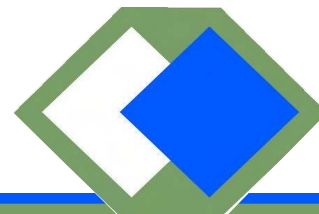


DEADEYE DISPATCH

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



Official Newsletter of the 96TH Infantry Division Deadeye Association

Fall, 2009

Branson Reunion a Big Success

2010 Reunion set in Milwaukee



Milwaukee River Waterfront

2010 REUNION

- Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Jul. 28-Aug. 1, 2010
- DoubleTree Downtown Hotel
- Memorial Service and Banquet will be held on Saturday, July 31.

By Mary Eleanor Wood Smith

The officers of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association have chosen Milwaukee, Wis. for the next reunion site slated for July 28 - August 1, 2010 at the Double Tree Downtown Hotel. Watch for more information coming in

the Spring, 2010 issue of the Deadeye Dispatch. Also, the Deadeye website, 96th-infantry-deadeyes.org, will have up-to-the-minute releases about the 2010 gathering.

The last reunion, held in Branson, Mo. in July, was a great success!

Over 229 persons attended. From faces and official registration forms, we believe about 20-25 did not register.

Attendance at the memorial service was over 250 persons. The hotel had set room for 250, but we needed more chairs.

The service was one of the

best in recent years: Pat McMillan gave a heart-felt message, for all Deadeyes, living and dead. She captured the core of members' thoughts and emotions and made each generation know what the WWII men and women gave for each American and those citizens of

the future. The Denver bagpipers really wanted to show they appreciate our men. I believe they have really adopted the Deadeyes as heroes. Every bagpiper had an affiliation with the US Military and they have truly walked in the boots of Deadeyes. (Please see Page 15)

2009 Branson, Mo. Reunion Roster

Black, Jim	383rd, B Co	Johnston, Paul "Rust"	382nd Inf.	Westman, Paul Robert	382nd K Co.
Adkins, Bert		Junge		Wood, Sam	383rd, K & HQ Co
Baggs		Klimkowicz, Roman	361st FA, B Co.	Wright, Edwin	382nd, K Co.
Baran, John	381st Inf.	Knutson, Karel	361st FA, B Co.		
Baumgartner, Wendlin	383rd Inf.	Lazarick, Leonard	382nd K Co.		
Bentley, Howard	383rd Inf.	Livgard, Chester	362nd FA, A Co.		
Boyack, John	382nd Inf, F Co.	Margoshes, Marvin	382nd, C Co.		
Brooks, George	382nd Inf.	McCarthy, Frank	381st, B Co.		
Buffington, Herman	383rd, K Co.	Petersen, Don	383rd Inf.		
Bullard, Spencer A	383rd, C Co.	Pohle, Russel	382nd, K Co.		
Burton, Douglas	381st, E Co.	Reames, Marvin	383rd, K Co.		
Caspers, Orville	383rd, G Co.	Robinson, Ken			
Casey, James A	381st, C Co.	Roby, Thomas	382nd, C Co.		
Clements, Calvin J.	Signal Co.	Salie, Leonard M	382nd Inf.		
Deel, William (Bill)	381st Inf.	Schmidt, Bob	381st Anti Tank		
Dencker, Donald	382nd, L Co.	Seiler, Robert	362nd, Field Art.		
Dimond, Otto "Walt"	382nd Inf.	Sherban, Aroell			
Draper, William C	381st, E Co.	Siefert, Bob	381st, E Co.		
Dryer, William	381st, H Co.	Simmons, Virgil	381st, 1st BN HQ CO		
Ensor, Bos	383rd Inf.	Simon, Charles			
Foster, Jim	382nd Inf.	Stewart, Glenn	383rd, K Co.		
Garber, Andrew C	382nd, K Co.	Strenski, Ray "Doc"	383rd, K Co.		
Hageboeck, Richard	381st, L Co.	Switzer, Frank	383rd, B&C Co.		
Haley, Terence	383rd, F Co.	Terrebonne, Lester	381st Inf.		
Haynes	383rd, F Co.	Thompson, Earl	381st Inf.		
Heinrich, Val	361 FA, Serv Co.	Tolliver, Donald	381st, L Co.		
Huber, Don	382nd, F Co.	Triplett, Renwyn T	382nd Anti-Tank Co.		
Huff, Robert	383rd, A Co.	Watts, Russell	382nd, AT Co.		
Johnson, Jesse	382nd Inf.	Weik, Donald	382nd, L Co.		

Widows Attending

- Emmons, Beverly
Widow of Ray Emmons, 383rd, K Co
- Sinnon, Mary Lou
Widow of Claude Sinnon, 383rd, K Co
- Kots, Shirley
Widow of Edwin "Tom", 382nd, F Co.
- Armstrong, Coleene
Widow of "Hank" Armstrong, 382nd, F Co.
- McMillan, Pat
Widow of Bob McMillan, 383rd HQ
- Jacobson, Dorothy
Widow of Gerald Jacobson, 381st, E Co.
- Mockrish, Dot
Widow of Edward Mockrish, 382nd, F Co.

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



Robert L. Allgood
Madison, Ga.
96th Infantry Division
October 6, 2009
By Joe Lipsius, Original 96th
Div. Cadre

Myron R. Andrews
Greenwood Village, Colo.
381st Infantry
March 26, 2009
By wife Barbara Andrews

Allyn A. Brenner
96th Infantry Division
Headquarters
Aide to MG Bradley
November 27, 2008
By wife Jeannette

Jessie E. Cook
Michigan City, Ind.
Company B, 381st Infantry
Sept. 29, 2009
By Jim Brown

Bartholomew (Terry) Daly
Brookfield, Ill.
Btry A, 361st Field Artillery
April 18, 2009
By wife Jayne

Captain Robert J. Davis
Goshen, N.Y.
381st Co.L
January 12, 2009
By daughter Margie Davis

Albert W. Faraci
Newport, N. Y.
321st Engineer Combat
Battalion
November 19, 2008
By nephew James DeSalvo

Jim W. Glasscock
Tulia, Texas
Company M, 381st Inf.
May 4, 2009
By wife Pat Glasscock

Harvey E. Glaess
Racine, Wis.
Company L, 382nd Infantry
July 13, 2009
By son David Glaess

Edward Goll
Pittsford, N. Y.
Co. E, 382nd Infantry
October 2008
By Vernon Duncan

S/Sgt. Charles C. Hall
Sulphur Springs, Texas
Co. F, 381st Inf.
September 12, 2009
By son Gary Hall

Joseph T. Hannasch
St. Paul, Minn.
96th Division Hq. Company
July 4, 2009
By Peter Pohl

J. M. Harbison
Tulsa, Okla.
Co. E, 382nd Infantry
May 9, 2009
By Vernon Duncan

Bruce Heise
La Porte, Ind.
Co. C, 382nd Inf
August 26, 2009
By Tom Roby

Richard Kelcourse
Columbus, N. J.
Company D, 381st Infantry
December 15, 2008
By wife Helen

Howard Eugene Killough
Lamar, Ark.
Company George
382nd Infantry
96th Division
By granddaughter Francie Higby

Paschal "Pat" King
Kingsport, Tenn.
Co. K, 383rd Infantry
April 13, 2009
By wife and son

Harry Lines
96th Infantry Division
letter returned marked
"Deceased"
By Don Dencker

John A. Long
Rogersville, Mo.
96th Quartermaster Company
Dec. 29, 2008
By Larry Fielden

James Martin
St. Louis, Mo.
Medical Detachment, 383rd
Infantry
Jan. 26, 2009
By son Ken Martin

Arthur J. McQuiston
Vancouver, Wash.
Battery C 361st Field Artillery
Battalion
Jan 18, 2009
By wife DeLoris

Ted Molczyk
Spalding, Neb.
96th Infantry Division
Sept. 4, 2008
By grandson Chris Molczyk

Kenneth Morgan
Duncan, Okla.
Co. M, 382nd Infantry
November 4, 2009
By Gerald Vincent and Bill Hill

Clifford D. Murphy
Midland, Mich.
Co. B, 321st Combat Engineer
Battalion
April 21, 2009
By grandson Mark Murphy

Robert S. Nelson
Lincoln, Neb.
August 6, 2002
By son Donald R. Nelson

Guerino J. Ninotti
Hq. Company, 382nd infantry
August 24, 2009
By daughter Nancy White

Billy Parham
Co. E, 382nd Infantry
2007
Ada, Okla.
By Vernon Duncan



Miss Margaret Rhodes, St. Elmo, Ill., sister of deceased Deadeye Dusty Rhodes and a long-time Deadeye booster, passed away Sept. 25, 2009. Shown with former Sen. Bob Dole in Washington, D. C. in 2005, the beloved Miss Rhodes attended many 96th Division Association reunions, the last time in 2007. She is survived by two nieces, both of Tempe, Ariz.

