

DEADEYE DISPATCH

Online at www.96th-infantry-deadeyes.org



Official Newsletter of the 96TH Infantry Division Deadeye Association

Fall, 2008

Plan to attend the 2009 Reunion in Branson, MO

Calling All Deadeyes and Families

Dear Friends Of The 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association:

The 2009 reunion committee needs each Deadeye and family member to assist with the 2009 Reunion in Branson, Missouri. This year the Planning Committee will not use the professional services of AFRI. This change will require coordination and cooperation of the reunion members of 2009.

Ms. Cindy Otis, the 96th Association's employee, will assist Jim Black, treasurer, with coordinating the financial aspects of the reunion. She will manage the numbers of persons attending Branson Shows, pre-determined tours, and purchases of meals and regular Deadeye events. The pre-reunion events can be handled without too much trouble. The major difference will be that the reunion members will need to pre-

register for events and attractions by May. For the association to get the best financial deals it requires a deposit that has to come from the members. The hotel allows a 72 hour hotel cancellation policy that is to be passed to the 2009 economy. The shows and entertainment offer discounts for groups but deposits have to be sent at time of negotiation. The funds for the shows and events require 45 days full payment. The committee would like to offer the best prices and will be realistic about how many may need to change their plans. When working with a group, there is the realization that some cancellations are necessary. The committee will do its best to have on site replacements to allow for full refunds. We need the members to make a commitment to the planning committee that will allow us to keep costs as low as possible.

The 2009 Reunion committee: Sam and Debbie Wood, Harriet Nichols, Carole Wargo, Pat McMillian, Joe Boyack, Scott Buffington, Glenn and Rita Stewart, and Mary Eleanor Wood Smith needs your help and support and your early pre-registration to hotel and submission of event funds.

The 2008 committee was most appreciative of the ladies and gentlemen who took over important jobs on site: Bette Lovins, Dorothy Mokrish, Dorothy Jacobson, Celia Ellis, Pat Burke, The Orville Casper's family, the Families of Karl Knutson, Val Heinrich, Herman and Helen Buffington and family members Scott and Tom, Glendoris Cole, Shirley Kots, Sylvia Keindrich, Collete Tolliver, Martha DeRoss, Mike and Elsie Moroz's daughters,

sons-in-law, and grandchildren, Mike McCafferty's daughter Terri Jones granddaughter Marly, Sgt. Greer, Sgt. Major Elwood, Jack Phillips and grandsons Jason and Judson, Beverly Emmons, her daughter Jodi and granddaughter Lydia, and the other 96th persons who said yes when requested to help the committee. All of these people helped so much and also had big smiles when they took on the requests and responsibilities of helping all the 2008 96th reunion members. We need you to donate an hour or two for the 2009 reunion, to help man the registration table, collect tickets for events, shows, assist in the merchandise room. We can do this together without any one person having to do it without assistance.

If you are interested in attending a specific show, the committee will work hard to get a small group together and help you arrange shuttle so transportation costs will not deter your choice of entertainment. This will take patience and cooperation on every person's part. The committee can do it now but they will be unable to provide this type of service as a walk up in July. The necessity for everyone to assist in pre-registering will increase the enjoyment for all members who attend the reunion.

Sincerely,
The 2009 Reunion Committee

The City of Branson aspires to have the Branson Airport open for flights in May 2009. IF this is not feasible the reunion committee will try to arrange small group transportation from the Springfield Airport on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday for the members who call or e-mail times of expected

arrival and exit times. This service will only work if members send the committee the information in time to work with the shuttle service company. Branson has so many opportunities and entertainment for all ages. Ask your sons, daughters, grandchildren now to join you for a reunion. If it has been years since your children came. ask them to come and view a reunion as an adult. It may be the best family vacation ever. When will the different generations have the opportunity to learn and enjoy the conversations and fellowship of buddies from WWII. Once a

Deadeye, Always a Deadeye is a gift that should be offered to your adult children, grandchildren and great grandchildren... do it for them... Ask them to be a part of the 2009 reunion.

Think about those adorable children at the 2008 reunion that entertained, collected raffle tickets, volunteered to help and listened attentively to adult conversations. Oh, what a wonderful gift that few people get to experience but all of us wish for as we get older. Our new 96th friends want to meet and greet your family...act now and let it happen in July 2009.



The 2009 reunion will be held in Branson, MO
July 24-26, 2009
Lodge of the Ozarks Branson Hotel
877-327-9894

Make hotel reservations early!!!!

- Registration for events is most important---May is the date for reservations in order to keep hotel, shows, and events possible.
- Events for groups of 30+ are located less than 1/2 a city block from the hotel and require no bus ride.
Mickey Gilley Show
Hughes Brother's Show
The Platters
Jim Stafford Show
Hawaiian Show
- The room rate is \$100.00 per night with a Continental Breakfast and Tax already included!
- The banquet and Memorial Service will be on Sunday.
- Visit the Veterans Memorial Museum (see page 3)
- Extra event days are Monday and Tuesday.
- Ride the Ducks and see the city's update of the vehicles from which the soldiers left ships in the Pacific!

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MAIN STREET NEWSPAPERS
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JEFFERSON, GA 300549

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DEADEYE
DISPATCH

TAPS.....Honoring Those Who Have Gone Before Us



Robert Abraham
Hughson, CA
921st Field Artillery Battalion
October 9, 2007
By wife, Betty

Michael S. Balen
Illinois
96th Infantry Division
August 14, 2008
By niece, Martha Cornett

Charles R. Brandon
Springfield, OH
796 Ordnance Co.
September 25, 2008
By wife, Clarabelle

Herbert A. Brauns
Redford Township, Michigan
Company G, 381st Infantry
March 11, 2008
By wife, Genevieve

Lawrence R. Brumfield
North Kansas City, Missouri
96th Infantry Division
June 4, 2007
By White Chapel Funeral Home

William W. Clark
Atlanta, Georgia
Co. A, 321st Medical Battalion
November 26, 2006
By son, W. Kendall Clark

Roger F. Conger
Amite, Louisiana
Co. E, 381st Infantry
November 5, 2008
By son, Robert Mark Conger

Arlynn A. Cuthbertson
Elko, Nevada
96th Recon Troop
March 31, 2007
By Doug Burton

Robert J. Dianovsky
February 15, 2006
382nd Bn., Hq. Company
By daughter, Susan E. Dianovsky

Nelton Duncan
Wynne, Arkansas
Co. D, 381st Inf.
June 22, 2008
By wife, Myrtle

Melvin C. Dustmann
Staunton, Illinois
Medical Detachment, 383rd Infantry
May 18, 2005
By wife, Daisy

Harold L. Estoppey
Centralia, Illinois
Co. K 381st Infantry
December 29, 2007
By wife, Nellis

Don Foster
Topeka, Kansas
Headquarters Battery,
96th Division Artillery
By Glendoris Cole

Edward W. Funk
Muskegon, Michigan
Co. M, 383rd Infantry
March 14, 2008
By wife, Gail

C. Richard "Rich" Geiger
St. Louis, Missouri
96th Infantry Division
July 18, 2008
By Kansas City Star Obituary

Merwin F. Hill
Verona, Illinois
363rd Field Artillery Battalion
April 3, 2008
By daughter, Janet McCormack

Linus Weest Husing
Montrose, Missouri
February 29, 2008
By Glendoris Cole

William Kesselowski
PawPaw, Michigan
Co. I, 382nd Infantry
September 2, 2008
By son, Bill Kessel

Kirtley P. LaBlanc
Port Barre, Louisiana
Antitank Co., 382nd Infantry
August 16, 2008
By Charles Emont on website
guest book

James B. McGough
Emmet, Arkansas
Headquarters Co., 1st Battalion
March, 2008
By Mrs. McGough

Robert Massey
Kennedale, TX
Company G 382nd Infantry
December 16, 2007
By daughter, Vickie Chandler

Harold I. Moss
Spokane, Washington
Co. M, 382nd Infantry
June 24, 2007
By Bill Hill

Leslie Mund
Salmon, Idaho
Co. C, 383rd Infantry
Feb. 22, 2007
By sister, Berniece Cannon

Frank C. Palecek
Butternut, Wisconsin
381st Infantry
October 23, 2002
By Ray Hilgard

John Pardini
Tacoma, Washington
Battery B, 921st Field Artillery Bn.
August 19, 2008
By Dick Haglund

Claude Rollins
Granite Bay, California
Company K, 383rd Infantry
May 15, 2008
By daughter, Arlene Wilson

George Sartain
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Co. L, 381st Infantry
September 30, 2006
By Glendoris Cole

Peter Spagnuolo
Warren, Michigan
Co. C, 381st Infantry
May 6, 2008
By daughter, Lisa Spagnuolo

Harold J. Van Wert
Port Chester, New York
383rd Infantry
December 25, 2007
By wife, Victoria M. Van Wert

Frank Wallace
Medford, Oregon
Field Artillery Battalion
March 21, 2008
By Ben Confer

John Wargo
Hazleton, Pennsylvania
C Co., 382nd Inf.
September 1, 2008
By wife, Carole

Wesley Wellander
Yuba City, California
96th Infantry Division
July 11, 2007
By wife, Violet

Wilbur A. Johnson
Charlotte, North Carolina
Co. K, 381st Infantry
January 27, 2008
By Betty Johnson

Dwight "Blackie" F. Walters
Galesburg, Illinois
Co. B, 383rd Infantry
July 19, 2008
By Frank Zimmerman

Larry Winters
Montrose, Colorado
2nd BN. HQ., 383rd Infantry
July 1, 2007
By Glendoris Cole



The Deadeye Dispatch

Official Publication of the
96TH Infantry
Division
Deadeye
Association
• Fall, 2008 Edition •

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Thomas E. (Tom) Roby
Past President

Harriet Nichols
Secretary

D. Michael (Mike) McCafferty
Treasurer

See Page 5 for complete
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all board members

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Deadeyes Online
For current and recent Deadeye
Dispatch issues and other
information about the 96th
Infantry Division Deadeye
Association
96th-infantry-deadeyes.org/

How to submit a name for Taps

Our Taps information comes from a variety of sources, including emails, notes from family and friends and returned mail from the U.S. Postal Service. We apologize for any information that may be incorrect or incomplete.

