Steve for this beautiful prayer.

Thursday afternoon, we loaded up on busses and went to Warm Springs, GA for a visit to “The Little Whitehouse” where President Roosevelt often visited during the war to take treatments in the mineral waters there. It was here that he died in April, 1945. As we entered the town of Warm Springs, the Sheriff met us and gave us a police escort to our destination. When we arrived at The Little Whitehouse there were several school children on hand to greet the veterans. We toured the grounds, the museum and the house where the president lived while there. Included in the museum was the unfinished portrait of the president that was being painted when he died. We also visited the mineral springs where the president took his treatments.

*Later we went to dinner at Bulloch House, a local restaurant in Warm Springs. The owner reserved the entire restaurant for our group. We enjoyed a wonderful truly Southern dinner. At the restaurant, we were greeted by the mayor of Warm Springs.*

After dinner, we returned to the hotel where we were greeted by late arrivals, Sandy and Otis Sampson, Jr., Claire and Arthur Thibodeau, and Dawn Sampson, the daughter of Otis Sampson and the spitting image of her father. It was wonderful to see them again. I sat around with them, Katie, and Carol LaBounty reminiscing about Otis. He is sorely missed.

We also met 508<sup>th</sup> CSM Michael Clemens who was to be our guest speaker at the Saturday night banquet and his lovely wife, Christy, and daughter, Caelynn. Col. Brian Mennes, C.O. of 4<sup>th</sup> Bde, was originally scheduled to be our guest speaker, but he was called away to Afghanistan and CSM Clemens took his place. Prior to joining the 508<sup>th</sup>, CSM Clemens served as a 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. in the 505<sup>th</sup>.

Friday morning, we boarded buses bound for Ft. Benning. We were met at the Infantry Museum parking lot by Sgts. Hernandez and Clark who were our escorts for the day. We were supposed to attend an Airborne graduation ceremony and have our veterans pin the wings on the new paratroopers, but due to inclement weather all week, the new class of paratroopers made the first of their five jumps during our visit. Sgt. Clarke gave us a demonstration of the parachutes currently in use by the Airborne school. One of the veterans asked



when they stopped using the “quick release” buttons used by the WWII veterans in Holland. Answer: the 1950’s!!

We visited the Airborne walk with all the Airborne monuments and ate lunch at the “Follow Me” dining facility. After lunch we visited the Tank Simulator Facility where we were able to climb into the simulators and shoot down some enemy. I was in one of the simulators with Dawn Sampson and she was a pretty good shot!! We ended the day with a tour of the National Infantry Museum.

Upon returning to the hotel, Barbara Gavin Fauntleroy had arrived and it was really wonderful to see her again as she had been unable to attend our 2010 reunion. Seeing her was a big hit with our 508<sup>th</sup> veterans and Family and Friends members. Everyone wanted their picture taken with her and I believed she signed a few autographs as well.

Friday evening, 508<sup>th</sup> veteran, John Coates, took Barbara Gavin Fauntleroy, Barbara Fortenbaugh, Carol LaBounty, Ed Sayre, Troy and Donna Palmer and I to a wonderful steak dinner at a local restaurant. Upon returning to the hotel, out two Airborne escorts, Sgt. Clarke, and Sgt. Hernandez, had arrived at our hospitality room for a visit. We were all happy that they accepted our invitation to join us.

Saturday, both associations had their General Membership meetings and in the afternoon we had our “Veteran’s Forum” where attendees asked questions of the veterans of both regiments. Saturday night we had our *annual banquet and Candle Lighting ceremony*. CSM Clemens’ daughter, Caelynn, sang the National Anthem and it was beautiful. Earlier Katie and Troy heard her singing in the hallway and asked her to sing at the banquet. She did a beautiful job. Katie and Troy conducted the ceremony while 505<sup>th</sup> veteran, Duke Boswell, and 508<sup>th</sup> veteran, Rock Merritt, conducted the candle lighting ceremony.

After the banquet, most of us changed into comfortable clothing and stayed up far too late visiting. Veterans, John Perozzi and Duke Boswell, were still there when I turned in around 2:30 AM!

One of my most endearing memories of the reunion was seeing 508<sup>th</sup> veteran, Bob Chisolm, greet Ed Sayre. Bob served under Ed at the end of WWII when Ed was C.O. of the 508<sup>th</sup>’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Btn. He holds Ed in the highest regard and told me that Ed was the finest officer he ever served under. On the plane home, Bob was on the same flight as Ed and I, so I traded boarding passes with him so the two could sit together and have a nice visit.

All in all, it was a wonderful reunion and I was sad to see it end. They never seem to last long enough.





## **505<sup>th</sup> REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM**

### **Governing Board**

**2011 - 2012**

**President, Duke Boswell: The Village at Skyline; 2405 Patriot Heights – Apt. 4227;  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904-5142; Home (719) 633-3569; bos930@aol.com**

**Vice President, Dr. Robert Franco: 2112 Harris Ave.; Richland, WA 99352-2021;  
Home: (509) 946-1284; dolly.f@hotmail.com**

**Asst. Vice President, Barbara Fortenbaugh: 10875 Abercorn Ext. Apt. 811;  
Savannah, GA 31419-1836; Home: (912) 961-7081; willowbsf@aol.com**

**Treasurer, Ellen Peters: 3630 Townsend Dr.; Dallas, TX 75229-3805; Home: (214)  
352-7002; Cell: (214) 632-1360; Fax: (214) 350-0951 eeptx@sbcglobal.net**

**Panther Ed., Ellen Peters: 3630 Townsend Dr.; Dallas, TX 75229-3805; Home: (214)  
352-7002; Cell: (214) 632-1360; Fax: (214) 350-0951; eeptx@sbcglobal.net**

**Liaison, Ted Gaweda: 1906 Partridge Dr.; Fayetteville, NC 28304-2625; Home: (910)  
867-5975; CSMGaweda@aol.com**

**Researcher, Ed Sayre: 1 Sierra Dr.; Breckinridge, TX 76424-2539; Home: (254) 559-  
3421**

**Trustee, Bob Gillette: 1545 SE 223rd Ave. #319; Gresham, OR 97030-2546; Home:  
(503) 661-5063; bobgillette3@verizon.net**

