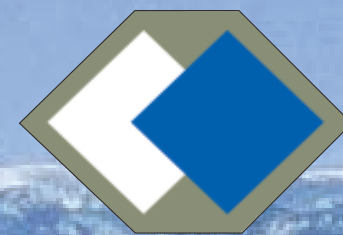


DEADEYE DISPATCH



Official Newsletter of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association • Online at 96thdeadeyes.org • Fall, 2011

Reunion set for July, 2012 in Colorado Springs

It's "Pike's Peak or Bust!" for Deadeyes next summer

Submitted by
Annie Moroz Duncan,
2012 Reunion Coordinator

By popular vote, the 2012 Deadeye Reunion will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, July 19-21. While many Deadeyes have visited Colorado, most recently several years ago in Denver, our next reunion promises fun events, interesting tours, a lovely hotel and plenty of time to visit old friends and maybe even make some new friends!

Physically, Colorado has unique and awesome natural landscapes. Picturesque Pike's Peak dominates the Colorado Springs skyline. (It is pictured above in the Deadeye Dispatch masthead.) The state boasts the highest sand dunes in North America, 54 mountain peaks over 14,000 feet, state and national parks as well as 25 scenic and historic byways. Nearby Fort Carson will bring an Army presence; the board is working to bring together current soldiers and WWII

Deadeyes in July.

Possible tours include nearby Cripple Creek Casinos, a Ghost Town Tour, the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, Maramount Castle, Old Colorado City and the Garden of the Gods. There is also a minor league baseball team in Colorado Springs, The Sky Sox. We encourage members to set off on their own to visit Pike's Peak or tour nearby parks.

One very exciting part of the 2012 reunion will be the hotel; we will be staying at the Crowne Plaza Airport at a rate at or near \$100 per night which includes breakfast and also offers a free airport shuttle (COS Colorado Springs Municipal Airport, free high-speed wireless Internet in public areas, pools, a solarium, 24-hour fitness center, a bar, restaurant and a gift & food store. And they are excited to host our group!

Details are still being determined, but you can expect excellent accommodations, memorable evening events and an over-all great time! So mark your calendars now and keep an eye out for more information in the next Deadeye Dispatch. We are headed west! Colorado Springs, here we come!



DEADEYES 2011 "INVASION" OF GEORGIA... These Deadeyes were among the members who attended the 2011 reunion in Columbus/Fort Benning, Georgia this past July. This picture was made on the base, just before the banquet. They are, left to right, from bottom of steps to top: First row: John Baran, Orville Caspers, Kermit Ellis, Russell Watts, John Gregory (first timer from Mississippi), Jim Causey, Ray "Doc" Strenski, Herman Buffington; Jim Black; Second row – tan sports jacket: Glenn Stewart, Bob Siefert, Virgil "Bub" Simmons, Don Dencker, Mike Moroz, Calvin Clements; Henry Webb; Third row – white shirt: Bob Huff, Lester Brown, Richard McCarthy, William "Bill" Draper, Joe Gonzales, Marvin Margoshes, Marvin Reames, Doug Burton; Fourth row – Deadeye hat: Paul "Rusty" Johnston, Lester Terrebonne, Roman Klimkowicz, Karel Knutson, Val Heinrich, Peter "Pete" Bourgeois. Attended reunion but not in picture: Sam Wood, Sr., Jim Collins, James Foster, T. L. Shelton, Arvin Bowman, Col. Phillip Jolly, Major Patrick O'Leary, Shirley Kots widow of E. Kots, Mary Lou Sinnen widow of Claude Sinnen, Jayne Daly widow of Daly, Dorothy Mockrish widow of H. Mockrish, Bob and Margie Davis – son and daughter of deceased Robert Davis, Joe Boyack son of deceased John Boyack. Registered but unable to attend: Bob Ensor, Frank Switzer, Bob Schmidt. Board Members attended: Don Klimkowicz, Ann Moroz Duncan, Scott Buffington, Dennis O'Brien, Jim Collins, Jim Black, Mary Eleanor Wood Smith, Bub Simmons, Marvin Margoshes – Webmaster, Glenn Stewart – Chaplain

Tally Taken: The members have spoken!

Submitted by
Don Klimkowicz

We held a vote by members present at the 2011 reunion to decide where the 2012 should be held.

The overwhelming choice is Colorado Springs. Efforts are underway to organize next year's event. Ann Moroz Duncan is our reunion chair this year. Mary Eleanor (Sis) Wood is getting a well deserved break after 12 years (Yes, 12 years!) of faithful service planning our wonderful reunions.

There are big shoes to fill and we are confident Ann will successfully take on the challenge.

We are very thankful for the members who were able to attend in 2011 and look forward to another great reunion in 2012.

Diane O'Brien is our new membership chair and she is notifying those whose memberships have expired. Check out your membership card and sign up if yours has expired. New membership cards will be sent out as quickly as we can after we receive your dues. The 96th Infantry Division Association – Deadeyes was founded in 1958 to perpetuate the comradeship of those who served as Deadeyes. Let's keep our organization, and the Dispatch, going!

Reunion Vote Results

Colorado Springs, CO	54
Oregon, Ft Adair area	28
Chicago, IL	22
Denver, CO	20
New Orleans, LA	9
Salt Lake City, UT	3
Portland, OR	2
Baltimore, MD	1
Oklahoma City, OK	1
Asheville, NC	1
Tampa, FL	1

Total 142



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

Leroy Berry
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
Company G, 382nd Infantry
Jan. 27, 2011
by grandson, Jeff Berry

B.J. Bjorklund
Santa Rosa, CA
May 12, 2011
by wife, Jean Schilling

Elised E. "Chuck" Briggs
Co. M, 382nd Inf.
Sept 10, 2011
by daughter, Karen Briggs Kirkland

Kelley Caldwell
Mountain Home, AR
August 5, 2011
Anti-tank Co., 381st Inf.
by Don Dencker

Robert Costain
Port Townsend, WA
Co. I, 382nd Inf.
March 27, 2011
by wife, Thelma Costain

