



The Red Devil Digest

The 508th Airborne Chapter Newsletter Fury From The Sky

Official Chapter Web Site: www.red-devils.org



Vol 5 No. 4

July - August 2001

Chapter Election/ 82nd Assn Convention

Charleston, SC

A great Convention, as usual, was held in Charleston. The Division provided the ever popular Airborne Drop on Thursday morning and the pre-jump festivities included the 82d famous Airborne Division Choir entertaining the veterans and local population from the Charleston area.

Eleven members of the Chapter, to include Chairman Bob Murray, were in attendance. They were: **Bobbie Henson, Steve Helms (Delegate), Ken Glynn, Joe Govenettio, James Leonard, Carl Porter, Dick Yates, Carson Johnson, Jim Swindler, and Alan Larson.**

Other news of note was the election of Duke Armendariz as Association President; the awarding of the 2003 Convention to Charleston, WV by a vote of two over El Paso, TX; and the Chapter Newsletter winning second place in the Newsletter contest. A check for \$50 was presented to the chapter by the Association. Detailed elections results can be found in the next issue of the Association Paraglide.

By far the most important event, or non event, was the Chapter election of Chapter Officers for the years 2002 - 2003. See Chairman's Message details.

Chairman's Message



You may recall that the Chapter started alerting it's membership that this was an election year. We have been reminding, requesting, pleading and almost bleeding that the membership consider filling one of the Chapter Officer vacancies that will exit 1 January 2002 and the election would be held at the Annual Convention. We had only one candidate, Jack Damron, for Chairman.

I had also advised, that after eleven years as Chairman, and at time, almost every other officer, that I would not be an officer after the end of this term, 31 December 2001. Jack did not want to continue as Secretary due to his hearing problem, but would serve as Chairman.

There were eleven Chapter members in attendance at Charleston, none who were candidates. Five of them said they could not attend the meeting scheduled for Saturday morning at 10:00 am. In view of those facts, one candidate and the possibility of only six attending, I canceled the meeting.

Where do we stand? Rodger Jacobson has committed to continue his role as Vice Chairman through the year 2003 with the principal emphasis on recruiting . Jack Damron has reiterated he would accept the Chairmanship, and in view of the sad interest shown in serving the Chapter, he will also accept the Secretary/Treasurer post. He was, however, adamant in stating he will not serve the Chapter after 31 December 2003. So, beware out there as he will start bending arms come January 1 to find candidates for the next election and start training the next slate of candidates!

Quartermaster Officer Appointed

Ken Glynn (L/51-54), a Charter Member of our Chapter, was appointed Chapter Quartermaster for Sales of Chapter items and Memorabilia effective 1 October 2001. In this capacity, Ken is responsible for providing, supplying, filling and mailing all orders for our Chapter items. Order forms, with accompanying payment, should be mailed to Ken at the following address after 1 October 2001.

Creative Graphics

Attn Ken Glynn
1228 E. Line St.
Lakeland, FL 33801
Telephone: (863) 688-5714
FAX (863) 683) 683-9003

Revised Order Forms will appear in the Sep. - Oct. 2001 issue. For the month of September, continue to send your orders to Bob Murray.

NOTE: A few items have been added to the shopping list. A mouse pad with either the Chapter Logo or the Regimental Crest (Fury From The Sky) is now available. Cost is \$7.50 each. Stipulate which logo is desired. Chapter hats with embroidered logo and maroon bill are available (\$14.50) and same hat with screened logo is offered for \$12.00. We no longer carry the red billed hat.

One Time Membership Offer

As you old timers are aware, the end of the National Convention marks the beginning of the new membership recruiting year. For those of you who are relatively new to the Association, the Association membership year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31 of each year regardless of when you join. The one exception is if you join after the Association Convention which is held in August of each year, you will be a member from that date to December 31 of the following year. For example, if you join on August 15, 2001, you are considered a member through 31 December 2002. We emphasize each year that it is to your and the Chapters benefit if you join or renew your membership as an All American Member (AAM) (Life).

If you are 50 years of age or over, the cost is a one time payment of \$100. This is lower than any military or fraternal organization that I know with one exception.

In this case, Chairman Murray has announced the following limited membership offer effective for the recruiting year 2002.

ONE TIME, LIMITED OFFER FOR ALL AMERICAN, PAID FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP AND MORE!

Current Annual Members for 2001, age 50 or over, may renew as an All American Member for \$82! (This is the same rate for active duty members of the 82d Airborne Division). This is a **ONE TIME** offer and is available to the **FIRST FIFTY** applicants! You must be a current, paid member for 2001; you must be fifty or older and full payment must accompany your COMPLETED Application Form; and the Chapter must receive your application no later than 10 November 2001! *Members who have recently renewed their annual membership for the year 2002 can send \$69.50 to take advantage of this one time offer.*

Current Annual Members for 2001, **UNDER AGE FIFTY**, may renew as an All American Member for \$132. This is a **ONE TIME** offer and is available to the **FIRST FIFTY** applicants! The same restrictions as above will apply.

Don't wait! Renew as an All American now and be one of the first 50 to be accepted!

Current Annual Members for 2001 who elect not to take advantage of the very generous offer for All American Membership may renew their annual membership for \$10. Again, this is a **ONE TIME** offer and your completed Application Form must be received by the Chapter not later than 10 November, 2001. **If you have already paid your 2002 dues, you may renew now for 2003 for only \$10.**

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The reduced offers for membership does not apply for new members, reinstated members or affiliate members.