William J. Polzin
Indianapolis, Ind.
May 30, 2009
Medical Detachment, 381st Inf.
By Bill Hill

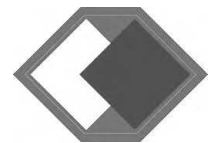
Francis G. Rebholz,
West Allis, Wis.
Co. I, 382 Inf.
September 22, 2009
By son John G. Rebholz

Ross Rener
Dallas, Texas
96th Infantry Division
July 24, 2009
By Noel Garland

Louis J. Sanglier
Lewiston, Mich.
Co. H, 382nd Inf.
August 1, 2009
By daughter Karen Trouten

Byron Stearly
Georgetown, Texas
May 10, 2009
By Ken Staley

Robert G Van Zant
New Castle, Ind.
CO B, 381st INF
March 11, 2009
By Scott Van Zant



The Deadeye Dispatch

Official Publication of the
96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association
• Fall 2009 Edition •

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PO Box 908
Jefferson, GA 30549
706-367-2485
scott@mainstreetnews.com

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For changing your address
Ms. Cindy Otis
2630 South Veitch St. #106
Arlington, VA 22206
sassy.cindy@gmail.com

Deadeyes Online
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:

Scott Buffington
Email: scott@mainstreetnews.com
PO Box 908
Jefferson, GA 30549
Phone: 706-367-2485

Don Dencker
Email: dizzydon@aol.com
128 N. Musket Ridge Dr
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
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 7 for details

Deadeye Mailbag...Letters from across the nation

Dear DD Editor:

First of all, thank you Deadeyes for your service to your country and for your dedication to your unit.

On my search for the text and certificates for my Presidential Unit Citation and Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, I came across your site. You have your unit's documents and I was wondering how you obtained them.

I have been on a painfully long struggle to find the text and certificates associated with my awards, citations, and medals. With the help of the FOIA and the Air Force Historical Agency, I was able to obtain skewed photocopies of pieces of paper that look more like scrap paper indicating the name of the awards with the dates and Special Order numbers. Nothing more than that.

I would like to have something more eloquent than some pieces of scrap paper to display. You actually have papers with official seals on them and they appear suitable for proud display. Sadly, I and the other insane crew members do not have anything worthy of display.

Any help will not only help me

but the men who flew insane missions to resupply the besieged Special Forces Camp at Dak Seang in 1970, the battle for An Loc, and all of the beleaguered camps and bases being attacked during the Easter Offensive and Counter Offensive in 1972.

Thank-you,

Jon Heckendorf

Viet Nam
11-69 to 12-70 (USAF)
04-72 to 1973 (MACVSOG/DOS
Advisor VNAF)

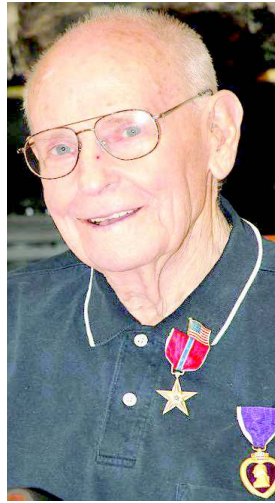
DD Editor:

I would be so happy to connect with someone who remembers my dad: **Vincent Paul Megna**, 921st Field Artillery. Dad was at Camp Adair and spent some time at Fort Sill for mechanic training, then went on with everyone else to Leyte and Okinawa. Dad was from Michigan.

Anyway, I am wondering if you could put this request in the Seeking Information column of the Deadeye Dispatch? I would be most grateful!

Thanks!

Lila Megna
lilamegna@yahoo.com



LeRoy Berry

Dear DD Editor:

I am writing to inform you that **LeRoy Berry**, 96th ID, 382nd, Co. G was presented the bronze star, Monday, 8 June.

I want to thank **Mr. Tom Roby**, **Mr. Don Dencker** and **Mrs. Barbra Schmidt** for making this happen so quickly. The entire family is very proud.

*May the Deadeyes
Live Forever!*

Jeff Berry (Grandson)

LEYTE MAP

Dear DD Editor,

I am attaching a map that I think you might find useful for your website above. Should you choose to use it, I only ask that you indicate "Published with permission from family of Evodio Diaz and no reproductions should be made without permission."

On another note, I have been spending some time trying to find out more about my father, **Evodio Diaz**, who was a Deadeye and served in Leyte and Okinawa. I am considering attending the upcoming reunion in the hopes that someone may be there from the 321st Engineer Bn. I realize it is a long shot, but...

I have other maps and pictures and I am currently working on a website where I plan to post them.

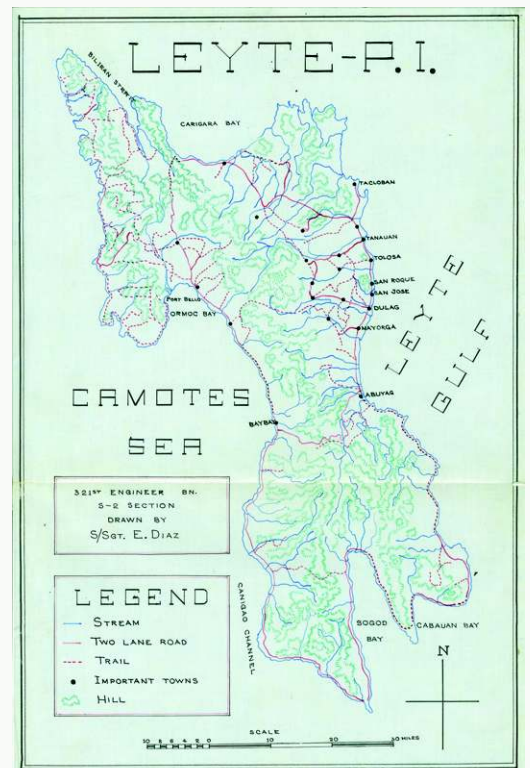
I'd be grateful if you had any suggestions.

Thank you very much for your time.

I will send a separate email to inquire about membership.

Best,

Kathy Tragos
15411 Luna Rdg
Helotes, TX 78023
210-870-9958



Dear DD Editor:

The official Deadeye book, *The Deadeyes The Story of the 96th Division*, is out of print and very hard to find. There are many families of Deadeyes who would like to find one to learn about their loved one's service. If you have one to part with, it would be well received. Contact **Bill Hill** at wrjhil@comcast.net.

Thank you,
Bill Hill

Deadeye News... Items about the Association

Go to 96th-infantry-deadeyes.org

Deadeye Web Site Adds More Ways to Keep in Touch

By Marvin Margoshes

The 96th Infantry Deadeyes Association is now giving you more ways to keep in touch with your buddies. It is happening on the Internet.

We have an area on Facebook.com, where anyone who joins can post messages, photos, or videos for all to see, or can join in a discussion or start a new one. If you're already connected to Facebook, it is easy to find our area, 96th Division Deadeyes. (You don't even have to remember that title; just type 96th in the search box.) If you are not registered at Facebook, it only take a few minutes to answer a few questions and you've joined. No charge!

We will be sending e-mail messages from time to time. Those who gave an e-mail address when they registered for the Branson reunion will be included in the first e-mail. If you do not want to get any more, you can opt out easily. If you are not in that group, or if you have changed your e-mail address since then, and you want to be included, e-mail pfcargoshes@verizon.net, with the subject line, "Add me to the e-mail list".