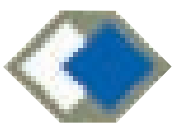
To submit a name for Taps, please contact one of the following:

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Phone: 608-837-7479

Glendoris Cole
Email: glen96th@q.com
6155 S. Ammons Way, Apt. 304
Littleton, CO 80123
Phone: 303-933-1887 or 719-330-7815

Join the
Deadeyes!
See page 5
for information.



Reunion 2009... Branson, Missouri

See it, Do it... An Overview of Branson

The Branson/Lakes Area is nestled in the scenic Ozark Mountains, surrounded by three pristine lakes. Table Rock Lake, Lake Taneycomo, and Bull Shoals Lake offer water enthusiasts a wide array of recreational activities. The lakes never freeze, welcoming visitors year-round.

Visitors can swim, water ski,

boat, sail, Scuba dive, Jet Ski, parasail, kayak and of course, fish. All three lakes offer picnicking facilities and easy access to the water through public marinas and boat docks. Several commercial docks provide fuel, supplies and a wide range of boat rentals including ski boats, pontoon boats, bass boats and wave runners.

A dedicated team of State Water Patrol and the Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel enforce safety regulations on the area's three unspoiled lakes. The Corps of Engineers, which owns the land surrounding the lakes, has incorporated stringent conservation regulations to preserve the natural shoreline of the overall beauty of the area.

Branson entertainment has something for everyone

Going to a show in Branson is an event! Lights, costumes, elaborate sets, a full cast of singers, dancers and talented entertainers combine to make a truly exciting entertainment experience. With 50 theaters and more than 100 shows, visitors never have to wait long to be entertained. Awake to a lively breakfast show, spend the afternoon toe tapping to a big band and enjoy an evening with one of the many stars. Daytime or nighttime...it's show time!

Music in Branson is unique in its tremendous variety of musical offerings. Audiences will thrill to shows that feature pop, swing, gospel, 50's rock 'n roll, classical and country –all com-

bined in a musical diversity unmatched by any other vacation destination.

Whether it's dancing, juggling, playing musical instruments, or racing an ostrich – variety is a hallmark of Branson. Here, the rule for great variety is that every show should be full of surprises!

Comedy and Branson go hand in hand. Satirical slapstick comedy sketches make audiences roar with laughter. Not only do most of the music theaters include comedy sketches, several feature nationally known comics, like Yakov Smirnoff. "Keeping Branson Clean" goes far beyond the natural environment to include the entertain-

ment environment as well.

While magic is always in the air in the Branson/Lakes Area, real magic, amazing illusions, astonishing slight of hand and objects that seemingly vanish into thin air are also offered.

Not only is the entertainment in Branson unique, but so are the entertainers. The performers drawn to Branson are special. They genuinely like people and value the time they spend with their guests. During intermission or after the show many performers engage the audience in saying hello, signing autographs or posing for pictures. In Branson guests are treated like family.



New Branson Airport scheduled to open in time for 96th Reunion

A new commercial airport is now under construction in the Branson area. The scheduled opening is in May, 2009 in time for the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association's annual reunion in late July.



Check out your Deadeye Website
96th-infantry-deadeyes.org/
 or the Spring, 2009 Deadeye Dispatch
 for more specific information on the 2009 reunion

Branson Salutes those who served

Branson is the year-round home for Veterans, where they are treated like family and honored for their service, commitment and sacrifice to our country. Veterans and active duty personnel from all branches are welcome in the Branson/Lakes Area every day of the year. To our Veterans we say "thank you" and "welcome home."

- Branson offers the following year-round services for veteran groups: Memorial Services, ROTC Presentations, Color Guards, Armed Force Recognition at area shows and attractions
- The **American Bus Association** has ranked Branson #1 in the U.S. for "best value for the money spent" and the Branson CVB one of the nation's best for "CVB that works the hardest for its guests."
- The **Congressional Medal of Honor Society** chose Branson as their host city for the 2003 Congressional Medal of Honor Convention
- Military reunion planners from all over the country rank Branson as a "Top 5 most popular Reunion Destination."

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★ Over 500,000 Names of U.S. Soldiers Killed in Action

Over 18,000 Sq. Ft. of Art and Exhibits!

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www.veteransmemorialbranson.com

Look for the Full-Size World War II P-51 Mustang Fighter Plane at 1250 W. Hwy. 76, Branson, MO

Reunion 2009... Branson, Missouri

"Hits of the '60's" to salute the 96th during 2009 reunion

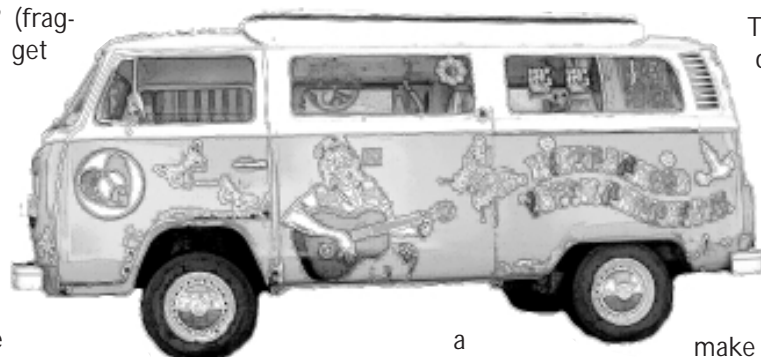
Deadeyes, do you remember what you were doing in the '60's? While you retrieve those memories of the events and what was happening in your lives, do you remember the '60's and the music and dances that your children were singing and dancing?



Yes, they were new to all of us but you and the family survived. What about those Bermuda shorts on Dad? What about the hairdo's? What about the television shows and the

new song stars? (fragments but you get the point)

The "Hits of the '60's" is a musical show that has invited the 96th Infantry Division - Deadeye Association to send a group of pictures from the years before the 60's, during the '60's and after the '60's. With these pictures of the Deadeyes, their production media department will arrange



a short video about the Deadeyes. The video will be shown at the beginning of their show. The theater said they enjoy this salute to the Veterans and the majority of the veteran groups really have a few laughs.

This is a great opportunity to share a few of your family photos of past reunions. The photos will have some men and women in attire that will make you laugh and cry. Many of the photos will have Deadeyes and their family members who are deceased. Some of the photos will have a close buddy who can not attend, but with his face on the screen then he or

she will be with us with an extra smile from us all as we see the years roll on.

Please, please send Mary Eleanor Wood Smith your photos. They will be returned to you. If you have a special picture - do not wait, mail it now. Thank you.

.....

Mary Eleanor Wood Smith
2104 Slash Court
North Augusta, SC 29841
803/278-2109
mewsmith@yahoo.com

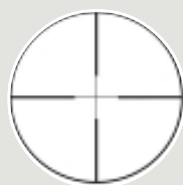
ALWAYS A DEADEYE

Once a Deadeye, always a Deadeye,
I'm proud to be known by the name,
It's the nickname of my old Army outfit,
And deep down, we're the same
We are a brotherhood of combat men,
All proud dogfaces of World War II,
The best division in the whole Pacific,
Doing what we had to do.

The Ninety-Sixth settled a score,
And well we did it too,
We were on the lines in Leyte and Okinawa,
When the fighting was there to do
We wiped out Japs by the thousands,
And recaptured miles of their lands,
And lost many, many of our buddies,
Our legs, our arms, and our hands.

Many years are now since gone,
The memories have slipped away,
But still remains that pleasant glow
Of brotherhood, made upon that day
Once a Deadeye, always a Deadeye,
I'm really proud of the name,
We all enjoy comraderie in my old outfit,
And deep down, we're the same.

2001 Bill Hill M-382
A Deadeye



SILVER DOLLAR CITY...