George Cowan
Alton, IL
Company M, 383rd Inf.
June 24, 2011
by wife, Grace

William A. Dryer
Kimberly, WI
Co. H, 96th Inf. Div.
July 12, 2010
by wife, Florine

Robert Edwards
St. Clair Shores, MI
1999
Medic, 96th Infantry
by wife, Elizabeth Edwards

Francis Leroy Fenwick
Perryville, MO
Co. A, 382nd Inf.
June 22, 2011
By son, Patrick

Julius H. Gerson
Bronx, NY
Co.K, 382nd Inf.
August 30, 2009
by son, David A. Gerson

Wallace Hilling
Lakeville, MN
April 27, 2011
by Wendy Marthaler

Ralph G. Kopp
Stratford, WI
362nd Field Artillery Battalion
May 6, 2011
By wife, Ruth

Mervin O. Lewis
Co. A, 381st Inf.
February 3, 2011
by niece, Brenda Lemmons

Howard R. Lewis, Sr.
Athens, GA
382nd Infantry
September 19, 2011
by sons, Howard Lewis, Jr. and Robert Lewis

Wylie M. Nielson
Sacramento, CA
Company E, 382nd Infantry
July 29, 2011
by Edgar Collins, nephew

Ernestine Roby
Wife of Deadeye Tom Roby
Watertown, SD
July 5, 2011
by husband, Tom

Robert O. Rock
Dallas, TX
Co. I, 381st Inf.
March 7, 2010
by wife, Carrie Jo Rock

Norman Schram
Fayetteville, Arkansas
Company H, 382nd Infantry
October 6, 2011
By Buddy Joe Cihlar

John A. Schritz
Mesa, AZ
Co. L, 383rd Inf.
July 23, 2011
by daughter, Pat Quinn

Murray Suskin
West Palm Beach, FL
Hq. Co., 3rd Bn., 381st Inf.
March 10, 2011
by wife, Joan

John P. Walsh
Larkspur, CA
K Co., 382nd Inf.
May 5, 2006
by wife, Rose

Elmer J. Winter
Jackson, MN
321st Engineer Combat Battalion
November 27, 2010
by wife, Violet



Deadeye Dispatch

Official Publication
of the

96TH Infantry Division Deadeye Association

• Fall 2011 Edition •

Update your Address
For changing your address

Diane O'Brien
PO Box 34
Trempealeau, WI
54661-0034
ddbrien@triwest.net

Submit info to the Dispatch

Scott Buffington
c/o MainStreet Newspapers
PO Box 908
Jefferson, GA 30549
706-367-2485
scott@mainstreetnews.com

Deadeyes Online at
[96th-infantry-
deadeyes.org/](http://96th-infantry-deadeyes.org/)

**Watch our
web site
for updates
and changes.**

**2011 reunion
photos
are on
pages 6 & 7**

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:

Fran Huff
6320 Woodwind Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46217
Phone: 317 784-5174

Pat McMillan
Email: pmil45@yahoo.com
4402 Chapman AV
Springdale, AR 72762
Phone: 479-200-1841

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

Deadeye Mailbag... Letters from across the nation

Seeking Information...

Re: Presidential Unit Citation for the period 1 April 1945 to 30 June 1945 in the conquest of Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, Japan - 96th Infantry Division and attached units, one of which was the 593rd JASCO - 593rd Joint Assault Signal Company

Dear Mr. Dencker:

Thank you for taking my telephone call earlier this month. I appreciate being able to talk with you about this situation. As I told you, I am the daughter of the late Norris C. Haugen of Merrill, Wisconsin, who served on behalf of the United States Army in the 593rd Joint Assault Signal Company (JASCO) in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of WWII.

Several years ago, during the course of moving my mother from her home to a Senior living facility, I sorted my father's military effects and began looking into his seldom discussed military service. During the course of my research, I contacted Roland Erickson, Jr. of Charlotte, NC who, as you know, compiled the History of the 593rd JASCO in WWII, a copy of which he forwarded to me. My father's name appears on Page 42. Mr. Erickson also forwarded to me a copy of a letter dated December 7, 2001 which he had received from Lt. Col. Deborah W. Ivory (copy attached) concerning the 593rd's participation in the Presidential Unit Citation awarded to the 96th Infantry Division.

In her letter, Lt. Col. Ivory stated:

"On January 10, 2001, on behalf of the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army approved an award of the Presidential Unit Citation for the 96th Infantry Division in recognition of its extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy from April 1, 1945 to June 30, 1945 in the conquest of Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, Japan. We have verified that the 593rd Joint Assault Signal Company was attached to the 96th Infantry Division during the entire period of the award and soldiers of this unit are authorized the award.

"We are enclosing a copy of the Presidential Unit Citation and Certificate. Eligible veterans desiring to obtain the Presidential Unit Citation Emblem can forward a copy of their Report of Separation, War Department Form WD AGO 53-55 (enlisted)...to this office for issuance of the emblem and DD Form 215 (Correction to Report of Separation)."

By letter dated October 25, 2006 (copy attached), my mother wrote to the Department of the Army requesting the Presidential Unit Citation Emblem, enclosing the requisite documents. Five months later, by letter dated March 21,

2007 from Lt. Col. Sylvia A. Bennett (copy attached), we were informed that the information contained in the December 7, 2001 letter from Lt. Col. Ivory was incorrect because:

- The 593rd JASCO is not specifically named in the list of units entitled to the award.

Lt. Col Bennett went on to say that, "Only units that are specifically recommended for a unit award are authorized the award once it is approved. Units assigned or attached to a unit that receives an award are not automatically authorized the award."

We were shocked and disappointed by Lt. Col. Bennett's interpretation, as I knew from my father's papers and from Roland Erickson's material that the 593rd JASCO was not only attached in name to the 96th Infantry, but also fought side-by-side with the 96th during the period of time the Presidential Unit Citation covered. We hypothesized that either the 593rd was deemed included in one of the named units recommended for the award, or it was omitted due to oversight, or that Lt. Col. Bennett's determination was/is erroneous.