Our web site (96th-infantry-deadeyes.org) is being spruced up and expanded. The old web site (96th-infantry-division.com) will soon be shut down, but much of the content has already been transferred to the new one. That includes the war stories, and we can add more of these

Deadeye Ready!
Official Web Site of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeyes Association

Home
2008 Reunion
2007 Reunion
News & Events
Association Information
Catalog
Links
Photos
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NEW! Photos from the 2008 Reunion
Check out the Fall, 2008 Deadeye Dispatch! Click HERE to download 1.2 mb pdf file.

Deadeye Bill Hill and his daughter have developed a new 96th Division-related web site www.rememberthedeadeyes.com Click HERE to visit!

Welcome to the 96th Infantry Division website for Veterans of the "Deadeye" Division of World War II, U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers who have worn the Double Diamond Patch after World War II, and their wives, children and friends from 1942 to 2008.

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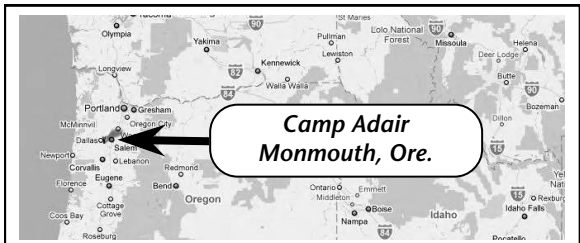
fascinating tales. We would especially like to hear from Deadeyes who served since WW II.

While you are at our web site, look for a box from Amazon.com. (If you don't find it, make sure that your browser is not blocking ads.) Please click on one of the items there or enter a search word or phrase to reach Amazon.com when you plan to buy something there. When you go there this way and make a purchase, a percentage of your purchase price goes to our association! It does not affect the price you pay, and it

helps to support our activities.

Most of you can take advantage of these new possibilities to keep in touch, even if you don't own a computer with internet access. Public libraries mostly now have computers that anyone can use to reach the internet. If you need help to learn how to use the computer, look for an adult education course or a friend who can show you the ropes. Each of my grandchildren started using a computer at the age of four, before they learned to read.

How hard can it be?



Oregon Marker Dedication Held at Camp Adair Memorial Park

By Jim Black

There was presentation of a monument at Oregon's 104th State Marker Historical Dedication Program Saturday, September 19, 2009, at the Camp Adair Memorial Park, 29555 Camp Adair Road, Monmouth, Ore. 97361. This was sponsored by the Oregon Travel Information Council giving recognition to the 96th Infantry Division and other divisions during World War II at Camp Adair. Notable statesmen, veterans of the 96th Infantry Division, other veterans, and families were present at the ceremony.



Save the date!!

The Pacific NW Chapter of the 96th Infantry Division Association will hold its annual meeting Sunday, June 6, 2010 in Monmouth, Ore. There will be preliminary activities on Saturday, June 5, 2010 for early arrivals. Details will be noted in the Spring 2010 newsletter.



Deadeye News... *Items about the Association*

96th RRC Deactivation Ceremony Held at Fort Douglas, Utah

By Spc. Spencer Case

(Reprinted from 358th Public Affairs Detachment story on Facebook)

"Deadeye!"

"Ready!"

The rallying cry for the 96th Regional Readiness Command resounded for the last time on the parade field of Fort Douglas, Utah. Soldiers of the 96th RRC recognize that the June 6 deactivation ceremony represents the end of era.

The 96th RRC came into existence as the 96th Infantry Division in 1918 and participated in every major conflict following armistice. In World War II, the soldiers of the 96th ID earned the nick-name "Deadeyes" because of the focus their commanders put on marksmanship. Their achievements in the invasion of Okinawa were so great the 96th ID became one of only four division-sized elements in history to receive a presidential unit citation. However, as the reserve and active components of the Army become more integrated to meet the challenges of the Global War on Terrorism, the military has less use for large reserve commands like the 96th RRC, said **Lt. Col. John S. Reed**, the last military historian of the 96th RRC.

Reed added that although the unit itself was deactivated, its legacy will live on in the soldiers who comprise it.

"The important thing is less the units than the individuals in the units," he said. "The ceremony is really to give a sense of closure. It marks an end-point and acknowledges [their] service."

One of those individuals is **Robert "Kelly" Smith**, who first became part of the 96th in 1971 and retired from the military in 1998. During his career, Smith served as a mechanic, a supply sergeant and an instructor of aviation maintenance, among other roles. He also served as a civilian contractor from 1977 to 2007.

"The soldiers you spend your time with become your second family," Smith said, adding he is still good friends with **Gordon Hall**, who entered the 96th the same year.

"I worked with some excellent soldiers [in the 96th]," said **Sgt. Maj. Don Jensen**, who has also spent his military career within the 96th. "I'm impressed with their willingness to go to war and perform their missions."

The soldiers serving within the 96th were not the only ones to be affected by its legacy. As the 96th had been at Fort Douglas, Utah since 1963, it had become a major part of life within the state of Utah, said Utah **Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert** and Utah **Congressman Jim Matheson**, who were among the dignitaries present at the deactivation ceremony.

"Whenever and however called to serve, the 96th responded and served magnificently," said Herbert, who will soon become governor of the state of Utah as the current governor, **John M. Huntsman**, vacates the office to become the U.S. ambassador to China. "I would add, too, that the 96th has helped us as Utah to renew and revive our patriotic spirit as we've had you participate in parades and celebrations whether it be the Fourth of July, the Days of '47 [a celebration of the Mormon pioneers held on July 24] or Memorial Day. We are a better state, a more patriotic state, a state that has a better appreciation for love of country, because of the presence of the 96th."

Matheson, during his speech before several hundred assembled soldiers, praised the leadership of **Maj. Gen. Peter Cooke**, the last commander of the 96th, and added that his relationship with the 96th had been important to him personally.

"As a congressman trying to learn about how to meet [the challenges of a post-9/11 world] and prepare this country and make sure that our reserve has the capability to do what it needs to do, there are lots of briefings in Washington and all kinds of information you can get but I found that the more practical way to find out is to talk to people here at the 96th. And during my time here in office, whether it was **General Collins**, while he was in command, or General Cooke, this unit taught me and made sure I understood the challenges ahead," Matheson said. "This unit has always behaved with the utmost of professionalism and candor and it's made me a better congressman."

Following the troop inspection by Cooke and **Maj. Gen. Alan Bell**, the U.S. Army Reserve Command Deputy Commander, Cooke, **Command Sgt. Maj. Alan Elwood**, the command sergeant major of the 96th, and the former commanders of the 96th, retired the unit colors.



Elwood and Cooke retrieved the colors from the color guard, displayed them a final time, and allowed them to pass through the hands of each of the retired commanders before casing the colors. The former commanders participating in the retirement, **Maj. Gen. Sterling Ryser**, **Maj. Gen. Richard Christiansen**, **Maj. Gen. Richard Reeder**, **Maj. Gen. Craig Larson**, and **Maj. Gen. James Collins**, represent a total of 32 years of service in command of the 96th.

The speeches following the retirement of the colors focused less on the 96th's past and more on the future of its legacy. Bell, after thanking Cooke, shared one of his experiences from a D-Day commemoration in France two years earlier. Twenty-five of the soldiers who participated in the D-Day invasion were present at the event. They had tears in their eyes after hearing the younger generation recite The Soldier's Creed.

"As we continued this conversation [with the older generation of soldiers] what I began to see very, very quickly was that these old soldiers, these soldiers that we had labeled as our nation's greatest generation, were looking at the young soldiers, representative of the soldiers we have standing in this field today, as America's next greatest generation."

Cooke, who will retire on July 1, was full of gratitude for his soldiers and optimism for their future as he addressed them for the last time. As always, he expressed his pride in holding the

title of "American soldier."

"Nothing in my life could take away from the ability to say 'Hi, I'm Pete Cooke, I'm an American Soldier,'" he said. "As of 1 July, I will say '...Pete Cooke, I once was and always will be an American Soldier.' You honor our family and the Army today with your presence. Generals come and go and as Charles De Gaulle says, 'The cemeteries of France are full of generals who thought they couldn't be replaced.' We can and

we will be. I don't think the NCOs can."