Proud to assist our military families

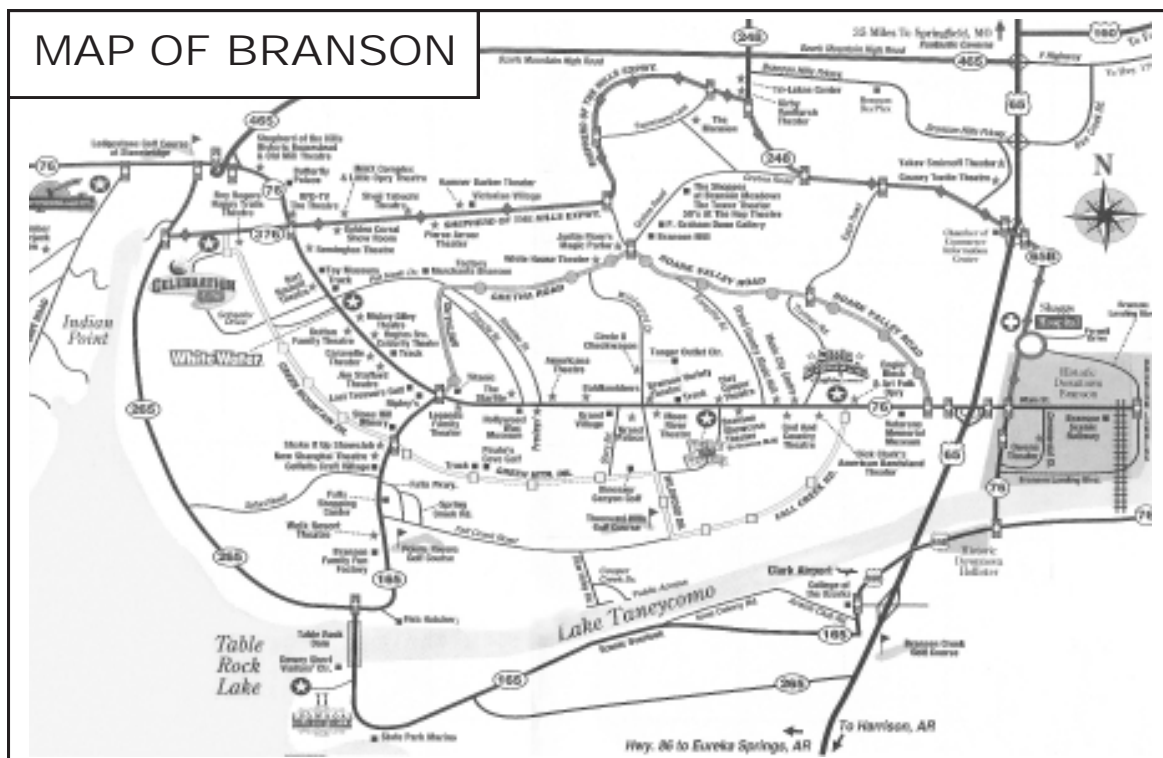
During times of war, we are pleased to offer active duty or retired military personnel and disabled veterans 2-days for the price of a one-day admission at the Front Gate of Silver Dollar City and Celebration City upon presentation of a current military i.d.

This offer is extended to a spouse and dependent children ages 12+. Dependent children ages 4 to 11 will receive a complimentary 2-day admission at our front gates. Children 3 and under are free. The ticket's second day admission must be used within 3 days of the first visit. If available, active duty or retired military personnel and disabled veterans can also purchase 2-day tickets at their base.



Contact Information: Silver Dollar City, 399 Indian Point Road, Branson, MO 65616. Phone: 1-800-475-9370

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Sergeant At Arms
JOHN PHILLIPS
Gladstone, Missouri

RRC Liaison
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scott@mainstreetnews.com

**Deadeye Dispatch Change of Address Form**

Clip and mail to:
Cindy Otis, PO Box 581254, Salt Lake City, UT 84158 or email: sassy.cindy@gmail.com

OLD ADDRESS

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

NEW ADDRESS

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Now is the time to...
Join the Deadeyes!

96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association Membership Application

Membership is open to 96th Infantry Division "Deadeyes", their families, friends, and members of the general public who support and are interested in promoting and perpetuating the legacy of the 96th Infantry Division from its beginning in World War I up to the present day 96th Regional Readiness Command.

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Those that previously served in the 96th DIV/ARCOM/RSC/RRC and are not currently assigned to a unit:

1 year -- \$18.00
2 years -- \$34.00
3 years -- \$48.00

Those currently assigned to a unit in the 96th RRC or those assigned to another command that previously served in the 96th RRC:

1 year -- \$8.00 (yearly renewals are the same amount)

Family members or friends of former 96th Soldiers (WWII or Desert Storm):

1 year -- \$10.00 (yearly renewals are the same amount)

----- Detach and Return with Payment -----

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

LAST NAME: _____ **FIRST NAME:** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____

STATE: _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____

PHONE NUMBER: () _____

EMAIL: _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THAT REPRESENTS YOUR STATUS:

- 96th Veteran - Previously served in the 96th Inf Div/ARCOM/RSC/RRC
 Current member of a 96th RRC unit
 Prior service in a 96th unit and still on duty
 Family/Friend of the 96th

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: _____ \$ _____

DONATION: _____ \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ \$ _____

Make checks payable to: 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association

Mail application to:

96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association
P.O. Box 581254
Salt Lake City, UT 84158

Reunion Notes 2008... *Nashville, Tennessee*

2008 Beer Bust in Nashville, Tennessee

Now THAT'S Entertainment!

By Annie Moroz Duncan

NASHVILLE, TENN., date line Thursday, July 31, 2008, the annual reunion of the 96th Infantry Army Association.

The crowd settles into the Holiday Inn Select's ballroom, crowded with round tables and chairs. In the front of the room a stage has been set up. Approximately 90 minutes into the evening event, Sam Wood, Jr. calls those assembled into order making general announcements and providing updates for those registered for tours or meals. Finally...for four grandchildren who traveled from Allen, Texas, to spend their afternoon practicing a skit to entertain the reunion crowd, it's show time! But this seasoned group of performers has grown this year – two newcomers have joined their ranks, the newest grandchildren of Mike (382, Love Company) and Elsie Moroz.

The first performance introduces the newest cast members, twins – Grace and Hannah Duncan of Wilmington,

Delaware. Grace and Hannah gladly perform as background dancers/singers for Nicole Allen of Allen, Texas, while Nicole sings the "Shoop Shoop" song (aka Is it in His Kiss?). This year's musical skit focuses on the girl left behind returning from her day's work at the factory, waiting to hear from her boyfriend away at war with the 96th Infantry Division in the far South Pacific. The next is a solo performance, with Nicole still waiting for the mailman, lamenting that maybe her letter or his was lost in the postal system as she sings "Return to Sender".

A comedy skit is performed by cousins Dan Harper and Matt Allen, also of Allen, Texas, reprising Abbott & Costello's math equation where 7 times 13 always comes out to 28! The boys hammed up their parts much to the crowd's delight.

Then enters Mike Harper dressed as US mailman delivering letters to the crowd (inside was a Xeroxed thank you to the Deadeyes for their service). While he is delivering

his mail, Nicole chases him begging him for a letter to the tune of "Please, Mr. Postman." Eventually Nicole gets her letter, and Mike and Nicole break into a jazzy swing number including some lifts and handstands! The last number brings a more serious note when Nicole thanks the Deadeyes and sings Mark Schultz's song, "Letters from War," which describes a young man's going away to war from the view of his mother awaiting his return.

The Players:

Grace and Hannah Duncan, 10 years old, daughters of Andy Duncan newly wed to Annie Moroz (aka Marjorie Main, the Andrews Sisters revisited). Grace and Hannah enjoy Girl Scouts and have a love of art, especially drawing.

Dan Harper, 13 years old, son of Liz Harper (also a revisited Andrews Sister). Dan performs with the Zorya Ukrainian Folk Dance Group in Dallas, Texas, as well as participating in the robotics club and Boy Scouts.

Matt Allen, 14 years old, son of DeeDee Allen (also a revisited Andrews Sister) and husband, Randy Allen. Matt also dances with Zorya and plays trumpet in the Allen High School Band. The Allen High School band is the largest group in the school with over 700 members! Matt also enjoys Boy Scouts, creating websites and designing computer games.

Mike Harper, 16 years old, son of Liz Harper. Mike also dances with Zorya, is part of the Allen High School Band drum line playing cymbals and is working to become an Eagle Scout sometime this spring. You might remember Mike's appearance at last year's Beer Bust in a coconut shell bikini top and grass skirt; Mike is known for his comedy and contagious sense of humor.

Nicole Allen, 17 years old, daughter of DeeDee Allen, is a multi-talented performer. In addition to dancing with Zorya, where she also coaches the



Nicole Allen, 17 years old, daughter of DeeDee Allen, granddaughter of Deadeye Mike Moroz, entertains at the 2008 Beer Bust.

junior dancers, she is part of the Allen High School Band Dance Squad, The Tallenettes. The dance squad has over 70 members who must audition each year to maintain their membership. Nicole also sings with the high school choir and "Encore", the Allen Show Choir. She plans on a career in music education upon high school graduation.

2008 Ladies Luncheon in Nashville, Tennessee

A Lovely Event Hosted by Mrs. Pat McMillian

The ladies luncheon was a lovely event. Mrs. Pat McMillian, 96th Infantry Auxiliary President 2005 hosted the luncheon with the assistance of Carole Wargo. Pat was unable to host the luncheon in person in 2005 after the sudden death of her husband Bill McMillan. She was willing to put an apron on and give her recitation of the poem "Grandmother's Apron". With the audience mesmerized by her presentation and with evoked personal memories by many attendees, Pat shared her special story when Bob had brought "an Onion" as his part of the Covered dish Sunday School dinner at Pat's new

House. The onion made Pat wonder about him...She learned more over several months and became his bride. One will never know what power one onion has.