**Trustee, Dave Bullington: 822 Sandra Ave.; Dyersburg, TN 38024-7312; Home (731)  
287-7984**

**Web Site, John Sparry: 1457 Inwood Ct.; Campbell, CA 95008-4406; Home (408)  
429-0098; jsparry@comcast.net**

**Family & Friends of the 505 RCT Association**  
**Governing Board**  
**2011-2012**

**Katie Troccoli, President: 1911 Champlain St.; Ottawa, IL 61350;**  
**Home: (815) 434-2058; Cell: (815) 228-2058; [katiet1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:katiet1@sbcglobal.net)**

**Barbara Fortenbaugh, Vice-President 10875 Abercorn Ext. Apt. 811; Savannah,**  
**GA 31419-1836; Home: (912) 961-7081; Cell: (912) 665-9413;**  
**[willowbsf@aol.com](mailto:willowbsf@aol.com)**

**Ellen Peters, Secretary-Treasurer: 3630 Townsend Dr.; Dallas, TX 75229; Home:**  
**(214) 352-7002; Cell: (214) 632-1360; Fax: (214) 350-0951;**  
**[eeptx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eeptx@sbcglobal.net)**

**Barbara Gavin Fauntleroy, 4 -Year Trustee: 19 Prospect Ridge - Unit 29;**  
**Ridgefield, CT 06877-5129; Home: (203) 438-2461; [gavin505@att.net](mailto:gavin505@att.net)**

**Jim Blankenship, 3-Year Trustee: 2135 Saint Thomas Way; Suwanee, GA 30024;**  
**Home: (678) 349-2262; Cell: (404) 906-5646; Fax (770) 822-4751;**  
**[jimspix@charter.net](mailto:jimspix@charter.net); [airbornealltheway.blankenship@gmail.com](mailto:airbornealltheway.blankenship@gmail.com)**

**Duke Boswell, 2-Year Trustee: 930 Crown Ridge Dr.; Colorado Springs, CO 80904-**  
**1734; Home: (719) 633-3569; [bos930@aol.com](mailto:bos930@aol.com)**

**Gene Garren, 1-Year Trustee: 656 Winter Star Rd.; Burnsville, NC 28714; Home:**  
**(828) 682-6650; Cell: (828) 284-0951; [genegarren@aol.com](mailto:genegarren@aol.com)**

**Ray Fary, Veterans' Liaison Trustee: 8254 Madison Ave.; Munster, IN 46321-**  
**1627; Home: (219) 836-7974; [RFARY@mailstation.com](mailto:RFARY@mailstation.com);**  
**[r.fary8280@sbcglobal.net](mailto:r.fary8280@sbcglobal.net)**



## **2011 General Membership Meeting Minutes**

The general membership meeting of the Family and Friends of the 505 RCT Assn. was held on October 15, 2011 at the Holiday Inn North with approximately 25 members attending.

Katie Troccoli opened the meeting. Katie asked Bob Chisolm of the Family and Friends of the 508th PIR Assn. to tell us about Fiesta VI put on by the Benevidez-Patterson Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Assn. That chapter invited our association to conduct our 2012 reunion at their Fiesta VI celebration in El Paso, TX. Irene Fary made a motion to accept the invitation from the Benevidez-Patterson Chapter. The motion was seconded by Duke Boswell and carried by voice vote.

Katie asked me to read the Minutes from the 2010 reunion. Otis Sampson, Jr. made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Rick Holle seconded the motion and it was carried by voice vote.

Katie asked me to read the Treasurer's report. Ralph Yeager made a motion to accept the report. Carol LaBounty seconded the motion. It was carried by voice vote.

The 2013 Reunion was also discussed. I stated that the Family and Friends of the 508th PIR had voted to have their 2013 Reunion at Ft. Bragg with CSM (Ret.) Lou Guitterez hosting and would like to continue sharing reunion sites with the 505th. Otis Sampson, Jr. made a motion to have the 2013 reunion with the 508th at Ft. Bragg. Arthur Thibideau seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

There was discussion about asking the 507th and the 513th to join with us in our reunions. Rick Holle made a motion to include the other airborne units. Jim Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

The slate of officers and trustees was presented as follows:

Katie Troccoli, President  
Barbara Fortenbaugh, Vice President  
Ellen Peters, Secretary / Treasurer  
Barbara Gavin Fauntleroy as Four year trustee  
Jim Blankenship as three year trustee  
Duke Boswell as the two year trustee  
Gene Garren as the one year trustee  
And Ray Fary as the veteran's liaison

Duke Boswell agreed to take over as President of the 505th RCT Assn.

Otis Sampson moved the slate of offices be accepted. Ralph Yeager seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

I told the members I had been in contact with SGM Jason Schmidt at Ft. Bragg and was sending him two copies of "Ready" signed by the 505 RCT veterans along with 300 raffle tickets. He will raffle off the two copies to 3rd Brigade. I also stated that SGM Schmidt asked us to solicit donations from our members for their December 15 All Ranks Ball. Jim Blankenship made a motion to solicit the funds from our members. Rick Holle seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

George Rajner presented his Research on doing a Mt. Soledad memorial to the 505th PIR. He presented a proposed design for the project and stated the cost would be \$1,500.00. We discussed paying for the project by asking for donations from our members. George Rajner made a motion to proceed with the memorial and solicit funds from our members. Rick Holle seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote. Jess Samaniego said he would put \$500.00 towards the project. George Rajner stated he would donate \$300.00. The following people pledged \$100.00 each: Ralph Yeager, Otis Sampson, Sara Brown, Katie Troccoli, Ellen Peters, Irene Fary, and Carol LaBounty. The entire \$1,500.00 was raised during the meeting. There was some discussion as to whether the memorial should say "505th RCT" or "505th PIR". The issue was not decided.