Cooke shouted "Deadeye!" and the troops assembled in the field answered with a hearty "Ready!" The ceremony ended with the pass and review. The troops in the field marched past Cooke and the retired commanders as cannons fired. The troops finally left sight by marching through a cloud of smoke, symbolizing the end of the 96th but not the end of the 96th's legacy.

MG Jim Collins

96th President Reflects on RRC Deactivation

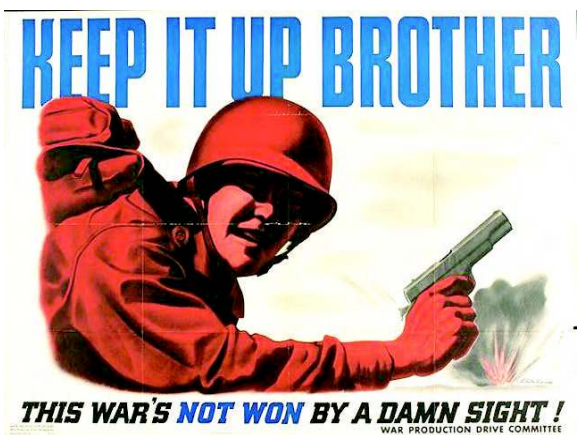
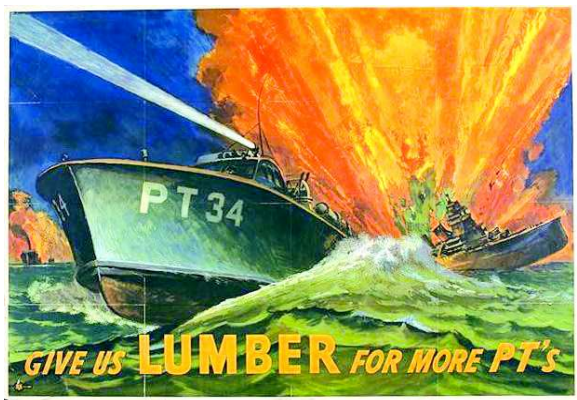
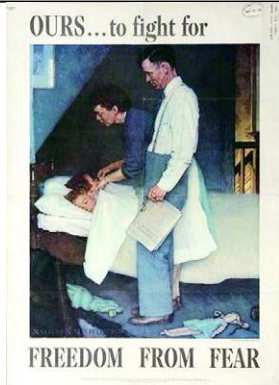
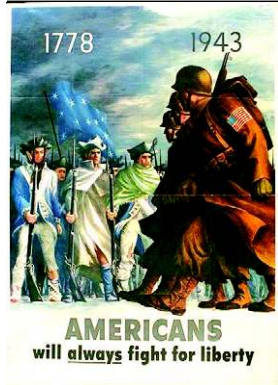
On 6 June 09 I attended the deactivation ceremony for the 96th Regional Readiness Command at Fort Douglas. **MG Peter Cooke** cased the colors, the band played, the soldiers passed in review and another chapter in the great history of the 96th came to a close. The ceremony was very good but it was a sad day. Five previous Commanding Generals and four previous Command Sergeants Major were in attendance. The flag was passed by each of these men to MG Cooke who then cased the colors. **Roger Livingston** and I attended the ceremony and later that evening we attended a banquet celebrating the event.

I mentioned in earlier messages that there remains some good news in that the 96th Sustainment Brigade was activated at Fort Douglas last year and they will carry the lineage of the 96th Division and the 96th RRC. **COL CJ Read** commands this unit and is currently serving on our board. He was not at the ceremony as he was in Iraq doing some advanced planning for his unit's upcoming deployment to Iraq this summer.

Jim Collins



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



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Deadeye Dispatch Change of Address Form

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 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
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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):
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----- Detach and Return with Payment -----

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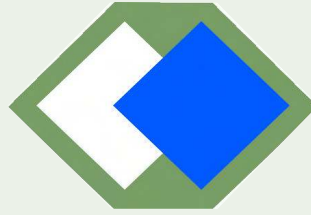
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 P.O. Box 581254
 Salt Lake City, UT 84158



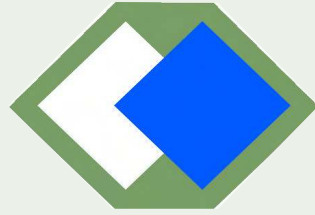
The 96TH Infantry Division

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Division Deadeye Association

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Reunion Notes 2009... Branson, Mo.

2009 Reunion Memorial Speech

The Legacy of the 96th Infantry - A Part of the Greatest Generation



Pat McMillan in Branson, Mo.

By Pat McMillan

Time and again-in blood and in suffering-young Americans secured a legacy of peace and liberty for us and for the future generations. Measured by the one million lives that have been laid upon the altar of freedom since our nation's founding, the price of freedom is high indeed... but measured by the lives of generations to come... 'lives full of promise and hope yet untapped...' the price for peace is beyond mortal reckoning; as the incalculable debt we owe to our defenders- past and present, living and dead.

I cannot begin to imagine how Americans felt the rush of fear and anxiety or intrusion at the announcement of Pearl Harbor being hit by Japan. As **Tom Brokaw** said, "Ordinary people are the foundation of the American way of life."

I do remember Bob, my husband, calling me at work and telling me about the trade buildings being struck on 9/11. I could sense the grave solemnness of his voice and wondered if this triggered a flashback of the news of Pearl Harbor he heard over the radio at the age of 21. When I was asked to speak for this memorial address, I asked what in the world do I have to say to these soldiers and their families except, "Thank you for the freedom that I enjoy today."

After being married to one of you -a 96th Infantry soldier, and having been accepted into the 96th Infantry family for 15 or more years, I began to reflect back on what I've learned from you about your military experiences - your character, your tenacity, and your deep sense of responsibility.

Many of you, some younger than 17 years old at the time and as old as 36, shared so many common values - duty, honor for country, courage, and responsibility. Most of you were reared in Christian homes, and had confidence in your faith.

We call you heroes, but you did not put on the uniform to be heroes. However, after putting on that uniform, it changed your lives and took you to extraordinary experiences of hardship and heroism. You knew there was a job to be done and you did it the best way you knew how. For many, the job meant leaving families and loved ones. It meant sacrifice, and for some it meant death.

You, the 96th Infantry soldiers, came from varied backgrounds - many were farm boys, many were still in secondary schools, some were college students and some were husbands with careers. In spite of the differences, all became one with one purpose. Through this close association and dependency on each other you shared your deepest thoughts and fears about life and loved ones at home. Some of you wrote and read the letters to sweethearts and family for your fellow soldiers, who could not read or write. But I've learned that the 96th Infantry shared such close association with your wartime buddies that you became friends for life and the wives formed sisterhoods with other wives. Many of these bonds have lasted for over 60 years.

I would yearn to hear the battle stories from Bob and wondered why he would rarely share these experiences with family and friends. However, there were cherished times when we would usually be preparing to attend a 96th Reunion that he would share some of the "stories" and "memories" of the past.

On one occasion, he mentioned opening a door to a small hut in the Philippines and the only person there was an elderly man sitting across from the door. The man pointed to the center of his forehead with his finger.

I asked, "What did you do?" and the answer was, "I shut the door and kept going. That old man was not going to hurt anyone."

As former Secretary of State **Condelezza Rice** stated on Jay Leno's show, "Without America in the world, (the most powerful country, but also the most compassionate country, the freest country), the world would be a much, much worse place."

I've come to understand that as **Tom Brokaw** so eloquently stated, "You have so many stories to tell, stories in many cases you have never told before, because in a deep sense you didn't think that what you were doing was that special because everyone else was doing it too."

You had a job to do and you did it according to your training. You were called to save the world and you did it!

After the war had ended, you returned to finish high school, college, or entered the job market again.

Your wives and family members became your counselors and confidants to help you during your post-war experiences-flashbacks, sleepless nights, and yes, tears of pain.

At the end of the war, the magazine, *House Beautiful*, suggested that, "Home must be the greatest rehabilitation center of them all," and photographed a living room designed for a returning general. The editors also noted that Wacs and Waves, starved for feminine frills, would expect their bedrooms to be redecorated. GI Jane, they solemnly stated, "will retool with ruffles."

Obviously this rehabilitation was successful for there were 30 million "war babies" born between 1942 and 1950!