The audience was asked to wear the apron that was on the back of some chairs. The apron-donned ladies then formed a line and had a parade around the room so the audience could see the unique designs and materials of the aprons. No two aprons were alike. Special aprons were brought by Anne Moroaz Duncan – Ukrainian stitched: Mary Eleanor's apron that matched her mother's party apron was worn by

Cecelia Treanor, her 7-year-old niece from Franklin, Tennessee.

Coleen Armstrong brought a white apron she had made when she returned to school to become a Licensed Practical nurse. The aprons were a collection from all over the USA. The majority were worn and used by wonderful ladies and friends in ways that the poem relayed.

Ms. Terri Jones had given a bountiful amount of Avon hand cream, lip gloss, finger nail files and special Avon treats to all the ladies who attended the luncheon.

After the luncheon, the two



women servers commented how much they had enjoyed the entertainment. Both shared a small story about their experience with a favorite apron. Those of you who were unable to attend the luncheon,

we hope you will think of a time and place when an apron touched your life. The 96th ladies missed each of you. We hope to see you in Branson in 2009.

Reunion Notes 2008... *Nashville, Tennessee*



President Collins Welcomed Deadeyes

The 51st annual 96th Infantry Division Deadeyes Reunion was opened by the welcome of President Jim Collins.

General Collins shared an overview of the events of the reunion.

Jim Worthing, musical entertainer, originally from Pennsylvania now working out of Mississippi, entertained members with several songs.

Glendoris Cole, Ruth Sigert, Ann Moroz Duncan and Carole Wargo assisted in the song. The 96th looks forward to a repeat performance of the group in 2009.

Jim Worthing shared his strong pride in America when he handed out American flags that the audience waved while he sang Lee Greenwood's "I'm Glad to be an American". After the standing ovation, General Collins invited the

members to attend the reception on the second floor of the hotel.

Over 125 members enjoyed food, drink and conversation. The evening ended with empty plates and cups, but people were smiling, and laughing, and filled with anticipation of a warm and joyous reunion.



Franklin was the Highlight

By: Calvin Clement
Signal Co., 96th Infantry Division

This is not the first time I have written for the Dispatch. I was a radio operator in the Signal Co., and I used to copy the news from the States by CW code. I was one of the reporters.

I have been attending the reunions since 1995. I did not know that the reunions were going on, but that reunion was here in Lubbock, and I saw a notice in the newspaper. So I have been attending since.

We voted in 2005 to discontinue reunions since attendance had been falling off, but the 96th Regional Readiness Command has continued. It has pleased me that they have carried on the same format that we used.

I did not know the history there is in and around Nashville. I always thought it was only the home of the Grand Ole Opry, but I found out at this reunion that in and around Nashville is where the last great battle of the Civil War took place. I enjoyed the trip down the Cumberland River on the paddle wheel boat, the wonderful lunch and the performance by the Peking Acrobats, and also the live performance at the Grand Ole Opry.

The highlight for me though was the trip to Franklin. After the guided tour, I bought the book "For Cause and Country", and I have been reading it. This reunion has really put Nashville on the map for me.

The highlight of the reunions for me has always been the Memorial Service and the banquet, and I am proud to be DEADEYE-READY!

What a time we had in Nashville!

By Terri Jones

Many of our beloved Deadeyes and their families began to arrive in Nashville, Tennessee for the 51st annual reunion on Tuesday, July 29.

On Wednesday, a group went on the Franklin tour during the day, while others relaxed in the history room or the comfortable atrium and lobby of the hotel. The Welcome Reception in the evening included musical entertainment.

On Thursday, a large number of Deadeyes and their families went on the General Jackson Lunch Cruise where we enjoyed lunch while cruising the Cumberland River. The absolutely splendid performance by the Peking Acrobats was amazing. Their strength, concentration, balance, and precision were simply incredible to see. Combining dance, gymnastics, bike riding, and balancing acts, they defied the laws of gravity. Later that night the Deadeyes and their families attended the Beer Bust where the Moroz extended family performed skits, song, and dance.

On Friday morning at 9:00 a.m., a group went on a tour of the Hermitage Mansion. This was the home of Andrew Jackson, and it's been preserved well. We had time to tour the grounds including slave quar-



ters, the garden, and cemetery. After our free time, we had a buffet lunch in a covered pavilion. Friday evening was the best part of the trip: The Grand Ole Opry. We heard so many good songs by new artists and older artists including Jeannie Seely, Connie Smith, Mark Wills, Jimmy C. Newman, Mountain Heart, David Ball, Jean Shepard, Jesse McReynolds and the Virginia Boys, Raul Malo, Jim Ed. Brown, Buddy Jewell, Mandy Barnett, Eddie Stubbs, Keith Bilbrey, and Mike Terry. This was the lineup for the live radio broadcast that has been happening since 1925!

Saturday was the busiest day of all. The memorial service was at 10:45 a.m. and included singers from a local choral group and an address from Sam Wood, Jr. In the middle of the day, some attended the Ladies Luncheon and the ASTP luncheon. After that, a busload went on the city tour, including a brief stop at

the Country Music Hall of Fame. We also had a brief stop at Centennial Park where a few on the bus disembarked so they could walk back and forth across the United States in a matter of mere minutes. A huge detailed map of the US is on the ground in one area of the park, so some of us got out to look at it and now we can say we walked from coast to coast! The last event on Saturday was the formal banquet dinner. We heard words from General Peter Cooke, commander of the 96th Regional Readiness Command, and everyone was taking pictures and saying their goodbyes until next year in Branson, Missouri.

We all had a great time at this year's reunion! We love coming out to celebrate good times with people we love and care about, especially our fellow Deadeyes! Hope to see everyone next year!

The 96TH Infantry Division Deadeye Association



Scenes from the July, 2008 Reunion
in Nashville, Tennessee



Reunion Notes 2008... *Nashville, Tennessee*

Memorial Service: A Time To Remember



Sam Wood, Jr.

By Sam Wood, Jr.

When I was asked if I would give the memorial address this year, a flood of memories of past memorials swept through my mind. I remembered those that were historical dissertations... and others that honored the memory of fallen comrades very simply and eloquently.

At this service I want to share my feelings on why we are here today.

We are privileged to honor the memory of those 96th Infantry Division soldiers who lost their lives on Leyte and Okinawa. I,

unlike you, did not know any of these young men.

However, since the 63 years after the guns on Okinawa ceased firing, there have been those who have departed this life and left our presence. From my attendance in these reunions, I got to meet some of those old warriors who shared their memories of those times in the Pacific.

What I have learned about those men and this division was that they were not out for the glory, they were there to end the war and go home. They would do whatever it took to help their buddies.

At these reunions they talk of personal sacrifice and genuine love for their brothers in arms.

When they remember their unit members who were killed in action, most added, "There but by the grace of God go I".

And now 63 years after the end of World War II and 51 reunions of the Deadeye association, I ask you to think back on those friends and relatives who are not here.

They are gone. But you have not forgotten them. And to me,



this is what a memorial service is all about. We celebrate their lives, we mourned their deaths... But their memories remain.

I tell my military and civilian friends that when I come to the 96th reunions, it is a time when men in their 70's, 80's and 90's are frozen in time when they were in their teens, twenties, and a few even celebrated their 30th birthday on a God-forsaken island where other men of yellow complexions were fanatically trying to kill them.

I take away from these reunions

an uplifted spirit when I see so many honoring and remembering those who are no longer with us.

And as this organization has evolved, we must also remember those Deadeyes who died in Vietnam and the two who have died in Iraq. Eight years ago, the late John Holt from the 382nd read the third stanza of the poem, "For the Fallen" by the British poet, Laurence Binyon. In 1931, he wrote:

They shall not grow old, as
We that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them nor
The years condemn
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will remember them.

I looked the poem up and thought that the final stanza should be included today. It reads:

As the stars that shall be
Bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the
Heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in
The time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they
remain.

Yes, they are gone. But what a great influence they had in our lives, for we will remember them always. And to the end and to now they remain.



96th Division Wall Hanging Ruffled for Ft. Benning Monument

By Janet Hill McCormack

My parents, Merwin & Louise Hill, attended the 96th Infantry Division annual army reunions for many years, including the one in Dearborn, Michigan in 1982. That year they came home with a cross-stitched picture of the 96th logo and division name. If I recall correctly, one of the members' wives had made them to give to all the couples attending the banquet.

At the time, I had hooked a couple of Shillcraft rugs from kits. My parents asked if I could design and make a hooked rug similar to the cross-stitched piece. They wanted it to hang on the wall. The rug spent 25 years hanging in their home.

In 2000, I attended the reunion in Salt Lake City with my parents. My mother passed away in 2001. For the next six years, I accompanied my father to the annual reunions. He died in April 2008.

While cleaning out his house, I wondered what to do with the wall hanging. Before she died, Mom suggested donating it to the 96th Division. That sounded like a very good idea, if they wished to have it. I contacted Cindy Otis and Mary Eleanor Wood-Smith who found a way to give the hanging a new home.

It was quite appropriate to raffle the hanging and use the proceeds toward the 96th Infantry monument to be erected at Fort Benning, Georgia. My parents would be very pleased. Thank you for allowing my family to be a part of that. The rug was one of many items raffled at the reunion.