Otis Sampson, Jr. moved that the meeting be adjourned. Arthur Thibideau seconded the motion and it was carried by voice vote. →

## **2012 Reunion**

We have accepted the invitation of the Roy P. Benavidez – Robert Patterson “All Airborne” Chapter of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association to come to El Paso, TX in 2012 and have our reunion in conjunction with their “Fiesta” celebration which they do every three years. The 508<sup>th</sup> will also be having their reunion in El Paso at the same time. I attended Fiesta in 2009 and it was really spectacular. They entertained us with dancers from all the different regions of Mexico, live music at the banquet, multiple sites to visit at no extra cost. The registration fee will go directly to the Benavidez-Patterson Chapter. (i.e.: There will be no additional fees paid to our association.) A registration form is included in this newsletter. →

## **2012 In the Footsteps of the 82<sup>nd</sup> March**

Emile Lacroix's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual “In the Footsteps of the 82<sup>nd</sup> March” will follow in the footsteps of the 508<sup>th</sup> P.I.R. The march will start at Garonne and go to Erria, Hierlot, and Their-du-Mont hill. Hot soup will be served at Hierlot. If anyone is interested in going and needs help with travel arrangements, please contact Ellen Peters at 3630 Townsend Dr.; Dallas, TX 75229-3805; Home: (214) 352-7002; Cell: (214) 632-1360; Email: [eeptx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eeptx@sbcglobal.net). →

## **Final Jumps**

### **Paratroop Chaplain Father Philip Hannan**

Trooper Joe Schwann Sent this in to F&F. Father Philip Hannan was a good friend of the 505 especially I Company. He died Sept.29 at age 98.

Ordained in Rome Dec. 8, 1939, by Bishop Ralph Hayes of Davenport, Iowa, then rector of the North American College, Father Hannan remained in Rome until the following summer, when all American seminarians were ordered by the U.S. Secretary of state to leave to ensure their personal safety. He celebrated his first Mass in the United States June 16, 1940, at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington.

He then served as assistant pastor for two years at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Baltimore.

In 1942, he volunteered as a wartime paratroop chaplain and served with the 505th Parachute Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. After cursory instructions on the ground, he took five practice jumps to earn his official status as a paratroop chaplain.



After his first jump, he was appointed "jump master" to a small crew of greenhorn jumpers and he affectionately became known as "The Jumping Padre."

In 1945, as the horrors of Nazi prisoner-of-war camps became widely known, Chaplain Hannan liberated a German camp of emaciated prisoners at Wöbbelin.

A staunch defender of civil rights and the unborn as well as a fierce proponent during Vatican II of the morality of nuclear deterrence, Archbishop Hannan burnished his reputation for fearlessness in 2005 by riding out Hurricane Katrina alone at age 92 in the fortress like studios of Focus Worldwide, an offshoot of the television network he created in the 1980s.

Although the building's backup generator failed, the veteran 82nd Airborne chaplain had a ready supply of water, peanut butter and crackers -- as well as a trusty 3-wood to ward off potential looters. Five days later, he talked his way through police barricades and drove across the 24-mile causeway bridge over Lake Pontchartrain to give emotional pep talks to weary first responders.

Never the master of understatement, he called it "the easiest drive of my life."

In 2010, Archbishop Hannan published his memoirs, "The Archbishop Wore Combat Boots," which documented his career as a seminarian in Rome in the 1930s during the buildup to World War II, his service as a paratroop chaplain for the 82nd Airborne and his confidential relationship with Kennedy when he was an auxiliary bishop of Washington.

Archbishop Hannan and Kennedy were so close that first lady Jacqueline Kennedy asked him to deliver the eulogy at the assassinated president's funeral Mass on Nov. 25, 1963, at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington. According to church protocol, that responsibility normally would have fallen to Washington Archbishop Patrick O'Boyle, who graciously allowed his auxiliary to deliver the eulogy.

In 1968, Archbishop Hannan returned to Washington from New Orleans to deliver the graveside eulogy at the funeral of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. In 1994, he offered graveside prayers at the interment of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis in Arlington National Cemetery.

From: The Southern Cross Diocese San Diego October, 2011



AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY

*Editor's Note: Unfortunately, I have no address to forward letters of condolence. The last Panther sent to Father Hanan was returned as undeliverable. †*

## Get Well Soon

### Duaine "Pinky" Pinkston

Pinky underwent triple by-pass and valve replacement surgery on September 27. The surgery went well and the doctors were pleased, however the recovery was difficult. Pinky experienced a lot of bleeding and it was some time before they were able to close his chest. He improved slowly and was finally able to return to his home. Both Pinky and June would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and telephone calls. Cards and letters can be sent to Pinky at: 1398 Knoll Road; Portland, MI 48875-9763.

Jan Silver

Jan fell at her home Sunday night, November 20 and fractured her pelvis on the right side in 2 places. She was sent to the hospital for several days and was scheduled to move into a rehab facility. She was progressing so well, they decided she could by pass the rehab facility and go straight to her daughter's home. After a week at her daughter's home, Jan was experiencing a lot of pain. She was taken to the hospital where a fracture on the left side of her pelvis was discovered. Unless noticeable improvement occurs, Jan is scheduled for surgery on Monday, December 12. Cards and letters can be sent to Jan in care of her daughter, Karen Holton, at: 6953 N. Fieldgate Ct.; Baton Rouge, LA 70808-5450. †

## **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Julius Eisner who has not only recovered from his illness, but married his nurse and is back at his home. You can write to Julius at: 4214 Redcliff Pl; New Port Richey, FL 34652-5338. †

## **Mail Box**

**Mon, October 24, 2011 4:09:51 AM**  
**Groesbeek Airborne Friends in Holland**

dear friends,

please note a new website, this time about the Groesbeek Airborne Friends in Groesbeek, the site is under construction, so not much information yet, but take a look.

<http://www.groesbeekairbornevrienden.nl/>  
on the site also information about two new books about the 82nd Airborne Division.

Last Saturday we went to see the battle site around Liege in Belgium, not for the World War Two area, but the battlefield for 1914!, we went to a forest east of Liege, and saw a trench - clearly visible where 550 Belgian soldiers blocked the German attack for several hours, the Belgians were outnumbered, also saw a small cemetery for Belgian soldiers nearby. Then visited Liege itself and saw several bridges that were destroyed by the Belgians at the time the Germans attacked. Liege is encircled by some 10 forts, we went to see one of them on the western side of Liege, the fortress received a direct hit in her powder room and the whole fortress exploded, almost all were killed inside.

when you go to the website click on Luik 1914 and see some of the pictures taken

greetings from overseas

**Jan Bos**

### **Franco American ceremony in Cannes**

This afternoon a special ceremony took place in front of the memorial of the city of Cannes and with Pres OBAMA and SARKOZY

French and US military attended

Pres Sarkozy delivered a wonderful speech praising the franco American relationship and long lasting friendship which he qualified as indestructible. His speech was very warm and spontaneous. You could feel it was coming from his heart. I hope that you will be able to see the translation somewhere in your medias.



Pre Obama did also a great speech and received cheers from an enthusiastic crowd  
So you see the south of France is becoming like Normandy!!