Now that I am fully retired, I am able to take the time to look into this matter. Any advice you can give me as to how I should proceed would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Karen Haugen Woollen

Dencker Responds...

Dear Karen H. Woollen,
I am sorry I have no good news for you. The Presidential Unit Citation was initiated shortly after the end of WWII by the U. S. Army XXIV Corps when it issued a XXIV Corps General Order awarding the Presidential Unit Citation for Okinawa to the 96th Infantry Division. The 96th Infantry Division served under the XXIV Corps during the Leyte and Okinawa battles. This General Order set the time frame as 1 April to 30 June 1945. The XXIV General Order cleared General MacArthur's headquarters in Japan and was sent to the War Department in Washington, D.C. for final Army approval to make it valid. For some unknown reason it sat in the Army there and died.

It is apparent the XXIV Corps used the 96th Infantry Division "Ryukyu Campaign Action Report" in preparing their General Order. This is because the wording in their General Order contains information from the Action report and has a couple of errors. A glaring example is that the 96th Action Report claimed 31,763 enemy killed, while the XXIV General Order stated 37,763 enemy killed, the "7" being a typographical error. In my successful



ASTP Band Photo/Info from 1943 Chicago...

Dear Editor:

I read the recent Dispatch including Raymond Radzivila's piece. I saw that he spent 8 months (the entire duration) at the ASTP at IIT in Chicago. My late father, Julius Gerson, did as well. So, I sent him a note asking if he remembers him. I got an immediate phone call from him and we spent an hour on the line - not only did he know him but they were roommates and best buddies the entire time they were there. We definitely made each other's day. Who knows, maybe there is someone else out there!

Attached is 1 of ASTP Band at the IIT in Chicago taken in October 1943. My father is Julius H. "Murf" Gerson on the bottom left. I don't know the others, but Raymond Radzivila remembers most of them!

(follow up...) I spoke to Ray, he remembers most of the guys in the photo but not all of the names...here are the ones he does remember...Piano player - Shorty Barrows, Murf - Jules Gerson, Jack - Jack Thiel, Bottom Right - Tony Pelrossi

David A. Gerson,
Rochelle Park, NJ

effort to get final approval of the Presidential Citation I did not change a thing in the original XXIV General Order for fear of "rocking the boat."

I enclose two pages from the 96th Division Action Report, the cover page and page 6. Page 6 indicates that 593rd JASCO was detached from the 96th on 8

April and reattached on 7 May 1945, missing the heavy fighting the 96th Division was involved in between April 9 through April 29, 1945. This appears to be the reason the XXIV Corps excluded the 593rd JASCO when they drew up their Presidential Unit Citation General Order.

Sincerely,
Donald Dencker

A Note from Chaplain Glenn Stewart...

If you would be interested in being the speaker at a future Reunion Memorial Service, please contact me.

My order of preferences for speaker are:

1. A Deadeye that was on Leyte or Okinawa
2. A son, daughter or widow of a Deadeye
3. Members of the 96th Infantry Brigade (from Colonels to P.F.C.s)
4. A grandson or granddaughter that has served or is currently serving in a military unit.
5. Other military leaders
6. Other direct relatives of a 96th Deadeye.

Thank you for your interest,
Glenn Stewart, Chaplain, 27 Robin Way., San Carlos, CA 94070 or 650-364-1144. Note: I do not have email!

Deadeye News

96th to be Commemorated in Texas



Submitted by Don Dencker

The 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association is proceeding with the design and installation of a 96th Infantry Division "Deadeye" large Commemorative Plaque on the Memorial Wall at the National Museum of the Pacific War at Fredericksburg, Texas.

Design of this plaque will include the 96th Infantry Division Shoulder Patch, the Combat Infantryman and the Combat Medic badges, and the U. S. Army Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon. Appropriate wording will honor all Deadeyes

killed in combat and all Deadeyes who served with distinction.

References will be entered to indicate 96th Infantry Division service under General MacArthur in the Battle of Leyte, Philippines and under Admiral Nimitz in the Battle of Okinawa. Also the Capture of Conical Hill by the 96th Division on Okinawa which broke the right flank of the main Japanese defense line, causing Japanese withdrawal to the southern end of the islands of Okinawa.

Our plans for the Dedication of our plaque is about April 1, 2012,

67 years after the landing of the 96th Infantry Division on Okinawa. Anyone seeking notification of Dedication details and date can contact Don Dencker at dizzydon@aol.com or write to him at:

128 N. Musket Ridge Drive
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

The National Museum of the Pacific War is at:
328 E. Main Street
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Phone: 830-997-8600

This is the only museum dedicated exclusively to the War in the Pacific against Japan.

Foreword to **"The Deadeyes: The Story of the 96th Infantry Division"**

Submitted by Don Dencker

Every division commander worthy of his position is convinced that his is the finest division in the Army. I am no exception, and I have read nothing in the pages that follow to cause me to think differently.



I am intensely proud of the 96th Infantry Division. I am proud of the men who were the 96th Division and of the officers who led them. It is not a vain pride, for it is they, not I, who made ours a great division. A general simply plots the course - his men do the rest.

This book has been dedicated, and rightly, to the brave men of this Division who died in battle. I would like the privilege of offering a second dedication - to those equally gallant men who lie in hospitals from coast to coast and to others who like them will forever bear the scars of war. They, too, placed honor above life, and their country must never be allowed to forget them.

To all of my men, I say humbly - thank you.

J. L. BRADLEY
Major General, U. S. Army, Commanding



DONATIONS NEEDED TO HONOR MEDAL OF HONOR AWARDEE

Submitted by Don Dencker

The Missouri State Legislature has designated the bridge on State Route 60 as the "Private Ova A. Kelley Medal of Honor Memorial Bridge." Signs on both approaches to this bridge are needed which tell the public name of the bridge. Unfortunately, no money for these signs was provided.