But you became again just ordinary men that helped to rebuild our nation and become the foundation of the American way of life.

Many of you exercised your courage and fearlessness to engage in new businesses and careers. Many had a strong commitment to community service, and benevolent endeavors for helping others. This was a natural extension of your patriotism and training during the years of this war.

President Truman urged the country to support our returning veterans in various ways- such as providing affordable housing, VA loans and loans for businesses and new ventures, and the GI Bills that afforded opportunities to further education.

Bob Dole returned from the war to public service and it resulted in the Disabilities Act of 1969. This brought changes in public buildings, accommodations, and transportation to make it easier for the disabled to function in our country today.

Our land has been truly blessed with veterans who have given their lives to ensure the strength and endurance of our free nation. We owe you much, but most of all, we owe you a place in our hearts.

On the 4th of July, I received this poem on the internet:

*I watched the flag pass by one day, It fluttered in the breeze.
A young Marine saluted it, And then he stood at ease.
I looked at him in uniform.
So young, so tall, so proud, With*

hair cut square And eyes alert. He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men Like him had fallen through the years. How many died on foreign soil How many mothers' tears? How many pilots' planes shot down? How many died at sea. How many foxholes were soldiers' graves? No, freedom isn't free.

I heard the sound of Taps one night, When everything was still, I listened to the bugler play And felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times That Taps had meant "Amen." When a flag had draped a coffin, Of a brother or a friend. I thought of all the children, Of the mothers and the wives, Of fathers, sons, and husbands With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard. At the bottom of the sea, Of unmarked graves in Arlington, No, freedom isn't free.

Today, we are remembering those who loved America so much that they offered to serve far from its shores. They revered freedom, so they sacrificed their own that we may be free. They defended our rights as individuals, while yielding their individuality to do so. But most of all they valued life, yet bravely readied themselves to die in "service to their country."

48 million Americans have served in uniform since the beginning of our nation, and a million have died in battle. These courageous men and women, of all diverse backgrounds that make up America, paid the price of freedom.

Today's men and women, who serve are no less committed to protecting our free nation. They serve by choice, a heartfelt commitment to defend the democratic ideas of freedom at home, and for the freedom-loving people around the world. We owe them much, but most of all, we owe them our respect and support.

What can we do to show our appreciation and what is our responsibility to those who sacrificed so much? Could it be simply to cherish our freedoms, our laws, and acknowledge the great cost? Could it be to help the next generation know that living in a democracy should not be taken for granted and that it may not always be free?

We can do this simply by thanking them personally as we may cross paths with our service men and women wherever we meet. They need to know that we appreciate

their willingness to serve and that we support them.

President George W. Bush, in 2001, encouraged educators to invite veterans into schools on Veterans' Day and share first-hand experiences and moments that would help to educate and inspire a new generation to understand the cost of freedom, and the meaning of sacrifice and citizenship.

In many of our public schools across America, Veteran's Day is observed as an opportunity to teach the younger generations about veterans. You may have been asked to participate in your own community. In the school where I previously worked, Veteran's Day was celebrated with a program honoring each branch of the service, and acknowledging members of the faculty who have served in the military. Veterans in the community who chose to be a participant were recognized at the assembly. Some of these veterans were available for the students to meet and interview later in the library.

I think the song, "Find Us Faithful" by **Jon Mohr**, summarizes my thoughts:

O may all who come behind us find us faithful.

May the fire of our devotion light their way

May the footprints that we leave- lead them to believe.

And the lives we live inspire them to obey.

O may all who come behind us find us faithful.

May we never forget those who have died in the past years of battles, and our fellow comrades in more recent years. Even during this past year, each and every one of us, no doubt, has lost someone in the 96th Infantry family that was dear to our heart. Let us console the grieving, but may the memory of that one taken give us strength to move on and protect his/her legacy.

May we always be grateful and mindful for what you've taught us by your example and sacrifice. Yes, the price of freedom is high indeed and the price for peace is beyond mortal reckoning.

May we continue to pass on the values-duty, honor for country, faith, and responsibility-that gave your generation the title so greatly deserved as "The Greatest Generation."

And again, I say, Thank YOU For MY FREEDOM. May God bless you, your wives, and family! And may God continue to bless America. That is my prayer.

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

The Leyte Landing, A-day, October 20, 1944

By Donald Dencker, Company L, 382nd Infantry, 96th Infantry Division. Author of "Love Company: Infantry Combat Against the Japanese on Leyte and Okinawa."

In early September 1944, I, as a member of Company L, 382nd Infantry Regiment, 96th Infantry Division, U.S. Army was aboard Landing Ship Tank (LST) 745 heading for an October 5th landing on Japanese held Yap Island.

However, due to very weak Japanese aircraft opposition against U.S. Navy carrier aircraft strikes in the central Philippines, it was decided to cancel the Yap assault and move up the Leyte, Philippines landing from December 20th to October 20th.

This shift of objectives moved the Army 7th and 96th Infantry Divisions from the Central Pacific Command under Admiral Nimitz to the Southwest Pacific Command under **General Douglas MacArthur**.

The 96th Division Convoy was large, totaling 45 ships, including 12 troop transports and 23 Landing Ship Tanks (LSTs). This convoy carried 20,000 Army men, 5,000 of whom, from engineer, anti-aircraft, quartermaster and medical units, would be detached from the 96th Division after landing.

A typical heavily loaded LST's top deck would hold men and equipment. The Tank Deck below would be loaded with amphibious tanks and landing vehicles.

The October 20th A-Day landing at 10AM employed four Army Divisions, with a north landing by the 1st Cavalry and 24th Infantry Divisions and the south landing by the 7th and 96th Infantry Divisions. A distance of 24 miles separated the two landing areas. Our opposition was the Japanese 16th Infantry Division.

My company came ashore in eight Landing Vehicle, Tracked

(LVT-4). I rode in the upper right LVT. After so many months of training and such a long trip aboard ship, I think our morale actually soared as we moved towards the hostile shore.

A number of men raised their right arms above the side of the LVT and pumped their fist up and down. This was the Army hand signal for "Double Time."

Our landing day was not without cost though, as Company L (Love Company) had 21 battle casualties.

After the fighting in the Blue Beach 1 area ceased at about 2 PM, I saw an old Filipino man and a young girl about 6 come out of the jungle on a trail. The old man was carrying an American flag on a pole and they were both singing the song "God Bless America." I think it certainly took courage to teach a young girl "God Bless America" under the oppressive Japanese occupation.

During their occupation of the Philippines, the Japanese promoted their own version of the liberation of the Philippines. On October 15, 1943, the Japanese granted the Philippines independence, their version.

A leaflet was given to me by a Filipino who said it came from the Japanese collaborating mayor of Burauen, Leyte. After the U.S. taking of Burauen, this mayor was captured by guerrillas and taken down to the river for "cleansing," except his head was held under the water too long.

On Red Beach, where the 24th Infantry Division had landed, General MacArthur came ashore at about 2 PM. He had, as promised, returned to the Philippines. On the beach he read his "Proclamation to the Philippine People." This was indeed a day of triumph for General MacArthur.

Another event happened on "Liberation Day" that I clearly remember. It was about 5 PM and I had to go back to the beach for more mortar ammu-

munition. About half way back to the beach, I ran into a young Filipino man. He was clad only in shorts. He was very happy and excited to see me. He spotted my canteen and said something about a drink. At first I thought he wanted water, but he kept saying "Tuba." As I watched, he climbed to the top of a coconut palm tree. After climbing to near the top of the tree he took off the tree a container made of large leaves. The young man climbed down and brought the leaf container to me saying, "Tuba, drink."

To be friendly with this thankful young man, I got out my canteen cup. He was about to pour the liquid in my cup when I looked into the leaf container, there were dead flies floating on the liquid. I pointed to the liquid and said "Flies, No."

The young man pulled a dirty handkerchief out of his hip pocket, spread it over my canteen cup, and proceeded to pour the Tuba through it. This did strain out the dead flies, but what about other disease, I thought. Nevertheless, in the cause of Filipino-American friendship, I drank half of the tuba. Then, I handed the canteen cup to him, and he drank the rest.