**Maurice Renaud**

**Father Thuring**

Hello,

After more then four decades father Thuring will say farewell (officially November 1st) to his beloved St Anthony parish at Groesbeek Breedeweg during a special mess on Sunday November 20th.  
Due to his physical health no reception will be held.

If you want to send him a personal message, this is the address:

Mozartstraat 3  
6561 EA Groesbeek  
The Netherlands  
Dory.stoffelen@hetnet.NL (temporarily)

Regards

**Marco Cillessen**

**Groesbeek Airborne Friends**

**From:** scott ramsey <scott1ramsey@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Airborne Reunion

**To:** katie1@sbcglobal.net

**Date:** Sunday, October 16, 2011, 10:58 PM

Hi Katie,

I want to thank you, your mom, and everyone else for welcoming me to the reunion this weekend. I had a great time and it was a real honor to meet and talk with such great people. The interviews this morning were terrific. I did want to ask you about a couple of things. Could you suggest a couple of good and accurate books on the history of the 505th RCT? Would it be possible to get a roster of the members with any contact information as well and if you speak to anyone about the recording they did at the veterans forum I would love to get a copy? I wish time would have allowed me to sit with Mr. Boswell and Col. Sayre a while longer I'm sure I didn't hear all of their story. What a great group.

There is an artist I know, Larry Selman; he did a couple of art prints a few years back. One was of the 101st jump into Normandy and the other was the 507th PIR jump. They are really great prints and I believe both have sold out. Mr. Selman has been thinking about doing a 505 print in the near future and had asked me if it would be possible to ask any of the guys if they would be interested in signing some of the prints when they are ready? IF you think this may be possible sometime in the future let me know and I'll let Larry know.  
Anyway I hope you are home and thanks again for everything,

--

**Scott Ramsey**

WWII Interviews, stories, personal histories, uniforms, maps, documents, gear, photographs, and anything else related to WWII.

God Bless

Please use this email address when contacting me: [scott1ramsey@gmail.com](mailto:scott1ramsey@gmail.com)

Below is a link to a local newspaper article and TV coverage of a Veteran's Day Ceremony concerning my interviews.

[http://www.panhandleparade.com/index.php/mbb/article/panama\\_city\\_beach\\_library\\_grand\\_opening/mbb7725823/](http://www.panhandleparade.com/index.php/mbb/article/panama_city_beach_library_grand_opening/mbb7725823/)

[http://www.newsherald.com/news/trying\\_69686\\_\\_article.html/city\\_war.html](http://www.newsherald.com/news/trying_69686__article.html/city_war.html)

[http://www.panhandleparade.com/index.php/mbb/article/bay\\_county\\_public\\_library\\_celebrates\\_veterans/](http://www.panhandleparade.com/index.php/mbb/article/bay_county_public_library_celebrates_veterans/)

**Sat, November 12, 2011 6:11:09 AM**

**Column from our local newspaper on**

**From: vivianroger**

**Date: 11/12/2011 5:42:44 AM**

**To: Family & Friends 505 RCT; Subject: Fwd: Column from our local newspaper on**

Hello friends, family, dear veterans,

All weekend here in Normandy, there are remembrance and gratitude ceremonies for all veterans. We should all be thankful for the sacrifices made by our armed forces to keep us safe and at peace.

I just received a mail from a recent guest at our B&B. She sent this article she saw in a Philadelphia newspaper. Thank you Gloria. We have an honorable mention in the first paragraph. Most important is the tribute to the men who fought the battle that took place here 67 years ago. I think that we all look forward to the film in process "No Better Place To Die". Thanks Dale for your contribution to raising the public's awareness to this turning point in the events of the world.

And thanks to Chris Gibbons for writing and publishing this article. Our guests read this article at breakfast here this morning. I think that you will be hearing from them.

Our best to all of you,

**Vivian & Rodolphe** [www.lafiere.com](http://www.lafiere.com)

B&B à la Bataille de La Fièvre, Ste. Mère-Eglise, Normandy, France

**Posted: Fri, Nov. 11, 2011, 3:00 AM**

**Lost among the many legends of D-Day**

**By Chris Gibbons**

The little bridge spans the scenic Merderet River, about two miles west of the town of Ste. Mère-Église in a bucolic part of northern France. Next to it is the charming Bed and Breakfast à la Bataille de La Fièvre, built in 1180 as a grain mill by Viking settlers. It's a perfect destination for a quiet vacation.

But nearly 70 years ago, the little bridge was the scene of a pivotal World War II battle. Although described by the military historian S.L.A. Marshall as "the bloodiest small-unit struggle in the history of American arms," the saga of the battle for the bridge at La Fièvre has been all but lost among the numerous legends of D-Day. The fierce fight, waged by a small group of lightly armed paratroopers from June 6 to June 9, 1944, likely saved the lives of thousands of U.S. soldiers who landed in Normandy on D-Day.

The bridge was one of only two in the Utah Beach landing area over which German armored units could have crossed the river. If the Germans got their tanks and infantry to the beach, they could have wiped out U.S. forces there. The 82d Airborne Division was given the difficult task of seizing and holding the bridge.



Led by Lt. John Dolan, the paratroopers assaulted and eventually took control of the bridge in the late-morning hours of D-Day. They set mines and pulled a disabled truck onto the bridge to help block the inevitable German counterattacks.

Before the invasion, the Germans had flooded the fields around the causeway leading to the bridge. The men could see the parachutes and backpacks of dozens of drowned paratroopers, reminding them of what was at stake.

The Germans still controlled the high ground of the causeway west of the bridge, and late in the afternoon of June 6, they sent three tanks followed by infantry rumbling across in their first attempt to seize the bridge. Pvt. *Lenold Peterson stood with his bazooka, exposing himself to enemy machine-gun fire, took out the two leading tanks, and forced the third to retreat with the infantry.*

The following morning, the Germans launched an even heavier assault. The brutal, close-quarters combat that followed reduced Dolan's force to only 14 men, but the paratroopers held. The fighting was so bloody that the Germans asked for a truce to retrieve their wounded.

When Dolan's men asked at one point if they should fall back, he told them to stay, adding, "There is no better place to die." His words lifted the morale of the decimated platoon.