Ova Kelley, Company A, 382nd Infantry Regiment, 96th Infantry Division, was awarded the Medal of Honor for counterattacking and stopping Japanese paratroops who were attempting to capture the San Pablo Airfield on Leyte, Philippines on December 8, 1944. Later that day, Kelley was struck by a Japanese rifle bullet and killed.

This request for donations has the approval of our Board of Directors.

Our 2004 Association President, Edwin Wright, has undertaken the effort to raise funds for the needed signs. Please send contributions to:

Edwin Wright
160 Rose Mead Road
Rogersville, MO 65742

Edwin is contributing \$250 towards the signs and I have sent a contribution.



Deadeye News

Report of Progress on the Deadeye Dispatch book

Submitted by Marvin Margoshes

We have enough pages of the original Deadeye Dispatch to make a book, thanks to several people who have sent scans of their family treasures. We have 150 pages, though a few are duplicates or in too bad condition for the book. The pages come from Leyte, Okinawa, and Mindoro. The latest pages are from October 29, 1945, which must have been shortly before the last of the Division left for home or other assignments. On the other hand, the first issue in the collection was from December 7, 1944, about 7 weeks after the landing on Leyte. There must have been issues during November.

At the 2011 reunion, Don Dencker reminded me that some issues of the Deadeye Dispatch were in one of the large scrapbooks in the History Room. The reminder came too late for me to catalog the issues. The scrapbooks have been sent to Salt Lake City and are being studied for repairs. Col. John Reed, at the University of Utah, has agreed to look for earlier Dispatch issues from Leyte in the scrapbooks, and to find a way to copy them.

We will soon be looking into how to print the book and what it will cost. Soft-bound books are about \$10 to \$15 less than hard bound, but many might prefer the latter. Send your thoughts on that question, or other matters concerning the proposed book. You can send them privately to me at pfcmar-goshes@verizon.com to 25 Maple Ave., #3B, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706, or post a message on our Facebook page, 96th Division Deadeyes.

Don Dencker's Letter to the National World War II Museum

Dr. Gordon "Nick" Mueller
President and Chief Executive Officer
The National World War II Museum
945 Magazine Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Re: 2012 National WWII Museum Calendar

Dear President Mueller,

Thank you for sending me the 2012 National WWII Museum Calendar. It is a nice, attractive and useful calendar. However, as to coverage of WWII in the Pacific, it is somewhat lacking. Many significant events in the Pacific War against the Japanese are not enumerated and are missing.

For example, it does tell of General MacArthur leaving the Philippines. However, it does not tell of his return to the Philippines. MacArthur's return was on October 20, 1944 and was made possible by the landing of 4 Army amphibious divisions on Leyte, Philippines. The calendar does indicate the fall to the Japanese of the Philippines by the capture of Corregidor. No mention is made of the recapture of Corregidor by Army airborne and amphibious units on February 16, 1945. Not mentioned are any of the 6 Army landings in New Guinea, which led to the destruction of a Japanese Army. Also not mentioned, was the Army 5 division landing on the main island of the Philippines, Luzon, on January 9, 1945.

There were 3 four division landings in the Pacific war. They were Leyte and Luzon, Philippines and Okinawa, Japan. Taking part in these amphibious landing were 10 Army divisions and 2 Marine divisions.

If one studied the U.S. Navy book "United States Naval Chronology, World War II" which was published March 17, 1955, one would see that the Army made more amphibious landings in the Pacific than the Marine Corps. This does not include Army landings in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Normandy and Southern France. It also leads me to the Campaign building now being constructed. I trust that you will give adequate coverage to the Army amphibious effort in the Pacific.

Many more Army soldiers lost their lives from combat in the Pacific than were lost by the Marine Corps. The recent TV series "The Pacific" ignores the Army effort and presents well-deserved praise of the Marines. The Okinawa section doesn't even mention the Army. The Okinawa combat death totals are 5,521 Army and 3,191 Marines.

I am writing this as a Chapter Member of the National WWII Museum and as a veteran of a Rifle Company of the Army 96th Infantry Division who made the amphibious landings on Leyte and Okinawa and fought the Japanese there.

Sincerely,

Donald Dencker

P. S. I enclose my check for \$25 for the calendar.



Time to "Re-up?"
Renew your membership
in the Deadeye Association

*Submitted by
Diane O'Brien,
Membership Coordinator*

We need your help; we need your membership and support!

The 96th has a rich history of duty, honor and service that continues up to today with all the men and women who have served their country.

If you have not paid your membership in 2011, we hope that you will consider renewing. For those who have been life members in the original 96th Division Association, your life membership carries over to the new association.

Your membership mean that the 96th Deadeye Association can continue to be active. The Association's objectives include preserving the history of the 96th from the division's beginnings in World War I up to the present, providing camaraderie to all who have served in the 96th, and assisting the soldiers and families of the 96th Regional Readiness Command.

Dues are also used to support the publishing and mailing of the Dispatch twice per year. To continue this, we rely on dues and donations. Even when you don't have the time to be personally involved, your membership dues support the actions of others who work to promote the 96th Division. As a member, you make everything we do possible.

And, by the way, thank you for your past support. We look forward to your continued encouragement. After all, freedom really is everything.

The 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association

Scenes from the July, 2011 Reunion in Columbus/Ft. Benning, Ga.



Deadeye News... *Items about the Association*

"Thanks for the Places You've Gone and the Things You Have Done."



The following is a transcript of the message given by Brad Brown, son of Les Brown (Co. K, 383rd Inf.), the Memorial Service at the 2011 reunion in the Ft. Benning chapel.

By Brad Brown

Good afternoon, I must admit to being Brad Brown, as Glenn has said, and I am here because my father is a "Deadeye" and I have a guilty conscience. You see, Glenn called and asked me if I would consider giving the speech for the memorial service and after a few days I called and told him no, I wouldn't be able to do it. Over the course of the next few weeks, I kept thinking about Glenn's request and decided that if my father could go into the army at age 18, the least I could do is try to honor him and the men he served with 66 years ago. Against my better judgment, I called Glenn and told him I had decided to try. I have no illusion this short address will be on par with Lincoln's Gettysburg Address but I feel truly honored to be here on this active military base, in this chapel where for many years soldiers have, and do today, meet to worship as they serve our country.