Deadeye News... *Items about the Association*

Past President's Notes

Tom Roby, Past President
96TH Infantry Division
Deadeye Association



A group of our Past Presidents met in Nashville. The general welfare of our Association was reviewed. We talked about the new association primarily and centered on the financial future of the organization and expansion of the membership.

We are going to have a Task Force in place very shortly. Their assignment will be to study our financial position, and to develop a strategy that will provide some increased revenue.

Part of our mission is to perpetuate the legacy of the 96th's involvement in Leyte and Okinawa. Already, we have a number of monuments and have placed assorted historical data in military museums around the country. This will be part of our public relations work in the years ahead. While we won't be extravagant in our spending, there are some expenses connected therewith.

Almost all of the memberships in the original organizations were given a life-time membership during the transaction. We would like to ask those folks to help support the organization financially. We are looking at an administrative fee on an annual basis. It will be modest (maybe \$20 or less). This plan will be finalized by the Board of Directors this fall.

Unique and effective methods of broadening our membership from the RESERVE units are under study. Next, the Constitution and By-Laws for our Foundation allow for members of the public to belong to our group.

DONATIONS from anyone to our organization's non-profit arm will be deductible for income tax purposes. We expect to have that final and written decision momentarily.

In the meantime, should someone feel willing to donate any amount to our organization at this time, you may make the check to the 96th Inf. Deadeyes Association and mail it to our Treasurer, Mike McCafferty, 7632 Cambria, Salt Lake City, UT, 84109. Mike will send a receipt to you.

Thanks for your being part of this great Association and we would sure like to see you and your family members next July in Branson, MO.

President's Notes

Major General Jim Collins (Ret.), President
96TH Infantry Division Deadeye Association



Planning is in work for our reunion in Branson, Missouri and it was only two months ago that we had our reunion in Nashville.

Our past reunion was very nice and it was great to see our association members and families. The Holiday Inn did a great job hosting our reunion and overall we had a well-run event, thanks to the efforts of Armed Forces Reunion, Mary Eleanor Wood Smith, Harriet Nichols, Don Dencker, Sam Wood Jr. and others.

MG Peter Cooke, Commanding General of the 96th Regional Readiness Command, and CSM Hibbs from the 192nd Infantry Brigade at Fort Benning, Georgia, both gave a presentation at the banquet during our reunion. The 192nd Infantry Brigade traces its lineage to the 96th Reconnaissance Troop and so is tied to our history. This is an interesting connection and I am glad we have it.

Now it is on to Branson and Mary Eleanor has taken the lead in arranging the reunion. We have decided to handle our own registrations and there will be more about how we will do that in an upcoming Dispatch. We will need some volunteers so if you are inclined to do so contact Mary Eleanor.

During our Board of Directors meeting, we reluctantly accepted a resignation from one of our board members, Glendoris Cole. She has agreed to remain active in the association by writing condolence letters to families and other correspondence as

may be needed. Glendoris has been very nice to work with and her advice and support has been excellent.

One of our new board members, Scott Quimby, has just accepted a position as the Director of Logistics at Fort Dix, NJ. Scott has been serving in the 96th at Fort Douglas as both a civil servant and as a Command Sergeant Major. I am sure Scott will do a great job at Fort Dix.

Our latest board member is Colonel Clair "CJ" Read, Commander of the new 96th Sustainment Brigade located at Fort Douglas. The Brigade is officially activated on 26 October 2008 and I will be there to witness this event. The 96th Brigade will have all the lineage and honors from the 96th Infantry Division and is the successor organization to the 96th Regional Readiness Command. The 96th RRC will be deactivated in June 2009. A sad day for many including me. Col. Read will do a great job in his new command and it will be advantageous to have him on our Board of Directors. CSM Ron Higashiyama, one of our members, will be Col. Read's CSM for the brigade. Another very capable senior non-commissioned officer who brings many years of experience to leading the soldiers in the brigade.

Our new Sergeant at Arms is Jack Phillips.

During our general membership meeting, I extended a challenge

to raise funds for the purchase of a monument commemorating the 96th Division to be located at Fort Benning. I donated \$500 if four others would match my donation. The challenge worked and we received over \$3000 dollars. I am proud of my fellow Deadeyes for meeting this challenge. The monument will be dedicated in concert with the opening of the new Infantry Museum.

Here is the list of donors: Jim Collins, Tom Roby, Ric Roby, Don Dencker, Barb Schmidt on behalf of her dad, Bob Schmidt and the Schmidt family, Jim LeCureaux and his Aunt Esther M. Bentz donated in memory of Jim's father and Esther's brother David Cureaux who served in H Company 382nd Infantry Regiment.

Dennis and Diane O'Brien coordinated a \$500 contribution on behalf of the 361st Field Artillery Battalion in memory of: Roman Klimkowicz, Valentine M. Heinrich, Karel A. Knutson, Bartholomew T. Daly, Jim Causey and Patsy Causey.

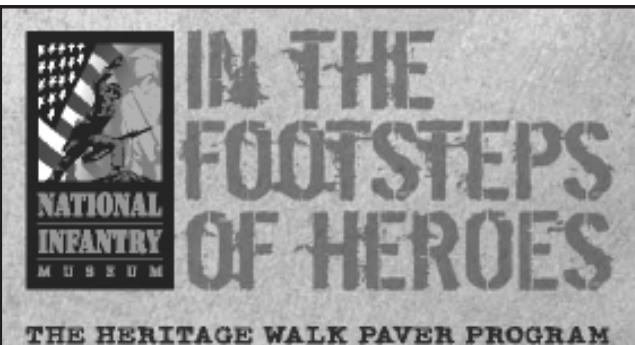
Status: Total membership remains flat. We are not growing but then we are not shrinking any more either. This last reunion had a profit and so that will help our cash position. The association is solvent and does not have any sub prime loans. So we are doing better than most financial institutions.

To all of our members, thank you for your continued support.

History's pages are lined with heroes great and small. Now, your hero's name can be etched in stone on the new National Infantry Museum's Heritage Walk. This path runs along the museum's east side, connecting it with a new parade field and stadium near Ft. Benning, Georgia. You can memorialize a loved one, celebrate a graduation, recognize a retirement or honor a warrior. There are countless occasions to say "thank you" to a soldier.

For more information, go to

www.nationalinfantrymuseum.com or call 706-653-9234



Deadeye News... *Items about the Association*

96th Infantry Monuments & Memorials

List compiled by Don Dencker

Memorials, Monuments and Exhibits which commemorate the achievements and sacrifices of the men of the 96th Infantry Division are located in the United States, the Philippines and Okinawa, Japan.

- National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Honolulu, Hawaii. 96th Infantry Division Monument dedicated April 1, 1999. Some of our dead from Okinawa are here.
- Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington Virginia. 96th Infantry Division Monument and Living Memorial Tree dedicated November 19, 1999. Has graves of 96th Infantry Division heroes.
- National Museum of the Pacific War and Admiral Nimitz Museum, Fredericksburg, Texas. 96th Infantry Division Memorial Plaque dedicated June 23, 2001.
- National Infantry Foundation, Inc. Columbus, Georgia. A 96th Infantry Division Monument adjacent to the Walk of Honor at the National Infantry Museum is to be dedicated about April 1, 2009 which is 64 years after our landing on Okinawa, April 1, 1945.
- Douglas Mac Arthur Memorial MacArthur Square, Norfolk, Virginia. 96th Division Flag Presentation, October 19, 2002. (Flag on Display)
- United States Army Presidential Unit Citation. Framed Plaque and Ribbon presented at award ceremony on July 27, 2001. In 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association historical collection.
- Fort Douglas Military Museum, Fort Douglas, Salt Lake City, Utah. 96th Infantry Division Okinawa Battle Heritage Exhibit, dedicated June 14, 2003. Leyte Battle Heritage Exhibit located in Command Headquarters Building.
- Fort McCoy, Sparta, Wisconsin, U. S. Army Reserve Readiness Training Center. Congressional Medal of Honor winner Beauford Anderson Building dedicated December 15, 2000. Has fine T/Sgt. Beauford Anderson exhibit.
- Site where Camp Adair Headquarters was located, Oregon. Located off East side of Highway 99 W. a few miles south of Monmouth, Oregon. A fine 96th Infantry Division Monument. (Along with 70th, 91st and 104th Infantry Division Monuments.)
- Polk County Museum, Rickreall, Oregon. Located on East Side of Highway 99 W., 6 miles North of Monmouth, Oregon. A fine 96th Infantry Division Exhibit.
- Benton County Museum, Philomath, Oregon. (West of Corvallis.) 96th Infantry Division Display.
- Leyte Island, Philippines – Hill 120, Blue Beach 1, just north of Dulag is

the 96th Infantry Division Memorial Park. Numerous Monuments paying tribute to our Division installed and maintained by City of Dulag.

13. Leyte Island, Philippines. 96th Infantry Division Monument located behind the 96th Infantry Division Veterans Memorial Library. (Adjacent to a Philippine WWII veterans monument.)

14. Leyte Island, Philippines. 96th Infantry Division Veterans Memorial Libraries (4) at Tabontabon, Dagami, Burauen and Jaro. Constructed from contributions and stocked with books by 96th Infantry Division veterans and friends of Deadeyes.