On June 8, Dolan's men were finally reinforced by the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment. U.S. tanks from the Fourth Infantry Division had also arrived, but they could not cross the bridge until the Germans had been cleared from the western end. The paratroopers attacked across the bridge and down the causeway in a suicidal frontal assault. The first wave was cut down, and those behind them dropped to the ground, paralyzed with fear. Lt. Bruce Hooker, shot in both legs, tried to urge them on, shouting, "Come on - get up!" As the dead and wounded piled up, the chaos on the bridge mounted.

Just when the battle seemed lost, a group of some 90 men led by Capt. R.D. Rae charged across the bridge. Again, many were cut down, but this time many more kept moving forward. They ran down the causeway and started taking out enemy positions. The tank commanders seized the opportunity and streamed across the bridge, destroying the remaining opposition. The Americans had finally secured the bridge, though at a terrible cost: 60 paratroopers killed and 529 wounded.

A film in the works, *No Better Place to Die*, written and directed by the actor and former Marine Dale Dye, is expected to bring the story of this battle to the general public at last. This Veterans Day is a fitting time to remember the American paratroopers who courageously decided there was no better place to die than the bridge at La Fièrè.

Chris Gibbons is a writer from Philadelphia. He can be reached at [gibbonscg@aol.com](mailto:gibbonscg@aol.com).

[http://www.philly.com/philly/opinion/20111111\\_Lost\\_among\\_the\\_many\\_legends\\_of\\_D-Day.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/opinion/20111111_Lost_among_the_many_legends_of_D-Day.html)

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to SGM Jason Schmidt who very kindly conducted a raffle of two copies of "Ready" to 3<sup>rd</sup> BDE soldiers. SGM Schmidt raised \$1,000.00 for our association.

In my conversations with SGM Schmidt, he asked for our help in raising funds for the 505<sup>th</sup> Winter Ball. Our association raised \$620.00. Thanks to all who contributed. Special thanks to Duke Boswell and Jan Silver for their very kind and generous donations.

## Paratrooper Poetry

I obtained the below poem from 101<sup>st</sup> historian/author Mark Bando's Trigger Time forum. Mark introduced the poem as follows:

"The following was written in tribute to D-day paratroopers of the 82nd and 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Divisions, by a fellow trooper who belonged to HQ Co. 551st PIB. I think it reveals how bitterly troopers regarded combat-and their mortal enemies, at that time."

### **A Saga of June the Sixth**

The C-47 was silent as a tomb  
except for the engines, roaring through the gloom  
Eighteen troopers not making a sound  
as flak lit the sky-up for many miles around  
Then came the warning; then the DZ bell  
and then I heard a trooper to his comrades yell:

We're jumpin' into hell boys, we're jumpin into hell  
By the burst of the flak and the fifties, I can tell  
Hang onto your chutes boys, don't mind the battle smell  
Til every bastard Jerry is on his way to hell.

As silent as the seagulls, they floated down the sky,  
Eighteen paratroopers, unafraid to die  
Some hit the flak burst, some the fifties' lead  
and some felt the ack-ack whistling past their heads.  
Down on the Jerries, one by one they fell  
and then they heard a voice from out of the darkness yell:

We're landing down in hell boys; we're landing down in hell!  
Kill the Huns by the hundreds, like rats drowned in a well.  
Shout Geronimo boys, the stories we will tell,  
When every bastard Jerry is at the gates of hell.

When Normandy sun rose, twelve of them were dead,  
hanging from the trees, their bellies full of lead  
Twelve brave troopers slit from ear to ear  
with blood in their eyes but not a sign of fear.  
Twelve men they bury in the flooded dell,  
when from a muddy grave, they heard a trooper yell:

We're waiting here in hell boys; we're waiting here in hell,  
Don't despair of your fate boys, the chow is goddam swell.  
Don't spare the knife boys, don't spare the mortar shell  
Til every bastard Jerry is here with us in hell.

**-R. Granger HQ/551st Parachute Infantry Battalion**



## Copies of "Ready" Available

Several copies of the original "Ready" were found in the Static Line wear house and are available for purchase. Price is \$250.00 + \$25.35 postage for a total of \$274.35. Contact Jim Blankenship at 2135 Saint Thomas Way; Suwanee, GA 30024-3285; Home: (678) 349-2262 Cell: (404) 906-5646 email: [jimspix@charter.net](mailto:jimspix@charter.net) or [ff505rct@charter.net](mailto:ff505rct@charter.net) or Ellen Peters at 3630 Townsend Dr.; Dallas, TX 75229-3805; Home: (214) 352-7002 or Cell: (214) 632-1360; email: [eeptx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eeptx@sbcglobal.net).

## New Books Available

The Sword of St. Michael: The 82nd Airborne Division in World War II by Guy LoFaro.

An Irresistible Force: Lieutenant Colonel Ben Vandervoort and the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry in World War II by Phil Nurdyke

Both books are available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

## Call for Dues!

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

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

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

## Changes of Address

Please forward change of email addresses to [ff505rct@charter.net](mailto:ff505rct@charter.net) or [eeptx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eeptx@sbcglobal.net) and postal changes of address to:

Ellen Peters  
3630 Townsend Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75229-3805

## Panther Submissions

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

## Dedication

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

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



2608 Fort Boulevard El Paso, Texas 79930-2116  
Tel: (915) 562-9969 Fax: (915) 566-7089  
E-mail: [bp82cmdctr@bpaac.org](mailto:bp82cmdctr@bpaac.org)  
**WEBSITE: [www.bpaac.org](http://www.bpaac.org)**



**Chartered by the United States Congress  
SUN CITY "ALL AIRBORNE" FIESTA VI  
REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ **B-P Chapter Member ?** \_\_\_\_\_

WIFE/GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST AIRBORNE UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION FEE: \$ 75.00 PER PERSON

<b>OFFICIAL USE ONLY!</b>		
CASH _____	CHECK _____	RECEIPT # _____

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: BENAVIDEZ-PATTERSON CHAPTER**

**MAIL TO: Benavidez-Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter**

**ATTN: RICK TREVIZO, Treasurer**

**2608 Fort Boulevard**

**El Paso, Texas 79930-2116**

**\*\* WWII Vet or Family Member to be Honored- Please provide Vet's name & description of WWII Service. \*\***

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**  
(Subject to change)