I am humbled to be speaking to you and your families today. I have been attending these reunions for several years with Dad, and I have come to know, love and respect each of you. My father's youthful buddies are now some of his oldest and dearest friends. A common trait of this "Greatest Generation," as you were called by Tom Brokaw, was not to discuss the difficult times and how they shaped your young lives. You came to your service in World War II, shaped by the Great Depression, survived your service in that war, and tired and wounded came home and helped to build this nation we so enjoy today.

America is a nation born out of

conflict, sacrifice and agony, and all those things continue to plague us today. American men and women leave their homes to protect and preserve our freedom generation after generation. These actions mean that some will never again see their child, parent or spouse. They have made the ultimate sacrifice. Joe Foss is quoted in Brokaw's book saying "Those of us who lived have to represent those who didn't make it." So we honor those who made and continue to make it possible for all of us to speak freely, worship without fear, and petition and protest without retribution. This freedom was paid for by those lying under white tombstones that we visit. Things that are precious are saved by sacrifice. I am sure you, like my father have intense memories that never fade, forever branded on your heart and mind. I have learned so much at these gatherings through your conversations about your experiences on Leyte and Okinawa.

I have learned there are friends, then there are war-time buddies, and that there is a great difference between the two. One of the results of those awful months in the Pacific, something I'm sure many of you share with my Dad, was the loss of a special friend. Two boys in their teens, named Lee Allen and Lester Brown, high school friends from a small Indiana farm town, were inducted in the Army in August 1944. They were sent to Fort Hood, Texas for 17 weeks of basic training as infantry replacements. After basic training they were sent together as part of the 96th Infantry 383rd K Company, to mop up Leyte and then to the Okinawa invasion.

My Dad tells me Lee was a tall, sturdy farm boy and so was given a Browning automatic rifle. He suffered a fatal shrapnel wound on the fourth day on Okinawa. It is one part of my Dad's war experience that he has never been able to find peace or deal with very well. It is still a very raw hurt. I remember as a young child being left at my Grandmother's while Mom and Dad went to Liberty Cemetery, a small country church cemetery just outside of French Lick, Indiana. It is a place that I now drive them to visit. This Memorial Day, I watched my father shed tears as he placed a small American flag

and flowers on the grave of his friend. Dad brushed away the winter leaves and shreds of grass with such love and respect. Lee Allen, a young life gone before he turned twenty, before he was known to many of you in the "Deadeye" division, is just one example of the incredible sacrifices that battles cause. You, who served, have carried personal tragic memories all these years. So, after the war's end you returned home, determined, trying to shake off its horrors. You came home to wives and fiancées, and together picked up the fragmented pieces of your lives. You were made of stern stuff, and you modeled the behavior described in one of my favorite books by Dr. Seuss, who in writing this speech, I learned served in the U.S Army Signal Corps where he was known by his real name, Theodor Geisel. Long before writing his famous children's books, he was making movies to support the war effort. He was introduced to the art of animation and developed a series of animated training films, which featured a trainee called Private Snafu. The Private Snafu assignments that Ted oversaw included scripts set to rhyme. Ted also contributed to two Academy Award-winning films during his stint as a soldier. Who would have thought that the man that wrote "The Cat In The Hat," "Green Eggs and Ham" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" got his start making films for the war effort called "Your Job in Germany and Your Job in Japan". He received an Academy Award for his 1947 Documentary Feature "Design for Death." I'm going to paraphrase with slight changes, from the last book Dr. Seuss wrote called "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" This book is often used in commencements, but I think it applies to you, The Greatest Generation soldiers and their families, as they commenced civilian life anew after their service. Dr. Seuss wrote in his book these lines:

Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away! You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go.

On and on you will hike and I know you'll hike far and face up to your problems whatever they are.

And will you succeed? Yes, you will indeed! It's at this point, 66 years later, guaranteed!

For all gathered in this Chapel, I suggest that we, through the grace of God, with gratitude to all who fought and all who prayed for our country in the past and those who will be needed to do so in the future, take time to meditate on how important faith is to our personal life and our national freedom. I, like many of you, can personally attest to the power of prayer. Shortly after completing my sophomore year at Indiana University, I had a terrible car accident in the summer of 1986. My parents were told for several days that I would not survive these injuries. Thanks to both modern medicine, and the power of prayer, I survived and have continued to thrive.

Through prayerful thoughts, we see that those who laid down their lives did not do so in vain. Each battle fought to create and protect the United States enabled us to live with the freedoms we enjoy today. One of those freedoms is the right to practice the path to God of our choosing. The gift of service and sacrifice was not in vain. Matthew 21: Verse 21 states "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." So let us pray for these soldiers here today, for all veterans and those on active duty. Pray for the coming generations that may be called up to fight strange new wars, for all people seeking freedom. God hears and responds, I believe, in the miraculous and the miraculous is the fruit of prayers. Using prayers, brains, and our individual gifts, may we continue to seek peace, hope and work for America's future. Thank you for the places you went, the freedom you won, and the country you built. You are the generation who took us where we needed to go.

God Bless all the Deadeyes who served in WWII. God Bless all the Deadeyes serving today! God Bless all of our armed forces around the world, and God Bless the United States of America!



"Two boys, Lee Allen and Lester Brown, high school friends from a small Indiana farm town, were inducted in the Army in August 1944.... Allen suffered a fatal shrapnel wound on the fourth day on Okinawa."



Les Brown at the grave of his boyhood friend, Lee Allen, whom he lost on Okinawa on April 4, 1945.