15. Okinawa, Japan. At southern end of Island site where General Buckner was killed stands our impressive Brig. Gen. Claudius Easley and Col. Edwin May Monuments. Site maintained by Okinawans.

16. Okinawa, Japan. U. S. Army Okinawa Battle Monument with 96th Infantry Division Plaque. Located at Torii Station, U. S. Army Base.

17. Okinawa, Torii Station Army Chapel. Stained glass window of grieving soldier has 96th Infantry Division patch.

18. Okinawa, Torii Station, Moskala Training Center Building. Plaque dedicated to Pfc. Dward Moskala, Company C, 383rd Infantry, Congressional Medal of Honor.

19. Fort Lewis, Washington. 96th Infantry Division Exhibit at Fort Lewis Museum.

20. Camp White, Oregon. 96th Infantry Division Monument near Camp White Museum.

21. Camp San Luis Obispo, California. 96th Infantry Division Exhibit in Camp Museum.

22. Fort Benning, Georgia. Easley Range named in honor of Brig. Gen. Claudius M. Easley, 96th Infantry Division.

23. 96th Infantry Division Memorial Highway, Farmington, New York. Large sign indicating New York State Highway 96 is 96th Infantry Division Memorial Highway, dedicated on September 29, 2007.

24. Eldred World War II Museum. Eldred, Pennsylvania. 96th Infantry Division Okinawa Battle Exhibit.

25. Grove High School, Garden City, Georgia. Cumming Field Monument. Monument dedicated to 2nd Lt. Brett Cumming, Company E, 383rd Infantry, KIA on Okinawa.



MINNESOTA WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL DEDICATED

Minnesota dedicated a World War II Memorial on June 9, 2007. This Memorial is located in downtown Saint Paul, Minnesota, between the State Capitol and the Veterans Service Building. A large crowd attended the dedication on a clear, beautiful Saturday. The Monument consists of 10 vertical narrative panels depicting the state of Minnesota's participation in World War II, a World War II Veterans Memorial Monument, flagpoles, monuments honoring those who served in the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam; together with extensive landscaping. A photo shows much of the crowd at the dedication.

96th Buckeye Chapter holds meeting in Ohio

The Buckeye Chapter of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Assn. holds a meeting each year in Ohio. The men and women who attending during the last two years are listed:

Blaire and Glenna Barton, 383rd D Co.; Ruth Below, widow of Virgil, 381st M Co.; David and Wanda Bowen, 383rd E Co.; Billy R. Elkins (wife Henrietta deceased 8-12-02, 921 FA Hg. Battery; James and Irene Foster, 382nd L Co.; Charles and Berniece Frazier, 382nd I Co.; Wendell and Eloise Johnson, 383rd I Co.; James and Clara Belle Knight; Renwyn and Vivan Triplett, Lee Tripplett, son, ATCo 382 Inf.; Russell Watts; Alva (Bucky) and Nancy Amelung, C Co. 382nd Howard and Mildred Bentley, Hgs. 3rd Bn – 383rd Regt.; Fred Booth (wife unable to attend due to health).

Information via Russell Watts, Columbus, Ohio 43229 – 5259.



26. Fort Knox, Kentucky. Armor Park, 763rd Tank Battalion Monument.

OTHER LOCATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Okinawa, Japan. In the Peace Park at Mabuni near the southern end of Okinawa is the Cornerstone of Peace Monument. On large black marble plaques are the names of 14,005 Americans who died during the

Battle of Okinawa. This includes 96th Infantry Division men Killed in Action or Died of Wounds from the Battle.

2. Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Philippines. Has 96th Infantry Division dead from Leyte, and Memorial lists a few Deadeyes Missing in Action.

3. Washington, D.C. National World War

II Memorial and Registry of Remembrances on the National Mall, dedicated May 29, 2004.

4. Elgin, Illinois. Combat Infantry Badge Commemoration with large replica of the Combat Infantry Badge. In park downtown near Fox River.



Deadeye News... Continuing the Cause

Update on 96th Monument at Benning

By Don Dencker

Progress has been made on the place of a 96th Infantry Division Monument at the Walk of Honor near the new National Infantry Museum. The National Infantry Museum is a large new building which will be dedicated on March 20, 2009. The National Infantry Museum is located on property next to Fort Benning, Georgia.



Artist's Rendering

We are planning on a date at or near April 1, 2009 for the dedication of the 96th Infantry Division Monument. This places the dedication 64 years after our landing on Okinawa, Japan.

The 96th Infantry Division Monument is of gray granite and will be inscribed with appropriate wording and with the 96th Infantry Division Patch, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon. Lettering will be in black with appropriate

colors for the patch, badge and ribbon.

The exact date of the dedication will be determined this fall. All members of the Deadeye Association and friends are urged to attend the dedication ceremony. Anyone wishing written notification of the dedication date and time please send a note to:

Don Dencker
129 N. Musket Ridge Drive
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

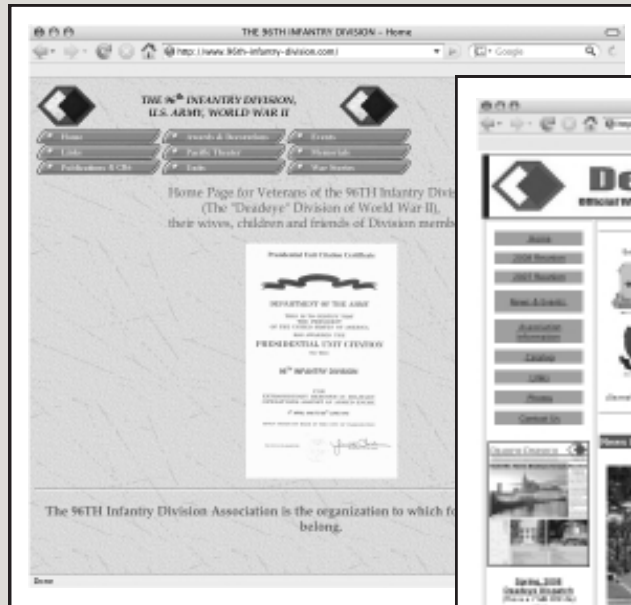
Veterans' History Project

We invite individuals and organizations to participate directly in the Veterans History Project and to help create a new national collection. You are encouraged to participate if you are a war veteran or served in the armed forces, if you served in wartime as a civilian, if you are a relative of a veteran, a teacher or student, a librarian or archivist, an historian or oral historian, a community member, a resident or visitor at a senior care facility, or a member of a civic organization or educational institution at any level. All records of personal histories and all documents submitted to the Veterans History Project will be part of the Library of Congress/American Folklife Center National Veterans History collections. The Library of Congress will create a comprehensive, searchable catalog of all materials collected as part of this project so that researchers and the public will know how to access them.

The Library's acclaimed Web site will present selections from some of the recorded histories, letters and other documents online, making them available to millions of Americans.

If you wish to join the effort, please check our Web site at www.loc.gov/folklif/vets

YOUR ASSOCIATION WEB SITES



Help! We need a web master!

For the past several years, the Deadeyes have been well-served by Don Dencker's hard work on our original web site, 96th-infantry-division.com. This site has a wealth of historic information as well as updates on some of the association's current activities.

About three years ago, development on a new 96th website was begun, 96th-infantry-deadeyes.org. The "new" site contains much of the content from the original site but also has photos from recent reunions, past issues of the Deadeye Dispatch, contact information, etc. Both

Wendy Nix and Scott Buffington have been working on this in recent months.

Although both sites remain active, we are looking for someone to take the mantle of combining, expanding and updating the site for current and future membership. If you are an Internet-savvy Deadeye-loving volunteer who has the time and skills to take this endeavor to the next level, please contact Don Dencker at dizzydon@aol.com, phone 608-837-7479 or Scott Buffington at scott@mainstreetnews.com, phone 706-367-2485.

Also, Deadeye Bill Hill and Deadeye daughter Janet Wharton proudly announce a new Deadeye website: rememberthedeadeyes.com. They invite everyone to visit it soon.

Association notes from all over.....

Deadeyes get "New Look"
The board approved a new logo that emphasized the word "Deadeye" to capture the essence of the new association. These materials show-



case this new logo and graphically promote the professionalism and strength of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association, while continuing the focus on the traditional

double diamond. Thanks to Barb Schmidt and her family for the new design.

Operation "Stand-down"
You can donate to Operation Stand Down Nashville, Inc. online using Paypal or by sending your donation check to:

Operation Stand Down Nashville Inc.
Attention: Executive Officer
1101 Edgehill Ave., Suite 1000
Nashville, TN 37203-4951.

96th Widows Association
membership widows who were never Auxiliary members - Join the Association's permanent membership \$35.00.

Check Out
BRANSON, MO
at
www.ExploreBranson.com
Or call 800-214-3661
for tourist information

Deadeye History... *Our Heritage is our Strength*

The End of the 96th Infantry Division

By: Don Dencker

From Mindoro Island, Philippines during the first half of December 1945, the 96th Infantry Division shipped home to the United States for discharge from the Army a total of 6,600 high-point men.

These men, together with the 2,300 high-point men shipped to the homebound 31st Infantry Division in early October, made each unit in the Division greatly under strength. Next, on the 18th and 19th of December came the consolidation of the men into one Battalion in each Infantry Regiment and the four Battalions of Artillery consolidated into one Battalion. Then on December 22 started the shipping of low-point men from the Division, with most being sent to the 86th Infantry Division on Luzon, Philippines.