<u>July 4</u>	<u>July 5</u>	<u>July 6</u>	<u>July 7</u>	<u>July 8</u>
0800 - 1600 Registration 0800 - 1000 H-Room	0800 - 1600 Registration 0800 - 1000 H-Room / Coffee, Juice, Pastries & Fruit - Jul 4 - 7 /	0800 - 1600 Registration 0800 - 1000- H-Room	0800 - 1000 H-Room	0800 - 1000 (Chapter) Menudo & Tamales
10 - 12 Eastside Parade	10a - 5 p Tour & Shop	10a - 4p Tour & Shop	10a - 4p - Tour & Shop	
10 - 4p Tour & Shop	1 - 2p Mtg. W/Nat'l. President	9 - 11:30a Ladies Social	2 - 5p - War Eagles Museum	
1 - 11p H-Room (Performances)	2:30 - 3:30 VA Conference	11:30 - 1 p - LUNCHEON	6 - 7 p Social Hour	
	4 - 11p H-Room	2 - 4p - WWII Vets	7p - 12a - DINNER/DANCE	
	7 - 8:30p Tequila & Dance	6 - 11p - VIVA El Paso		

**HOTEL REGISTRATION  
SUN CITY "ALL AIRBORNE" FIESTA VI**



**WYNDHAM**

EL PASO AIRPORT

**July 4 - July 8, 2012  
El Paso, Texas**

**\* PLEASE CALL: 1-800-742-7248 Group Code: 82<sup>ND</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION**

**\*\* Ask for IN HOUSE RESERVATIONS \*\***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Group Rate: \$89.00 per night**

**\*\* Please advise of special needs or arrangements required \*\***





February 25, 2012

Time 09H00

Goronne, Belgium

Marching in the steps of the 508PIR



# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION

67th anniversary of the  
Battle of the Bulge

\*\*\*\*\*

30th edition of the march  
In the footsteps of the  
82nd Airborne Division



504 PIR



505 PIR



508 PIR



325 GIR

This historical 24 km hike will follow the steps of the 508 PIR from Goronne to Erria, Hierlot and the Thier-du-Mont hill. Hot soup will be served in Hierlot and hot wine at the end. - Registration 6 €. - Certificates will be awarded to the participants. <http://82airbornemarch2009.blogspot.com> (Last 508PIR march)



October 5, 2011

Robert Schweikert  
7208 Amboy Road  
Staten Island N.Y.  
10307-1406


Dear 505th RCT,

I am the son of a 505 PIR trooper. My father's name is Francis X. Schweikert and after he passed away in January 1978 I gathered up his war mementos in my mom's basement and brought them home. Now that I am retired I began looking thru the pictures and other material my father saved. I thought I would share the 15 or so photos, a few Static Line articles from 1944, and other 505 memorabilia with an airborne website.

Over the last 8 months I tried several times to contact your web site by e-mail, both times I received no response. I thought maybe you no longer had a person attending to the site. Another airborne web site did contact me <http://www.ww2-airborne.us/> and I have shared some of the photos with that site.

Should anyone recognize any troopers in the photos please e-mail me at [CivicCommittee@aol.com](mailto:CivicCommittee@aol.com) or by telephone, 718-948-1350. My father and all the troopers in the photos are from G company. My dad arrived at Camp Quorn on July 7<sup>th</sup> 1944 as a 19 year old replacement. I would love to hear from any veterans of G company.

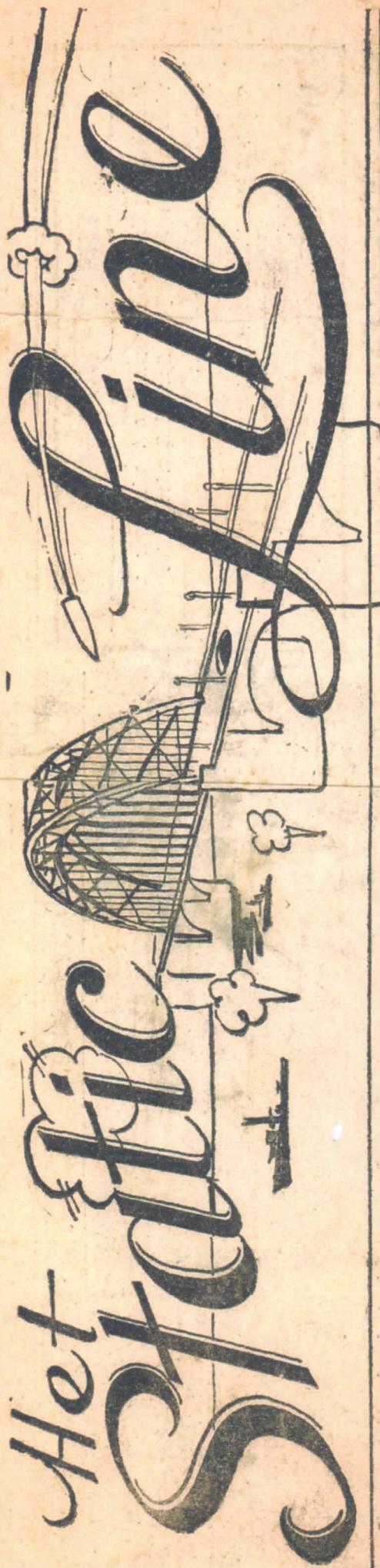
Sincerely,

  
Robert Schweikert

PS; I am also enclosing dues for one year.  
Are you looking for someone to take care of  
the website ?



Francis X. Schwelkert 505th PIR Company G 1944



VOL. 2

HOLLAND, NOVEMBER 1944

No. 1

**Schickelgruber Caught With Panzers Down  
505 Throws Sunday Punch Into Hun Supermen**



Dear Mom & Pop.  
*Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 1944*  
*France.*  
 Here's some thing I thought  
 you might like to read.  
 It's our Division song.  
 Your Loving Son,  
 Chi Chi



## "The All-American" Soldier

SONG  
 OF  
 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION

### SONG OF THE 82nd 505 PRCHT "The All-American" Soldier

Words by Sgt. Carl Sigman  
 (Chorus)

We're All American, and proud to be;  
 For we're the soldiers of liberty.  
 Some ride the gliders through the enemy,  
 Others are sky paratroopers.  
 We're All American, and fight we will  
 Till all the guns of the foe are still  
 Airborne, from skies of blue  
 We're coming through—  
 Make Your Jumps, Take Your Bumps  
 Let's Go!