Starting the next day, a major impediment to our progress was rain and swamps. Starting about 1,200 yards inland were extensive swamps which had been described in our intelligence as farmland. It rained about every day during the first month on Leyte. Love Company lost about 50 men to diseases such as yellow jaundice, dengue fever, schistosomiasis, dysentery, and jungle rot. My Fatigue uniform just about rotted off my body before I got a new uniform at Thanksgiving time.

As the American and Filipino defense of the Philippines collapsed, individual Philippine provinces had issued their own currency. I have a hand-printed two-peso note printed on Leyte,

Concurrently, the Japanese gov-

ernment issued Philippine currency, illustrated by their ten peso note. We brought ashore pre-war Philippine money imprinted with the word "VICTORY."

It didn't take long to come into contact with Philippine guerrilla forces. They over time had become more effective in harassing the Japanese. I exchanged a new Philippine "VICTORY" note for a Japanese 50 centavo note with a young guerrilla from Tabontabon. This was before Tabontabon was destroyed in battle with the Japanese 16th Infantry Division making a stand

there. Only the brick walls of the Catholic church were left standing.

After a 1984 visit by 96th Division veterans to Leyte in commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Leyte Landing, a project was started to build and stock libraries for the school children of the island. This project was successful in building and stocking new libraries at Jaro, Burauen, Tabontabon and Dagami, Leyte. Each library cost about \$20,000 plus the cost of getting books to Leyte. In addition, donated books were delivered to 20 other libraries on Leyte.

COMMEMORATION OF 65th ANNIVERSARY OF LEYTE LANDING & MACARTHUR'S RETURN TO THE PHILIPPINES

By Don Dencker

On October 17, 2009, I had the honor of speaking at a the nicely attended event at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Virg. This gathering commemorated the 65th Anniversary of our Leyte, Philippines landing and General MacArthur's return to the Philippines. My talk centered on the 96th Infantry Division landing on Leyte on October 20, 1944, especially that of Company L, 382nd Infantry Regiment and the taking of Hill 120. Our opposition was elements of the Japanese 16th Infantry Division.

I also talked about my first day is contact with Filipinos which included my first drink of tuba. There was a Filipino-American Color Guard in World War II uniforms at the ceremony, plus a number of Filipino-Americans in the audience and **Len Lazarick** of K Company, 382nd Infantry, also was there. After the program, there was a wreath-laying ceremony at the MacArthur tomb which Len and I took part in.

Len and I were invited to a gathering that evening at the Filipino Cultural Center. A ride to the cultural center was provided and we both spoke of the events of October 20, 1944 to an audience of about 250 people. Audience response to our talks was overwhelming. I can say that Filipinos still greatly appreciate our driving the Japanese from their land.

My daughter **Lynn Wahl** and granddaughter **Hannah** attended the Norfolk events.

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

Okinawa Revisited; the Reflections of War

By Tom Martin MD

I don't believe it can ever be completely resolved: that great paradox of war that took gentlemen away from a predictable world of structure and civility and threw them into an altogether different world. And just how could those two contradictory clashes of attitudes and habits and culture ever find peace within the framework of common ground? How could they find peace after such a life-altering experience?

Ernie Pyle wrote, "When you've lived with the unnatural mass cruelty that mankind is capable of inflicting upon itself, I don't see how any survivor of war can ever be cruel to anything ever again."

In reading Ernie's comments before he was later killed off Okinawa with the 77th Division, I had to reflect once again upon some of the traits and mannerisms I witnessed in Dad.

The great tragedy was that I was never able to sit under the maple tree with Dad in his old age, with me not far behind, and gain a window into his world that he kept under wraps so well. Dad died when I was 34, and he was only 69.

This was at a time when my life was cluttered with all the trappings that only a young doctor in a small town could begin to fathom: the burden of great responsibility that weighed heavy

on the mind, leaving little time for anything other than just that. I lacked the benefit of time-life experience, love for writing, introspection that would have been necessary to walk away with a better understanding of that world and of Dad.

And in truth, I'm cannot be certain that even with another 20 years of healing, Dad could even then sit down and objectively give an account of it all. I did witness his gentle nature when sober. And knew he could not wantonly kill anything—not even an animal. Whether that was inherent in his pre-war personality or was molded from the ashes of "total war," I cannot say.

I well remember having the nerve to once ask "the question" that any inquisitive kid wants to ask their dad. As Dad sat reading the newspaper, I walked up to him as an 11-12 yr. old and asked, "Dad, did you ever kill any Japs?" And I still can see his face take on a different look. I would call it a pained look. He never turned his head toward me, just kept staring at the newspaper, and slowly nodded his head, yes. It was almost as if he were ashamed. There was surely no bragging involved. And I could sense he would just as soon leave it at that. And I never asked again.

I do recall a letter written to Gran during his time with the 40th Infantry in the Luzon campaign. During the street-to-street,

house-to-house fighting of Manila, Dad heard a noise within a shelled-out house. He cautiously made his way to the door, ready for a fight as he busted the door in. Over in the corner was an elderly, crying Filipino woman, terrified by it all. Dad gently took her hand and brought her out to find an area of safety for her—his "first" prisoner of the war.

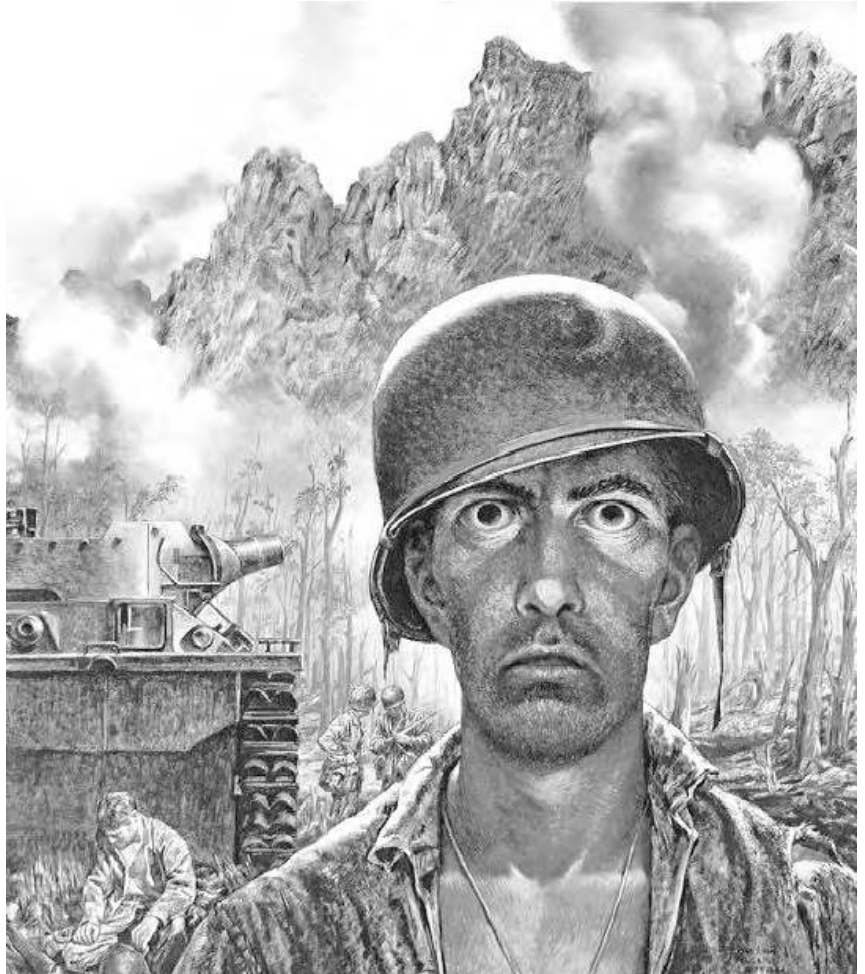
There was this gentleness and yet I recall another comment once made in passing, describing the horror of Okinawa—no quarter asked, no quarter given on either side. "The Japs wanted to die for their country: Well, by God, we accommodated them!" And the other comment: "I knew of men who took the few Jap 'prisoners' back off the line, only

to return a short time later. I knew they had simply shot them. I was never asked to do it. But I'd have done the same thing!"