On December 31, 1945 the 96th Infantry Division was relieved of its area command. This began the men's wait for their ship to come in. Finally, on the morning of January 17, 1946 the U. S. Army Transport ship, the *General Langfitt*, arrived to take the Deadeyes to San Francisco. Virtually all Leyte and Okinawa Battle veterans, 1,714 men with 48 to 54 points and 104 officers boarded the ship and at 2 p.m. the *Langfitt* left Mindoro Island.

The voyage home was uneventful except for some rough weather at the beginning of the voyage and the change in destination to Los Angeles.

During the morning of February 2, 1946 the *Langfitt* sailed into Los Angeles Harbor to the most tumultuous welcome given to returning troops at this location. True to her word, on board the Army greeting boat, the *Snafu Maru*, was the rough, tough "Sweetheart" of the 96th Division, Marjorie Main. Marjorie was decked out in a 10 gallon hat with two holstered pistols on her hips. Miss Main boarded the ship and was carried around on the shoulders of enthusiastic Deadeyes. She proved herself a trooper by declining lunch with the ship's Captain so she could have lunch with her "boys".

As soon as the Deadeyes left the ship they were taken to Camp Anza, located 60 miles east of Los Angeles. Division Commander General Bradley was on hand to say his last words to his men. "For you this is one of the happiest days of your lives. For me it is about the saddest. I won't say goodbye, because someday, somewhere, we'll meet again. I salute you, the finest men I have ever known - and wish each of you the best of luck."*

That evening, Marjorie Main returned to help serve a steak dinner to the Deadeyes. She did a beautiful job of serving two steaks to every man, until she was caught and relieved of this job.

The next morning, February 3rd, the Camp Anza Separation Center was a hectic place clearing Deadeyes to leave for a place to be discharged close to home. By early evening most men were gone; except for two men in each Company or Battery, an officer and an enlisted man. That night at 12 Midnight, Sunday, February 3, 1946 the World War II 96th Infantry Division ceased to exist.

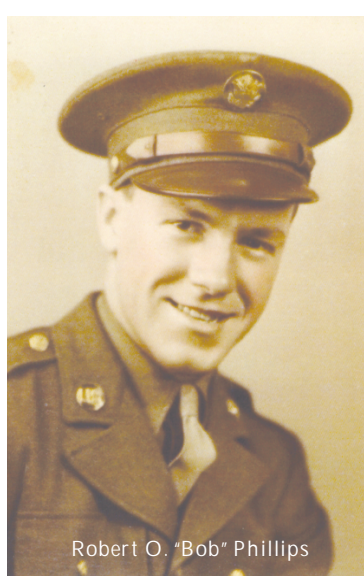
"Thus, without fanfare or ceremony, was ended the career of a great fighting unit of World War II. It left behind a proud legacy, in which glory and victory were the lessor ingredients; honor and courage the greater. It was a legacy which would forever do honor to the men who were the 96th Division - citizens of a free republic who left their farms, schools and jobs to fight its battles."*

*Quotes from the 96th Infantry Division history: *The Deadeyes: The Story of the 96th Infantry Division*

Brother Remembered...

By John A. "Jack" Phillips

In 2004 I attended my first 96th Infantry Reunion, held in Salt Lake City. I was not a member of the 96th but my brother, Robert O. (Bob) Phillips was killed in action on May 21, 1945. He was in Co. C 382nd Infantry.



Robert O. "Bob" Phillips

In addition to the Purple Heart he was also awarded the Bronze Star Medal for helping save a wounded comrade on April 19, 1945.

At the reunion I had the fortune of meeting several members of Company C, including Marvin Strickland, Bob's squad leader and Gerald Craig who helped train Bob on Leyte. Bob had previously been an electrician on New Guinea but joined the 96th as a replacement. After landing on Okinawa his squad leader was Roy Bates and Bob was with Roy when Roy was wounded. He helped Roy to a more secure location and administered to his wound and cutting the boot off of the swollen foot and then searched

out a medic. Roy told me Bob should have received a medal, but the incident hadn't been reported. At a later reunion I met (Jack) John Hawkins. Jack told me he and Bob were the two scouts and were on a small knoll when Jack was hit 5 times by machine gun fire. At the first shots Bob pushed him backwards off of the knoll, and Jack gave him 100% of the credit for saving his life.

May 21st, 1945, the third attempt to take Oboe from the Japanese, according to the Deadeyes History Book, page 147 it states "the first man to reach the summit Pfc. Robert O. Phillips, got a bullet through the head." I was not the least surprised to learn he led the way. All of this by a brave soldier who stood 5'4" and weighed 127 pounds.

At the 2004 reunion, the reception I received made me feel as if I actually was a part of the 96th, the greatest men I have ever met and I really wanted to be part of this organization.

At the 2005 reunion, I had my great-grandson Josh with me and both Josh and his brother Justin at the 2006, 2007 and 2008. They both are thrilled to see and talk with these heroes. They will be back with me on future reunions. The proudest moment of my life was at the Bronze Star Service, and had the metal pinned on me, for Bob. This has been followed by the opportunity of serving as Sgt. At Arms for this wonderful Association, and I pray I can fulfill your trust.

Bronze Star Medals Available to Qualifying Veterans



All 96th Infantry Division World War II veterans who received the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) or the Combat Medical Badge (CMB) are eligible to receive the Bronze Star Medal for Meritorious Achievement. Accordingly, the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association was able to present 68 Bronze Star Medal sets to qualifying Deadeyes at the 2007 reunion or following the reunion. However, qualifying 96th Infantry Division veterans who have not yet received the Bronze Star Medal may apply for it by writing to:

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Army Awards Branch Phone:
703-325-8700

Please attach to your request a photocopy of the Army award of the CIB or CMB, or a copy of your Discharge Form indicating the award of the CIB or CMB. The awards of the Combat Infantryman Badge or the Combat Medical Badge is usually noted on the backside of your Honorable Discharge paper in Item 31 or Item 55.

Obtain a name-rubbing

In 1995 the Prefecture of Okinawa dedicated the Cornerstone of Peace Monument which contains the names of those killed in the Battle of Okinawa. This Monument has on black marble plaques the names of 1,622 Deadeyes listed in the 96th Infantry Division

History.

A U. S. Air Force Technical Sergeant, Victor Follis, has offered to do a name rubbing and photo of the marble plaque with name there upon request at no charge to the requestor. T/Sgt. Follis is stationed at Kadena Air Base on Okinawa.

To obtain a rubbing, visit:
www.okinawamemorialrubblings.org

Deadeye News... *Items about the Association*

Items from the Mailbag...

Seeking Info: Claude South

I have been in the process of trying to find out if anybody knew my Great Uncle Claude. He was in Okinawa and was wounded sometime between April and June of 1945. He has several medals and or awards!! I have sent to St Louis to obtain those items or try to. Claude was the treasurer at the Dallas reunion in 1962. He died 12/21/63 and was buried at Arlington National on 12/26/63. His wife Juanita South of Plymouth, Indiana was then the treasurer of the Deadeye Dispatch I believe until 1968?

Please let me know if you can tell more?

Respectfully,
Chris Randol
chris@ccrins.com

.....

Seeking Info: Thomas V. Horton

My uncle PFC Thomas V. Horton was KIA on Okinawa May 11, 1945. He was in Co I 382nd Infantry. Is there anyone who might have served with him who would be able to provide any information regarding his service?

Thanks,
Mike Horton
MHorton@abcofurniture.com

.....

Seeking Info: 713th Tank Battalion

Two years ago, another brave soldier passed away on July 5, 2006. His name was James Martelli and he was with the 713th Tank Battalion on Okinawa. My question to you is, I would like to find out more about this unit and build a model diorama in my Father's memory. I received all of his medals from the Government including the Presidential Unit Citation and I have the flag that was from the burial at the cemetery. I want to put all of this on display to honor my father for the Grandchildren and future family members.

I have looked in a few places and

find very little about the 713; there were only about two pages on this Unit and its history. Could you give me some ideas as to where to look for more info about location of tanks and possibly some members of that Unit that might be alive.

Thank you for your help, from a proud Son,

Stephen J. Martelli
sjmartelli@megalink.net

.....

Nashville Thoughts

We had a great time in Nashville. Thank you for all of your hard work on keeping the legacy alive! If I were going to sum up our thoughts, it would go something like this:

We always look forward to our July Deadeye reunion. We have been attending these reunions for many, many years and each one is a special one. Reuniting with the 96th Deadeyes and their families brings laughter and tears as we remember what our Army achieved during WWII, along with what our current 96th Deadeyes are challenged with.

Nashville was a great place to meet. The hotel staff was very friendly and the facility was very nice. It was also very easy to meet and greet each other in the large lobby area. We greatly enjoyed what Nashville had to offer: the Grand Ole Opry, Country Music Hall of Fame, and of course the local establishments on Broadway. In addition to that, we attended the beer-bust, banquet, ladies luncheon, memorial service, and hung out in the hotel visiting with other Deadeyes.

We appreciate those who dedicate their time and talents to keeping this organization alive! We look forward to another great reunion in Branson! Keep up the great work.