#### Interlude

Put on your boots,  
 Your parachutes—  
 Get all those gliders ready  
 To attack today;  
 For we'll be gone  
 Into the dawn  
 To fight 'em all  
 The 82nd way - - - Yes

(Repeat Chorus)

# REGIMENT LEADS NETHERLAND LEAP

It's an old story now, bordering onto ancient history in this war that moves faster than a Berlin-bound Hun, but the men of this regiment, the outfit which blazed the way into the Netherlands on that Sunday jump will long remember that day and the experiences here.

The Dutch will remember that day as their hour of liberation after four bitter years of German domination. 505ers will remember it as their fourth spearheading jump behind enemy lines in this war. And those of Der Fuehrer's Supermen left to remember anything will never forget their experience in facing war at its worst and against soldiers at their best. They'll remember the machine gunners and BAR men who attacked alongside riflemen, firing from the hip as they advanced; mortarmen firing their weapons from tree trunks, aiming them like a rifle; the riflemen who moved in with bayonets and grenades for hand-to-hand fighting as if were all in the day's recreational program;

## Troopers Pluck Blooms From Flower Of Avran Youth

Hitler called them "the flower of Avran youth", and the men of this outfit have been plucking the blooms by the hundred since hitting terra firma in Holland. Among the best of the Supermen there have been old men, young kids, experienced and inexperienced some who retained an air of arrogance when captured and until separated from others, then to break down and cry like babies, blaming Hitler for all of it; and others who came over willingly to the safety of our prisons.

But the 505ers no longer feel a soft spot for any of them, young or old. And as long as there is one left with a bullet and a rifle he's an enemy on the extermination list. Hitler, count yo' chillun'—there are plenty missing now, and more to follow.

communications men who kept wires open in spite of hell itself; supplies that continued to slip through the li-

(Continued page 4)





**GIs Died There, Too**  
Oct. 3, 1944

Dear Stars and Stripes,  
Not to take credit away from the British Airborne—they deserved every bit they received—but so do a lot of American Paratroopers. I'd just like to remind the people who think it was an "all British operation"—for the British newspapers and radio made it look that way—that a lot of American Paratroopers gave their lives in the same operation.

I'm a member of one of the two U.S. Airborne divisions that jumped in the Nijmegen-Arnhem operation on Sept. 17. We fought for days without relief, captured and held the Nijmegen bridge and also the city. We also carried the fight into Germany itself. All this was done with the cost of many American lives, for we fought tanks with rifles and machine-guns.

Our casualties were very high, but we held our own and kept advancing and both divisions are still in there fighting. So when you mention the Airborne operation in Holland, how about mentioning Americans also, for it was Allied, not just British?—A Wounded American Para-

*500 Parachute Div. 82nd Airborne  
Jumped in Nijmegen, Holland  
Sept. 17th 1944.  
Pvt. F.X. SCHWEIKERT 42001910*



## THE STATIC LINE

A helluva publication sweated out whenever and wherever possible by your Special Service Office

HOLLAND, NOVEMBER, 1944

CAPT. CARL E. SCHENCK, Special Service Officer

BOB DEBNAM,  
LARRY WARNER,

Editor  
Assoc. Editor

## From The C.O. To His Men

„THE OLD MAN”



Col. Wm. E. Ekman, a C.O. with justifiable pride in his regiment and men. The man who led the 505 through France and Holland on to fame and furloughs(?).

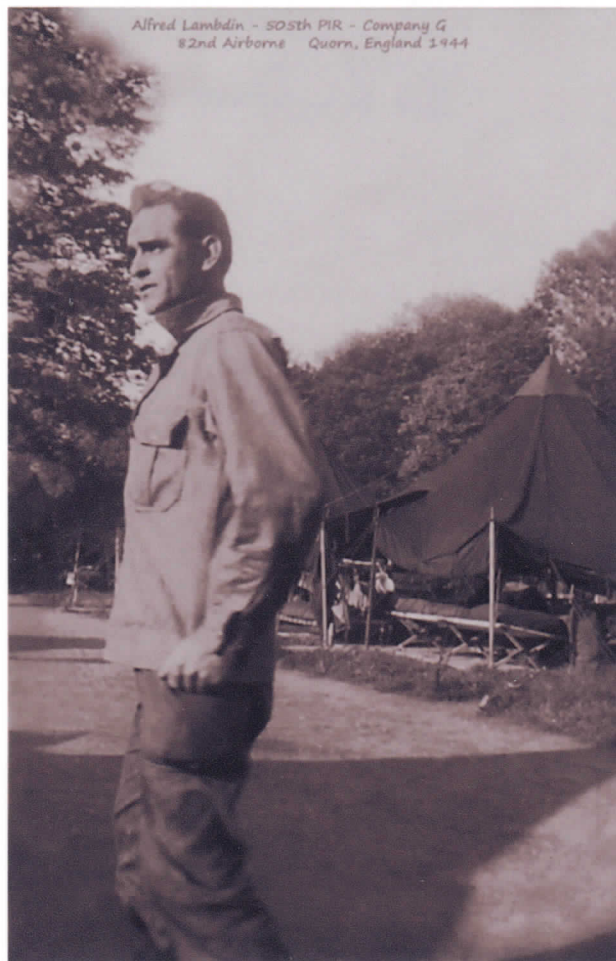
Well, men you've done it again! For the fourth time the Regiment has gone through the trials, tribulations and harassments connected with the preparation for a Combat Mission and taken it all with a grin and a „well we're ready, what are we waiting for” attitude. For the fourth time the Regiment has dropped in the middle of the enemy, on his own ground, driven him from prepared defensive positions and held off the fanatical counter attacks of his best troops, and, in so doing, has paved the way for the rapid advance of the Allied armies. And, for the fourth time the Regiment has proven whether

employed defensively or offensively it ranks high among the best combat troops in the world.

For many of you a combat mission was no novelty. You had seen action in Sicily, Italy or Normandy campaigns or in some cases all three of them. You knew what to expect and were prepared for it. For a great number, however, this was your first combat experience and there was question in your minds as to how you would react. It didn't take you long to find the answer and prove that you had the confidence and ability of veterans. But whether this was your first or fourth campaign, many of you have experienced some of the fiercest fighting seen or to be seen in this or any other war. The battles at Riethorst, Mook, Nijmegen, Kamp and the numerous attacks at our road blocks and all along our front, as well as the many patrols sent out, called for the utmost of fighting ability, leadership and just plain „guts”. Some of these fights were more spectacular than others and we will hear and read more about them in the future; Some are only known to those who actually participated in them. But regardless of what any individual or unit did we know that the successes of the Regiment have been based only upon the readiness and ability of every individual to do his part, and more, in the particular job to which he was assigned, whether engaged in a fire fight laying wire, supplying ammunition to the front line trooper or training replacements at the base camp. Those who did not do their part have been properly taken care of. They have no place in this unit.