Deadeye News & History

Earn money for your Association as you shop online from home

Submitted by Marvin Margoshes, Web Publisher

Our Association still has the relationship with Amazon.com that began a year ago, to earn some funds for the Association. All you have to do is to connect to Amazon.com through our Web site, 96thdeadeyes.com. When you are at almost any page in our Web site, you can see a bar near the top of the page, with links to other pages in the site. When you click on "Links" you will see on the links page a small ad from Amazon.com. A click on that ad takes you to Amazon.com's Web site, and if you make a purchase during that visit, you earn a portion of the purchase price for the

Association, typically 4%, without any change in what you pay.

We have an arrangement now with another Web merchant, priorservice.com, that offers a large range of items that are of interest to veterans and retired servicemen and women. Some of their products are of special interest to 96th Division veterans and later Deadeyes. You can go to their Web site directly, but many find it easier to go through the Links page at 96thdeadeyes.com. This merchant has a variety of items for sale that make good gifts for mili-

tary veterans and retirees. They even have some special items for 96th Division retirees. Explore the site for items you may want for yourself or as gifts; then shop as you would at other online stores. When you purchase something, a screen that you see during the checkout process will have a place for you to type in a coupon code. Use "96thdeadeyes" (without the quotation marks) as the coupon code. Your prices will then be reduced by 10%, and 10% will also go to our Association

Are you connected to our Facebook Pge or our E-mail lists?

Submitted by Marvin Margoshes, Web Publisher

Is this newsletter the only way you get news of Deadeyes and our activities? You may be missing late-breaking news. There are two ways you can get the late-breaking news: our Facebook page and our e-mail list.

The detailed information about the 2011 reunion was the same in the Spring issue of the Deadeye Dispatch and on our Web site, 96thdeadeyes.org. It was no accident. Scott Buffington, as Dispatch Editor, and I, as Web Editor, collaborated to make sure we did not offer conflicting information. But after the

Dispatch was mailed, the final date for advance reservations was changed from June 10 to June 29. Everyone who was on the e-mail list or who checked in to the Facebook page learned of the change. We had no way to reach the others.

We hope no one missed attending because of the change in cut-off date, which allowed more time for turning in reservations.

With your help, we can reach many more members with time-sensitive information.

To be added to the e-mail list,

send an e-mail to pfcmar-goshes@verizon.net. The text should include "Add me to the e-mail list" and your name. (If you change your mind later, send another e-mail asking to be removed from the list.) If you already subscribe to Facebook.com, you can subscribe to our page, 96th Division Deadeyes, without asking for permission. (It is an Open page.) If you are making a new subscription to Facebook, you must give some information but some questions are optional. It is a good idea to subscribe to both our e-mail list and our Facebook page.

2012 OKINAWA BATTLEFIELD TOUR

Valor Tours, in June 2012, will conduct an Okinawa Battlefield Tour. The tour is June 15 through June 22, departing San Francisco. Many Deadeye Okinawa Battle Veterans have taken this tour since 1990.

Tour Events Include:

1. Tour members will be honored by the U. S. Army at the Army Birthday Ball on June 16th. (Four 96th Division Okinawa Battle Veterans were honored guests at the 2010 Birthday Ball.
2. Visits of 96th Division Battle Sites include: Cactus Ridge, Kakazu Ridge Battle Park, Tombstone Ridge, Hacksaw Ridge, Conical Hill, Big Apple (Yaeju Dake), and White Beach Landing Monument
3. Retreat Ceremony at Torii Station Army Post, location of Army Okinawa Battle Monument
4. Visits to Brig. Gen Easley, Col. May and Gen Buckner Monuments
5. Visits to Cornerstone of Peace Monument and Monument Covered Mabuni Hill
6. Visits to sites of specific interests of tour members.

To obtain Okinawa tour information and tour brochure, contact:

Valor Tours, Ltd., 10 Liberty Ship Way, Suite 110, Sausalito, CA 94965

Phone: 1-800-842-4504 valortours.com

From the pages of history...

ON OKINAWA

(The following is from the May 5, 1945 editorial page of The Atlanta Journal)

THE BATTLE for Okinawa goes on. More than a month has passed since the virtually unopposed landings of our forces on the beachhead and General Buckner, commanding the Tenth Army's operations, says it may take from three to six weeks to complete the job of extermination on the southern peninsula which was begun two weeks ago.

Our policy is conservation of life - to proceed slowly and surely at minimum expenditure of blood rather than to do the job rapidly but at higher cost.

The Japanese in the hills south of the Shuri line occupy the strongest defenses which have yet been encountered in the Pacific. Not only that but their plan of campaign was sounder and their tactical operations are more intelligent than have previously been observed in any of the fighting.

The lack of strong resistance to the landings and the concentration of the Japanese force in the southern portion of the island became explicable in the light of subsequent developments. The strategy went wrong, but that fact does not diminish the brilliance of the plan.

The pattern was that of Lee at Fredericksburg. Lee elected not to fight it out on the south bank of the Rappahannock and perhaps decide the issue in a battle of the crossing, with the powerful Union artillery decimating our ranks, but to receive Burnside's attack, in powerful, defensive position on the heights below Fredericksburg. The result was a terrific defeat for the Federal Army, despite its superb courage and its great numerical superiority.

Magnificent as was the Confederate victory, the plan which Stonewall Jackson urged probably would have been better. He had urged Lee to retire further southward to the line of the North Anna River and there receive the Federal attack. He argued that the fruits of the victory would be greater than at the Rappahannock; that there would be room for maneuver after the onslaught was beaten and Burnside's Army could be destroyed, whereas at Fredericksburg it might escape over the Rappahannock, an eventuality which came to pass.

The mistake in the Japanese campaign, it now is evident, was reliance on the promise of the Imperial Navy that it would destroy our ships after the initial landings. Instead of leaving our forces stranded on the beaches, the Japanese Fleet itself was destroyed. No reserves can be brought to the defending Army, our line of communication and supply was not broken, and it is the Japanese who must yield to the remorseless pressure of superior numbers, better equipment and abler soldiers.

The nation will approve General Buckner's policy of the conservation of his men. Our nation's military history is studded with battles in which commanders never ceased to grieve for their mistake of sacrificing life prodigally to save a little time. Burnside made that error at Fredericksburg and Grant repeated it at Cold Harbor.