Sincerely,
Orville and Bernice Caspers (383 Company G), Bob and Susan Shanks, Nick and Parker



John A. Schritz, PFC Deadeye and WWII Okinawa veteran

Service No. 37774567, 3rd Platoon, 2nd Squad, 96th Infantry Division, 383rd Regiment, L Company, 1st Scout status. Awarded two bronze medals for valor in the Battle of Okinawa.

After WWII, John A. Schritz returned to Minnesota, married his pre-war sweetheart, and raised a family of 10 on his Red River Valley farm which he still owns. In 1978 John retired to Apache Junction, AZ with his wife Jeanette (d. 1991). John and his current wife, Jan Wells Schritz, live in Apache Junction where he is a member of the VFW and American Legion.

In March 2008 the John Schritz family met in Phoenix, AZ for a reunion and to honor his service in WWII. Family photos were taken with everyone wearing Deadeye caps from the 96th Infantry Division. In addition, each family took home copies of the 96th Infantry Division's Presidential Citation. His 9 surviving children are Diane (Athens, GA), Pat (Mesa, AZ), Rosanne (Gilbert, AZ), Jerry (Menomonee Falls, WI), Brenda (Pelican Rapids, MN), Mary (Fargo, ND), Wendy (Abingdon, VA), Stacie (Apache Junction, AZ), John (Lake Oswego, OR). Mr. Schritz also has 2 daughters-in-law, 6 sons-in-law, 13 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. All enjoyed being Deadeyes for the day!

Heritage Fund Monument Appeal Continues

Association President, Jim Collins and others associated with the project to purchase and install a 96th Infantry Division Monument at the National Infantry Museum wish to sincerely thank those people who made significant gifts for the monument at the reunion. As a result, with these gifts and with the money given before the reunion, we are now assured that the monument will become a

reality.

Present plans indicate that the monument will be dedicated around April 1, 2009. This will be 64 years after the 96th Division landing on Okinawa. (Please see the article on the monument in this issue of the Deadeye Dispatch.) The National Infantry Museum is on property next to Fort Benning, Georgia.

The monument will have text

honoring our comrades killed on Leyte, Philippines and Okinawa, Japan and all Deadeyes who fought with valor and distinction to defeat Imperial Japan. It will also have in color inscribed in granite our double diamond patch, the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Further contributions to the Heritage Monument Fund are needed.

Please make your check payable to:
96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association with notation: "Heritage Fund Monument"

Mail to:
Jim Black, Treasurer, 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association
PO Box 581254, Salt Lake City, UT 84158.

Name _____ Amount _____
Unit _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

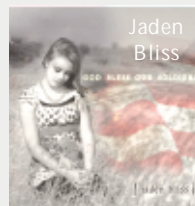
96TH INFANTRY DEADEYE ASSN. ITEMS



"Before You Go"
A Tribute to WWII Veterans
www.managedmusic.com

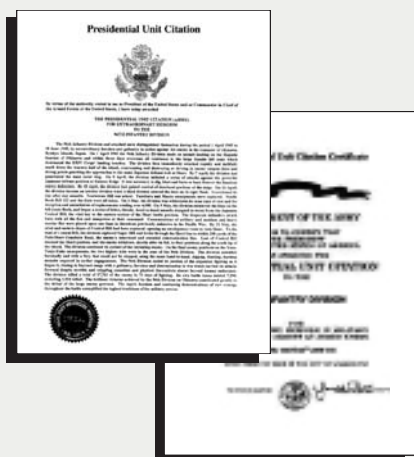
Check out this touching tribute to the veterans of World War II. The song can be purchased from the web site or by calling Managed Music toll-free at 1-888-426-7529. Their address is Managed Music, 6 NE Fisher Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33483.

Bless Our Soldiers



Jaden's CD, God Bless Our Soldiers Tonight, can be ordered online (blessoursoldiers.com) through PayPal for \$10 plus shipping and handling. Or call toll-free 1-888-893-7193.

Jaden sang at the Dining Out in Salt Lake City



96TH Infantry Division Presidential Unit Citation Documents Available

Two color photo copies: Presidential Unit Citation Certificate and Presidential Unit Citation Text Cost is \$5.00 per set of two, postage paid

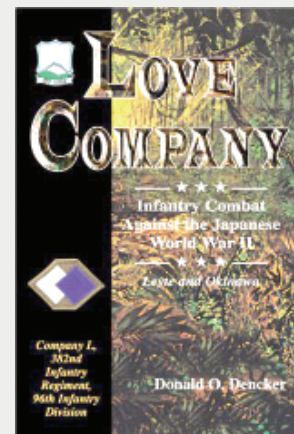
Also available: Philippines Presidential Unit Citation. One page, black & white. Cost is \$1.50, postage paid.

Make check to: Donald Dencker, 128 N. Musket Ridge Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590



Deadeye Caps
(above art not an exact depiction)
Cost: \$10

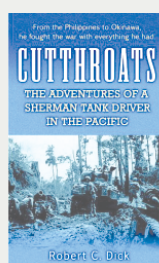
To obtain a new 96th Infantry cap, please send your mailing information, along with your check for \$10 payable to Douglas Burton, 11279 S. Fowler Ave., Selma, CA 93682-9619



Love Company Book

Author Don Dencker has sale copies of *Love Company* for \$14.00, postage paid. In this 355 page book, there are 100 photographs, maps, drawings and documents. The regular retail price of *Love Company* is \$19.95. Royalties from the sale of this book go to the 96th Infantry Deadeye Assn.

To purchase *Love Company*, send a \$14.00 check made out to: Donald Dencker, 128 N. Musket Ridge Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590



Cutthroats
The Adventures of a Sherman Tank Driver in the Pacific

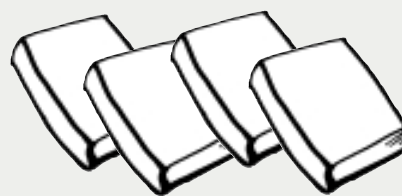
By Robert C. Dick, Co. C.
763rd Tank Battalion,
96th Infantry Division

Available at
Amazon.com or Barnesandnoble.com



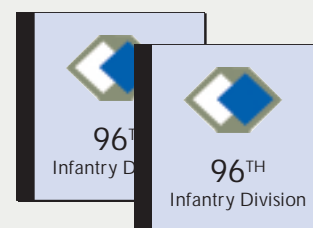
Preorder 96th Deadeye Polo/Golf Shirts

Shirts will have 96th Deadeye Assn. logo. Men's or ladies' shirts available. You can pick up shirts at USO room at the reunion or we can mail them to you. Indicate size (S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL), color (white, blue, grey), men's or ladies' and number needed. The prices are \$20 for small-XL and \$25 for XXL and XXXL. Please add \$6/shirt postage if mailed. Please send check made out to "96th Deadeye Association." Mail check to Mary Eleanor Wood-Smith, 2104 Slash Court, North Augusta, SC 29841. Phone: 803/278-2109. Email is mewsmith@yahoo.com. (Shirt art not an exact depiction)



New WWII Book

A WWII book that will feature Deadeye stories is being compiled by Ed Phillips. He can be reached at: 14111 Capital Blvd. Wake Forest, NC 27587. He can be reached by phone at 919 554 7870 or by internet: mailto:ephillips3@hotmail.com



96TH Infantry Division CD's

Cost is \$10 each
All visual - no audio
All income above CD cost and mailing to go to the Deadeye Association Monument Fund

CD #1:
Battle of Leyte (73 screens)

CD #2:
Battle of Okinawa (91 screens)

CD #3:
Training in the US and Hawaii, Mindoro Island and return to the US and disbandment (86 screens)

CD #4: NEW!!
96th Infantry Division Monument and Memorials (78 screens)

Make check to: Donald Dencker, 128 N. Musket Ridge Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

(Revised-April, 2007)

GET THE DISPATCH CD BY MAIL



With this CD and any Windows or Mac computer, you can search, read, and print every issue of the Deadeye Dispatch that was published by the 96th Infantry Division Association, from the first issue in 1964 to the last in 2005. The index helps you to find stories of special interest, or you can just browse.

In addition, the CD contains three issues of the original Deadeye Dispatch, that were published on Leyte. And an article from the 1947 Saturday Evening Post, "The Alley Fighters of the 96th" is also included.

Order the record of the division's history from Marvin Margoshes, 25 Maple Ave., #3B, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706. The cost is \$10 for each CD, plus handling and shipping of \$3 for the first CD and \$1 for each additional one sent to the same address. Include your e-mail address or phone number. Make checks or money orders to 96th Infantry Deadeye Association. All profits go to the Association.



Words of Wartime Memories America and Abroad

Just off the press is a hard back 384 page anthology, *Words of Wartime Memories America and Abroad (Volume 3)*, published by Park Tudor School, a distinguished college prep school in Indianapolis. Included are twenty three pages of narratives taken from video interviews of Deadeyes from central Indiana. The anthology also includes stories from the Civil War, The Philippine American War, The Mexican Border War, WWI and WWII. These stories were extracted from diaries, journals and unpublished letters from men and women. Order by check to: Park Tudor School, Kathryn W. Lerch 7200 N. College Avenue. Indianapolis, IN 46240. Single copy is \$22.00 plus \$6.00 Shipping. Mention Volume 3.