One thing we must not lose is our perspective of the big picture; we must remember that other individuals and units from squads to Divisions, were in this fight, and that all had a pretty tough time. Each helped the other to keep Jerry we occupied all along his front lines. For instance, how the gallant stand of the Red Devils at Arnheim kept at least a Division of Panzers off our hands and helped insure the success of the 82nd's mission. We can brag about what we have done, but let's give the other fellow credit; and realize that we didn't do the whole thing alone.

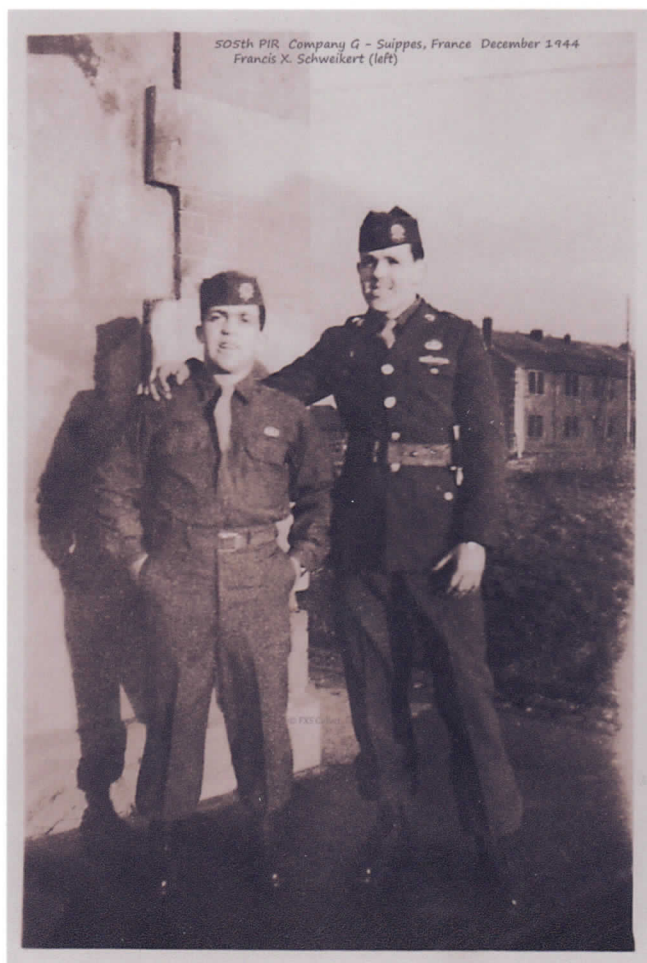




Alfred Lambdin - 505th PIR - Company G  
82nd Airborne Quorn, England 1944



Francis X. Schweikert 82nd Airborne Division November 1943



505th PIR Company G - Suippes, France December 1944  
Francis X. Schweikert (left)



505th PIR Company G Troopers - Suippes, France  
December 1944

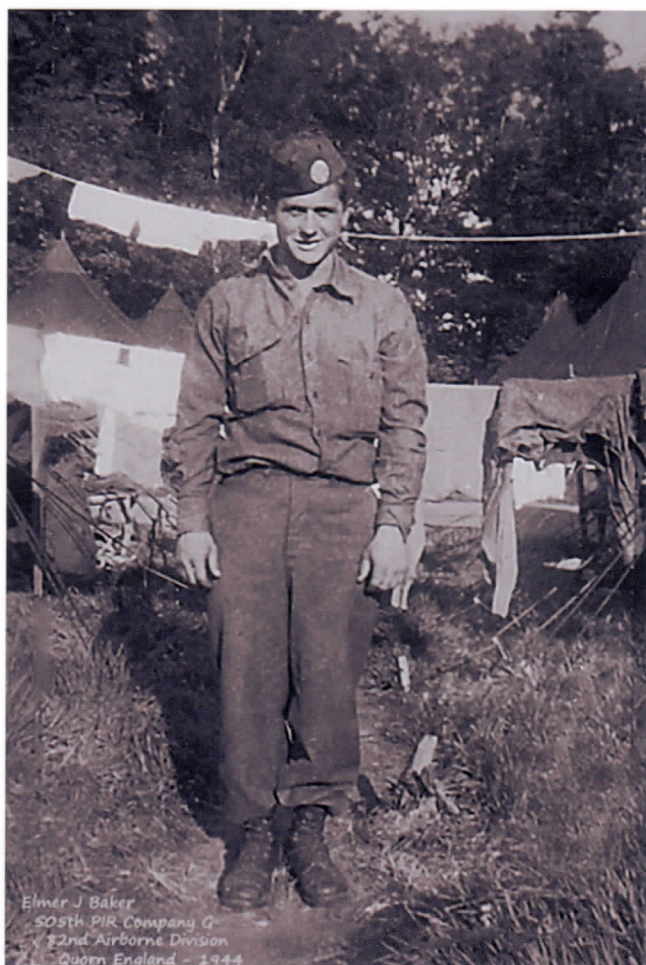




Alfred Lambdin  
505th PIR Company G  
Quorn, England - 1944



Calvin (John) Fisher - 505th PIR Co. G  
82nd Airborne Division  
Quorn, England - 1944



Elmer J. Baker  
505th PIR Company G  
82nd Airborne Division  
Quorn, England - 1944



Pvt. C. (John) Fisher  
505th PIR Company G  
Quorn, England 1944



505th PIR - Company G troopers - Suippes, France December 1944

photo by Francis X Schweikert



505th PIR - Company G troopers - Suippes, France December 1944

William Sanchez 3rd from left.

photo by Francis X Schweikert





Pvt. Elmer J. Baker  
 505th PIR Company G  
 82nd Airborne Division  
 Quorn, England - 1944  
 KIA 10-5-1944 Holland



Pvt Walter J. Blasik  
 505th PIR Company G  
 82nd Airborne Division  
 Quorn, England 1944



Carl Horst - Camp Quorn, England - 1944  
 505th PIR Company G-82nd Airborne Division



505th PIR Company G - 82nd Airborne Division  
 Camp Quorn, England 1944  
 R. Pynson, C. Horst, W. Blasik  
 E.J. Baker, A. Lambdin