Deadeye News & History

YANK *The Army Weekly*

European Edition

July 13, 1945

ORDEAL AT OKINAWA

At night the enemy comes out of his caves and pillboxes to prowl and infiltrate. And the soldiers and marines who sit up and stay awake to welcome him are always glad to see the first light of dawn.

By: EVAN WYLIE SP1c (PR)
USCGR
YANK Staff Correspondent

OKINAWA, RYUKYUS – The G-2 captain was leery about calling it a typical night on Okinawa. But on the other hand, it should not be considered particularly unusual.

However G-2 wanted to classify it, the night of May 15 had been another night in the battle for Okinawa. And to infantrymen of the Army and Marine divisions inching south toward Naha, Shuri, and Yonabaru each day and each night was pretty much like another. The pattern was well established – planes and artillery pounded the positions; foot soldiers fought their way up each hill, held it against counterattacks, and fought their way down the reverse slopes. There were a lot of hills and a lot of Japs. Progress was slow and costly. When night came the men who had fought all day stopped trying to advance and dug in, not so much to sleep as to hide. For it was then that the enemy who did his daylight fighting from caves, tombs and concealed pillboxes came out to counterattack and infiltrate, to probe and harass. When dawn came he was gone again, leaving only the dead behind. And the tired men counted bodies and wondered how many they had really been fighting.

On the left flank the 96th Division moved slowly down the east coast toward Yonabaru. The 382d Infantry was trying to take Dick Hill. At 0700 on the 15th, they moved forward. The Japs on the rear slopes blanketed them with mortars. Machine guns hidden in caves pinned them down. Snipers hung on their flanks. Men fought forward but casualties were heavy. By late afternoon there were only three non-coms and one officer left in L Company. The second and third platoons were combined to make one unit. At dusk they were half-way up the forward slope of Dick Hill. Word was passed to dig in for the night. This turned out to be not so easy as it sounded. Underneath a thin surface of churned earth and patches of torn grass lay a substantial stratum of shale; pack shovels made little impression on it. Long after dark some of the company were still digging. Others had doubled up, two or three in a one-man fox-hole.

Sgt. Bill House of Portland, Ore., had a command hole in the center of the slope. It was hardly big enough for one but he was sharing it with S/Sgt. Ludas and Pfc. Donald Nordgren. The hole was cramped and uncomfortable but they had to give up trying to enlarge it. Every movement of an arm, leg or shoulder caused another cave-in in the wall of

loose dirt they had erected around them to make up for the foxhole's shallow depth.

It began to rain, a steady cold drizzle that brought with it a thick, clinging ground mist. The men ate a supper of C-ration meat-and-vegetable stew and set a night guard – one man on watch while the other two tried to sleep. House had the first watch. He settled himself in the limited space, one leg folded under him, his M1 across his knees.

In his mind he reviewed his position. His men were spread out across the slope. Further over to the left was K Company. That made that flank pretty secure. On the right, however, things were not so good. After the line crossed the slope it dropped back, leaving the company's flank exposed. House was more worried about the enemy coming in through there than he was about any attack directly down the slope.

The nightly artillery duel was under way. Jap heavy stuff rushed across the valley. House could hear it landing far behind the lines. American artillery became interested in the slope of Dick Hill. Shells whistled overhead and began bursting in Jap positions. The enemy replied with mortars. The first few rounds dropped haphazardly until some Jap was satisfied he had the range he wanted. Then they began to work the slope over methodically. Bursts moved up and down and across the hill. Each one was a little nearer to the center. House wanted to get down further in the hole but he was afraid to stop watching. The barrage might be a cover for an attempt at infiltration. He slid down as far as he dared, peering out into the murk through the slit formed between the rim of his helmet and the ground. Raintrops splattered mud in his face. Nordgren and Ludas stirred beneath the poncho. "Mortars coming," House whispered. Both men muttered acknowledgement. They had not been asleep after all. Another round landed – about 40 feet away. The next would be either right on top of them or safely beyond. There was nothing to do but wait. House lay motionless, gritting his teeth. He knew the hole was not deep enough. Suddenly there was the quick whispering noise of shells coming. The men in the hole were fused together in a taut huddle of shrinking flesh. There were two blasts, very close, almost simultaneous. Dirt, mud and pieces of shale flew into the hole. They waited for the next round, it landed further down the slope. Then, abruptly, the mortars stopped. The men stirred cautiously. Whispers went from hole to hole; "You guys over there OK?" Yeah, we're all right. But that last sonuvabitch landed damn close."

House wondered how the new men were taking it. They had arrived late in the afternoon, green as hell and scared to death. When he had pointed to a spot on the slope and said, "All right, you guys, dig in here," they had looked at him with wide-open eyes as full import of what lay ahead from now on dawned on them. They wouldn't sleep much tonight. The rain came down harder. Miniature streams ran down the slope and eroded their way into the hole. The hill stank with the musty odor of dank earth and burned powder.

Suddenly gunfire started in down on the right. It was followed by muffled blasts and bursting grenades. Now what the hell was happening? "Hope those guys can handle them;" The firing subsided. The time dragged. A message finally came up the hill: "Jap patrol trying to come around the right flank. Stand by for an attack." House passed the word along. Men prodded others into wakefulness. Mortars starting in again. On the slope House and his men gripped their weapons and waited.

Down at the right where the gunfire had come from, Platoon Sgt. Richard Stickley of Detroit, Mich., T-5 Gurch and Pfc. Kirby and Norman Shriner had ended the day in a foxhole on a knobby projection of ground close to the Jap lines. Somebody in the rear decided they should remain there as night outpost. Snipers had them pinned down, making any movement outside the hole impossible. Rations were tossed up to them. They ate them cold and settled down for the night. Jap artillery was falling short just in front of the hole. The four men ducked constantly as rocks and dirt, thrown up by explosions, rained down on them. Around 0230, Shriner nudged Stickley.