So there-in lays the paradox, pulling at the extremes of human nature. I just read the memoirs of one Okinawa veteran who witnessed two fellow soldiers who made a bet whether one could shoot the small baby off the back of a passing Okinawa woman in the distance. And he did. And they both seemed entertained by

it all.

I could never imagine Dad crossing into that world, no matter the level of combat fatigue, or rage, or feelings of utter hopelessness. Quite the opposite was true for Dad, and I have to believe as well for most others who lived the "war" at the tip of the spear. No more killing-ever. Yes, I witnessed this in Dad—a subtle sanctity for the nobility of all life. A lesson learned long ago from the killing fields of Okinawa.



Tom has several more excellent stories on this Deadeye website: rememberthedeadeyes.com



Deadeye News... *Items about the Association*

Fort Benning Monument Dedication in April, 2010

By Don Dencker

The 96th Infantry Division Monument at Fort Benning, Ga. will be dedicated on April 15, 2010 at 10:30 AM. This is 65 years after the participation of the 96th Infantry Division in the Battle of Okinawa, Japan. The dedication will be in the National Infantry Foundation area, specifically in the World War II Company Street adjacent to the parade ground. This is near the new National Infantry Museum.

Our dedication will be assisted by the 192nd Infantry Brigade of Fort Benning, Ga. which is furnishing a color guard, a chaplain and a speaker. The 192nd

Infantry Brigade lineage goes back to the 96th Reconnaissance Troop of the 96th Infantry Division. We are invited to attend the April 15th 9:00 AM Graduation Ceremony of an Infantry Basic Training Class of the 192nd Infantry Brigade on the nearby parade ground. Seating is in the stadium fronting the parade ground.

The new National Infantry Museum is quite impressive and those attending the monument dedication should visit this museum after the monument dedication. In the museum there is to be a 96th Infantry Division Okinawa Battle exhibit and a Brig. General Easley exhibit.

An interesting site in Fort Benning is the Easley Range. This has a 600-yard range where expert marksmen are trained.

Further details can be obtained from Don Dencker after February 15, 2010. Don can be contacted at:
 Don Dencker
 128 N. Musket Ridge Drive
 Sun Prairie, WI 53590
 (608) 837-7479

Your attendance at the 96th Infantry Division Monument dedication should be very worthwhile.



June 18-25, 2010

65th Anniversary Okinawa Battle Tour

By Don Dencker

Valor Tours, LTD of Sausalito, Calif. is offering a 65th Anniversary Okinawa Battle Tour, June 18 through June 25, 2010, departing from San Francisco. Major battlefield sites involving the 96th Infantry Division will be visited, including Kakazu Ridge Battle Park, Tombstone Ridge, Hacksaw Ridge, Conical Hill, Big Apple (Yaeju Dake) and Yuza Dake escarpment. The U.S. Army on Okinawa will have a Retreat Ceremony for the group and has invited the group to the Army Birthday Ball. The Brig. General Easley and Col. May monuments will be the site of another fitting ceremony. The Cornerstone of Peace Monuments, which bear the names of 14,005 American Dead, will be visited and the group will also see the beautifully rebuilt Shuri Castle and the Japanese Navy Underground Headquarters.

This could be the last chance to visit 96th Infantry Division sites on Okinawa. Don Dencker helped plan this tour and historian Dr. John Shively will be tour leader. Valor Tours in the past has presented many tours of interest to 96th Infantry Division veterans, family and friends on Leyte, Philippines and Okinawa, Japan. For further information and a tour brochure, call Valor Tours at 1-800-842-4504.



Don Dencker at Brig. Gen. Easley Monument



Heritage Fund Monument Appeal

By Don Dencker

It is a pleasure to announce that the dedication of the new 96th Infantry Division Monument near the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, Ga. will take place at 10:30 AM on April 15, 2010. This will be a fitting commemoration of the 65th anniversary of 96th Infantry Division participation in the battle of Okinawa, Japan, the last major battle of World War II.

(Please note the "96th Infantry Division Monument Dedication" article above.)

President Jim Collins and members of the Deadeye Association Board of Directors sincerely thank all who contributed to the Heritage Monument Fund. This has made it possible to complete this worthy project which enhances the heritage of the 96th Infantry Division.

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 also will have inscribed in color on granite our double diamond patch, the Presidential Unit Citation, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Future Contributions to the Heritage Fund need to be put to use preserving Deadeye Heritage. Please make your check payable to: 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association with notation "Heritage Fund."



Deadeye History... Our Heritage is our Strength

"I didn't have the heart to finish those brave men...."

Submitted by Larry in Arizona

Look carefully at the B-17 and note how shot-up it is — one engine dead, tail, horizontal stabilizer and nose shot up. It was ready to fall out of the sky. (Painting to the right was done by an artist from the description of both pilots many years later.) Then realize that there is a German ME-109 fighter flying next to it. Now read the story below. I think you'll be surprised.

Charlie Brown was a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot with the 379th Bomber Group at Kimbolton, England. His B-17 was called 'Ye Old Pub' and was in a terrible state, having been hit by flak and fighters. The compass was damaged and they were flying deeper over enemy territory instead of heading home to Kimbolton.

After the B-17 flew over an enemy airfield, a German pilot named Franz Stigler was ordered to take off and shoot down the B-17. When he got near the B-17, he could not believe his eyes. In his words, he "had never seen a plane in such a bad state". The tail and rear section was severely damaged, and the tail gunner wounded. The top gunner was all over the top of the fuselage. The nose was smashed and there were holes everywhere.

Despite having ammunition, Franz flew to the side of the B-17 and looked at Charlie Brown, the pilot. Brown was scared and struggling to control his

damaged and blood-stained plane.

Aware that they had no idea where they were going, Franz waved at Charlie to turn 180 degrees. Franz escorted and guided the stricken plane to, and slightly over, the North Sea towards England. He then saluted Charlie Brown and turned away, back to Europe. When Franz landed, he told the CO that the plane had been shot down over the sea, and never told the truth to anybody. Charlie Brown and the remains of his crew told all at their briefing, but were ordered never to talk about it.

More than 40 years later, Charlie Brown wanted to find the Luftwaffe pilot who saved the crew. After years of research, Franz was found. He had never talked about the incident, not even at post-war reunions.

They met in the USA at a 379th Bomber Group reunion, together with 25 people who are alive now - all because Franz never fired his guns that day.

When asked why he didn't shoot them down, Stigler later said, "I didn't have the heart to finish those brave men. I flew beside them for a long time. They were trying desperately to get home and I was going to let them do that. I could not have shot at them. It would have been the same as shooting at a man in a parachute."

Both men died in 2008.



B-17 pilot Charlie Brown



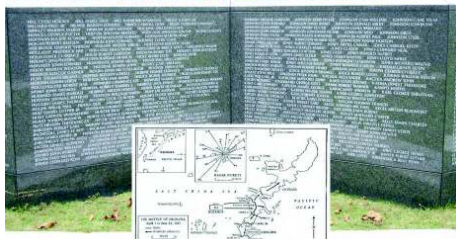
German Ace Franz Stigler

Obtain Okinawa Name Rubbing in the Footsteps of Heroes

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



(L-R) German Ace Franz Stigler, artist Ernie Boyett, and B-17 pilot Charlie Brown.

A NOTE OF INTEREST...

In the mountains east of Brookings, Ore., you can hike a trail and see where a Japanese bomb landed during WWII. There were no people there then, and there aren't any now. In the 1960s, the Japanese pilot who delivered the bomb, Nobuo Fujita, was invited to Brookings where he presented the town with his 350-year old samurai sword.



Deadeye News... Items about the Association

2009 Branson Reunion

(Continued from page 1)

The Musical group had one of our own Deadeyes and each of these men had military backgrounds,

The bugler who played Taps had mastered his bugle and played with the reverence that only a musician who knew the music and the magnitude of emotions that the notes evoked.

There were 61 ladies in attendance at the ladies' luncheon. **Beverly Emmons**, her daughter, Jodi, and her granddaughter hosted the delightful event. The room was quite crowded and two tables of six were added because some ladies had not signed up for the treat.