"There's something moving down there."

"Where?"

"Down there – coming uphill toward us. I've been watching him for about five minutes to make sure. Here he comes." A shadowy figure rose up and charged them. Shriner's carbine cracked five times. The figure screamed and rolled back downhill. The men lay and listened. Shriner said: "I think there was more than one of them." A noisy scuffle broke out further down the slope. Another Jap had jumped into a hole occupied by two men. Shriner's firing had alerted them and they were ready. One grabbed the Jap, the other battered him with the back of a shovel. Finally he stopped struggling. The men put two shots in the body and pushed it out of the hole. Nobody went back to sleep. When you get a couple like that it usually means there are more close by

DEADEYE WAR STORIES

WITH BRAD BROWN



My name is Brad Brown. I am the son of a World War II "Deadeye."

I am a 46-year-old paraplegic as the result of an auto accident 25 years ago. I gave the memorial address at the Deadeye Reunion in

Georgia this year. I was very nervous

about doing that and I am unsure about

attempting an occasional column for the association

web site (96thdeadeyes.org) and the Deadeye Dispatch.

I have been asked to tell the stories of you who have been in the war or witnessed others carrying out actions that have impacted the history of the 96th Infantry to this present day. I hope you will think about this and help me in this effort. I am sure many of you have a story that needs to be told or a member of your family would be willing to share the story of their father or grandfather's service.

The history of the 96th Infantry is fascinating. You were or are a part of this group that was organized very late in World War I, reactivated in World War II and remains active in our country's Army today.

Major General James Bradley was chosen to command this group when they were ordered into active military service in August 1942. He stated and repeated the following saying time after time: "We of the 96th Division have a clearly defined task. It is to become a well-trained combat division in the shortest possible time. We must keep our eyes; we must keep our thoughts on that goal. Any time spent on efforts which do not lead to the goal is time wasted and we have no time to waste. This is the kind of a division we are going to be: well trained, tough physically and mentally, ready and eager to fight, not for our personal glory, but for the honor of the division and the service of our country."

As to the nature of the job that lay ahead and the alternatives that faced his men, he spoke with typical bluntness: "We kill or get killed." Each soldier heard this repeated and have shown they recognized the need to meet this goal. The 96th Infantry set out to do its part in accomplishing this stated purpose.

Please help me share your stories. So few have been recorded and told about the wars the 96th Infantry has been a part of, World War II, Vietnam, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Please send me your suggestions, facts you know, or people to contact to learn and tell about their heroic efforts.

I will respond to any of the above and together we can use this web column to pay honor and increase awareness of your incredible service to our country.

My contact information is listed below.



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Deadeye Dispatch Change of Address Form

Clip and mail to:

Diane O'Brien, PO Box 34, Trempealeau, WI 54661-0034 or email to ddbrien@trivest.net

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Address _____

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**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 Sustainment Brigade.

M E M B E R S H I P D U E S			
<i>Those that previously served in the 96th DIV/ARCOM/RSC/RRC and are not currently assigned to a unit:</i>			
1 year.....	\$18	2 years.....	\$34
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LAST NAME _____ **FIRST NAME** _____

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Please check one of the following that represents your status:

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- Prior service in a 96th unit and still on duty
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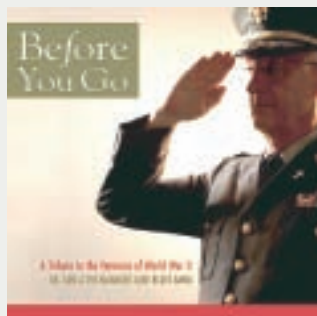
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Coming Soon..... These and other items will be available at 96thdeadeyes.org!



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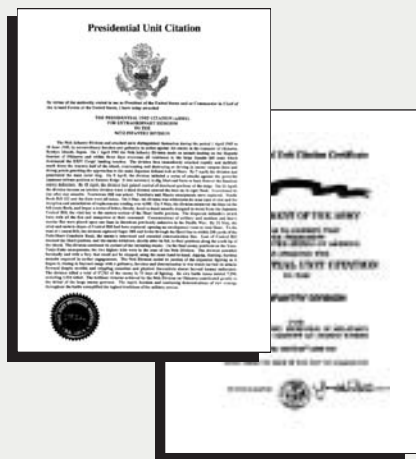
Check out this touching tribute to the veterans of World War II. The song can be purchased from the web site or by calling Managed Music toll-free at 1-888-426-7529. Their address is Managed Music, 6 NE Fisher Lane, Delray Beach, Florida 33483.

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. 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

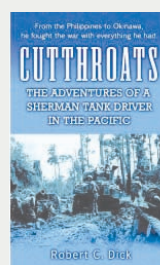
To obtain a new 96th Infantry cap, please send your mailing information, along with your check for \$10 payable to Douglas Burton, 11279 S. Fowler Ave., Selma, CA 93682-9619



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



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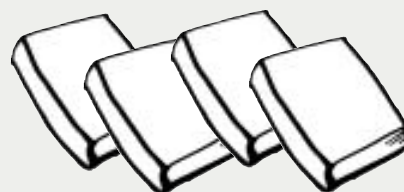
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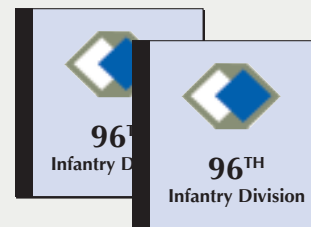
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Email: janicehowardnan@yahoo.com
Phone: 574-806-4491 or 574-896-0448



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

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CD #2:
Battle of Okinawa (91 screens)

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

(Revised-April, 2007)



Okinawa Etched Deep in My Mind

A compiled recollection of author Herman Buffington, a veteran of the 96th Infantry Division. To purchase a copy, send \$12.00 to: Helen Buffington, 162 Jett Roberts Rd., Jefferson, GA 30549.

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 in Leyte. And an article from the 1947 Saturday Evening Post, "The Alley Fighters of the 96th", is also included.

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