"Meet my Buddies", Deadeyes, family members and friends enjoyed a meal out of the hotel. The reason for the meal outside of the hotel was because cost for bus and meal was cheaper than having the meal in the hotel. The hotel did not want to have meals for less than 40 people. This allowed the men who do not usually attend events or attractions to "see" a small part of Branson.

The Beer Bust was a great success. The attendance was superb. The true count is not known. No tickets were collected and some attendees did not pay to attend. The atmosphere was very jovial. This event allowed the 10+ first timers and family members to be acknowledged and some were able to make connections with 381st, 382nd and 383rd comrades. One of the most rewarding parts of the 2009 reunion was that men who had been coming for years and who had originally just enjoyed the friendship of their own company now reached out and spent time with other Deadeyes. I heard several times.. "Oh, I have seen you before but I never talked with you..." New friends were made.

The History Room offered so much emotional support to new attendees. **Kathy Tragos** found a true connection to her father by visiting in the History Room. She said it was unbelievable. New faces and old faces found names, pictures, events in the books, pictures and in the voices of the Deadeyes in the room. Hats off to **Don Dencker**. Many thanks to **John Reed** and **Mike McCafferty** for making certain the books and flags were shipped from Ft. Douglas.

Entertainment: there was as

much or as little as each reunion member wanted to enjoy. The location of the hotel offered availability for six theaters and over 18 different shows. Timing was everything.

The Veterans' Memorial Museum was a fabulous walk-and-read experience. The 50 bronze soldiers were so lifelike. The details of boots, back packs, faces and all human characteristics were observed in awe by the group that visited the museum.

A delightful addition to the reunion was the group photo that was made before the banquet. Since the banquet was on Sunday, many of the Deadeyes, wives, and family members were not in the photograph. The photo was a great reminder of the fun time at the 2009 reunion.

The men and women continually said to my family and friends: tell Sis to vote for Mid-USA for 2010. The voices were heard. They knew that one person does not pick the location. The Board of Directors heard the voices and voted for the best location for the majority of the members: Milwaukee, Wis.

The 2009 Reunion was a success. Thanks are extended to all the volunteers. **Sam Wood, Jr.**, **Debbie Wood**, **Shirley Koots**, **Cindy Otis**, **Don Dencker**, **Bev Emmons** and family, **Val Heinrich** and family, **Karel Knutson** and family, **Dorothy Mockrish** and daughter. Special ladies were the widows who pitched in and helped and all persons who helped a little or a lot. All help was greatly appreciated. The hotel staff could not have been any nicer. They worked extremely hard to modify and adjust to the 96th's requests. Most hotel requests were answered and accomplished in a few minutes.

Registration was the largest concern. The problems occurred due to non-registrants, late registrants and persons who failed to include payment.

It has been mentioned by some members to consider a late fee if on-site registration. The number of on-site registrations was over 120. This did make a difference in the hotel's ability to provide space. The hotel did a great job in trying to accommodate all persons who wanted to attend the luncheon or banquet.

President's Notes

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



The 2009 Reunion is now behind us and we are planning for our next reunion in Milwaukee, Wis. during late July 2010. This year, our reunion in Branson, Mo. was great fun and I think all who attended enjoyed being in Branson with friends and family. The Lodge of the Ozarks was a good host hotel for us and the facilities there were very good. **Mary Eleanor Wood Smith** and her committee did an excellent job of organizing and conducting the various reunion activities. It was a lot of work but made worthwhile by all the appreciation shown by those who attended.

We had three attendees who had never been to a reunion before and essentially had not seen very many of their buddies since 1945. I thought it was a wonderful experience for them to reconnect with their fellow soldiers.

The Board of Directors elected three new Board members:

LTC Nick Bates - Previously served with the 96th Regional Readiness Command and now serving with the 807th Medical Command at Fort Douglas, Utah.

Don Klimkowicz - He is a second generation member of the Association as his father served with the 96th during WWII.

Dennis Obrien - He is a second generation member of the Association as his father served with the 96th during WWII.

Three of our Board members' terms expired this year and I would like to thank them for their support of the Association: **Richard Heindel**, **LTC (Ret) Sam Wood Jr.** and **COL (Retired) Roger Livingston**.

Mary Eleanor has agreed to take on the task of organizing the reunion in Milwaukee for 2010. The specific hotel and dates are being worked by her and will be finalized very soon.

Our website is evolving under the direction of **Marvin Margoshes**. He has added material from the original website and has even worked out an arrangement with Amazon such that ordering books and other items through Amazon will result in a commission being paid to the 96th Division

Association. Check out the web site for more information.

Don Dencker has been working with the Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, Ga. to arrange the dedication of the new 96th Division Monument. The current planning is that a dedication ceremony will be held on 15 April at Ft Benning Ga. Watch our web site for more information.

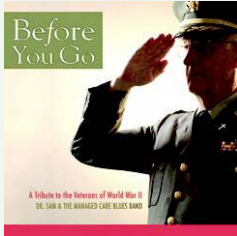
We have been working on establishing a 96th Division Association Heritage Foundation under the IRS rules for a 501c3 corporation. It looks like we are almost complete with this process! We will soon have financial accounts set up for the Foundation and will be able to accept tax-deductible donations. In the long term, this new foundation will be very important in preserving the history of the 96th.

This past June, I attended the deactivation ceremony for the 96th Regional Readiness Command. **MG Peter Cooke** and his command did a fine job of casing the colors and carrying out a memorable ceremony. The history of the 96th Infantry Division lives on with the 96th Sustainment Brigade which is currently deployed to Iraq and with the 192nd Infantry Brigade at Ft Benning. These units will continue to add to the history and legacy of the 96th Infantry Division.

Time with our friends and loved ones is precious and we are reminded of that when someone we know passes away. Soon after our reunion in 2008 in Nashville, it was **John Wargo** who passed away. We were fortunate to have enjoyed his friendship and better off for it. This past September, **Rita Stewart**, wife of our **Chaplain Glenn Stewart**, was killed in a tragic car accident. She was with Glenn in Branson only one month earlier. To these two families and the many others who have lost loved ones, please accept my condolences as well as the thoughts and prayers of all our association members on the loss of your loved ones.

Best wishes to all of you and as the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays approach, I wish you all a joyous time with friends and family.

96TH INFANTRY DEADEYE ASSN. ITEMS



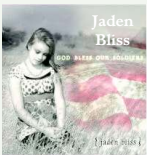
“Before You Go”

A Tribute to WWII Veterans

www.managedmusic.com

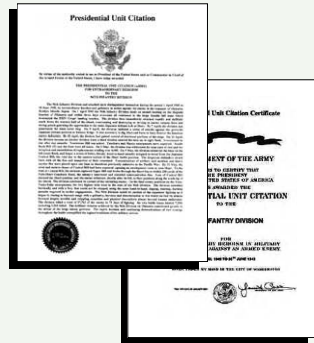
Check out this touching tribute to the veterans of World War II. The song can be purchased from the web site or by calling Managed Music toll-free at 1-888-426-7529. Their address is Managed Music, 6 NE Fisher Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33483.

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

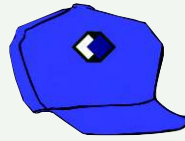


96TH Infantry Division Presidential Unit Citation Documents Available

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

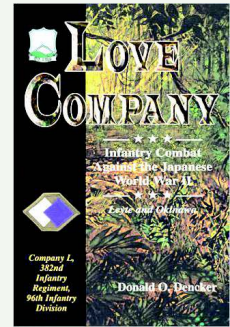


Cutthroats

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



Love Company Book

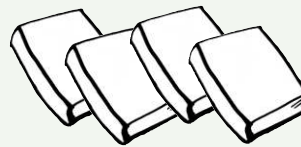
Author Don Dencker has sale copies of *Love Company* for \$14.00, postage paid. In this 355 page book, there are 100 photographs, maps, drawings and documents. The regular retail price of *Love Company* is \$19.95. Royalties from the sale of this book go to the 96th Infantry Deadeye Assn.

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



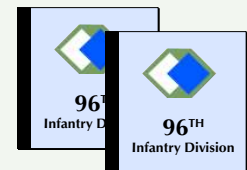
Preorder 96th Deadeye Polo/Golf Shirts

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.