Chapter Boosters



320th Airborne Field Artillery Association;
James Adams (598/54-56); **David M. Bell** (D/51-56); **Norman I. Beneke** (L/51-54); **Bill J. Bidleman** (E/51-53); **Aristeo Blanco** (C/51-54); **Bobby R. Blankenship** (B/51-53); **Joseph Ballaro** (D/51-53); **Charles Bostic** (H&H/51-54); **John F. Brown** (E/51-54); **David H. Burns** (H/51-54); **H. Ray Caldwell** (HQ3/55-56); **Anthony Cantillo, Jr.** (F/51-54); **Joseph B. Catey** (A1/66-68); **Leslie Crocker** (L/51-54); **Herbert L. Cronin** (C/51-54); **Jack K. Damron** (HQ1/54-57); **LTC (R) James K. Damron**; **Marvin Darby** (L/51-54); **Joseph L. Davis** (B/51-56); **Willie F. Davis** (G/54-56); **Roy E. Dickison** (L/51-52); **Milton Embree** (D/51-54); **Alexander R. Elliot** (SPT/55-56); **Robert Figueredo** (D/51-53); **Don C. Fjoslein** (519/52-54); **Samuel D. Gillespie** (L/54-56); **CSM (R) Hal S. Gladson** (A1/64-66); **Richard H. Glass** (E/67-68); **Kenneth L. Glynn** (L/51-54); **Richard S. Gohl** (C/54-55); **Jerry T. Grubbs** (A/51-54); **Daniel Hogan** (598/52-53); **Armando C. Juarez** (I/51-54); **Leamon Kendrick** (HQ1/55-56); **CSM (R) Arthur Kilgore** (SVC/51-53); **James J. Lammle** (MED/55-56); **Thomas R. Lane** (A/51-52); **Lino Laruz** (C/42-44); **Terry V. Lee** (A3/65-66); **Joseph Lesniak** (C/51-52); **MG (R) Thomas P. Lynch** (H&H/51-52); **Dr. Duane Mabeus** (G/52-54); **Clarence T. McCluskey** (L/51-52); **William J. Mehling** (HQ2/51-52); **George W. McClain** (SVC/50-53); **William F. Moran** (I/45-46); **Robert T. Murray** (B/51-53); **George A. Nichols** (A/51-54); **Lawrence F. O'Connor** (A/51-52); **Bernard P. Patton** (K/51-53); **Ralph N. Pelliccio** (SPT/51-54); **Lee Perttu** (E/54-56); **Matthew A. Pisano** (C/51-53); **Peter Pisanti** (HQ1/51-52); **Carl Porter** (D/45-46); **Peter Radash** (HH1/63-64); **Armando M. Reyes** (HQ1/51-53); **Kenneth G. Rilea** (G/51-54); **Steve W. Roberts** (70-71); **Harry Roll** (H/44-46); **Theodore Schonhans** (519/51-54); **Hal L. Scott** (SVC/54-57); **Roy Shaw** (HQ2/51-53); **Frank Seif** (M/53-55); **Curtis R. Sherrill** (H/51-52); **Walter O. Stacey** (HQ2/51-52); **Keith R. Stevens** (B/54-55); **George I. Stoeckert** (42-46); **Tom J. Stolfi** (B3/65-66); **Robert G. Thompson** (HQ3/46); **Robert D. Taylor** (E/51-53); **Jerry R. Umlor** (B/52-54); **Walter VanCoppennolle** (HQ1/51-53); **Alan R. Vittori** (A2/72-74); **Walter B. Welton** (H&H/51-53); **Jack F. Wheeler** (HQ2/51-55); **Robert W. Wright** (598/55-56); **Raymond Wujcik** (C320/51-52) and **Richard Yates** (HQ320/51-52).

A special thanks to Robert W. Wright (598/55-56) for his very generous contribution to the Chapter. See Membership Letters for details.

Red Devils Found



The past few months were not very productive in reporting new finds. We found (or they found us) four. Three are listed in the New Chapter Members column and one is listed below. He is: **Henry D. Winzinger**, Bordentown, NJ (K/54-56).

Rodger Jacobson assures me he has a good list ready to send to chapter secretary so we will be reporting many more in the next issue of the newsletter.

New Chapter Members



A big welcome to our newest Chapter members who just dropped in! They are: **SMG (R) Marcus L. Baxley**, Fayetteville, NC (A320/51-52); **Leavy Brock**, Greenville, NC (K/51-53); **Paul D. Ott**, Bayville, NJ (C320/54-55); **Daniel T. Reilly**, Fayetteville, NC (C2/76-85); **Joseph W. Scott**, Randolph, VT (E/51-54).

News From National

New Division/Association Chaplain



A ceremony at the Division Memorial Chapel on 23 July, symbolized the Passing of the Division Stole. CH (LTC) Richard L. Pace assumed his responsibility for pastoral care to the Divisions's troopers and to provide technical leadership for the Chaplains and Chaplains' Assistants. President Beekman further appointed him as the Association Chaplain, replacing CH (LTC) Krause who departed for Germany. He is not new to the Division, previously serving with the 325th AIR and Division Headquarters.

Membership Update As Of 31 July 2001

The Association closed out the year 2001 as of July 31 in order to be able to present the various awards for chapter membership. Needless to say, the 508th Chapter failed again this year to win the Excellence Plaque. This was not due to finding new members, but rather an inordinate number of 2000 members who failed to renew for the year 2001. None the less, the Chapter finished as the second largest chapter in the Association. We need to do a better job of attracting All American Membership (Life) as we ranked seventh in this category!

#1 Fayetteville, NC	947
#2 508 th Airborne Chapter	362
#3 Blue Ridge All Airborne	359
#4 LTG James M. Gavin	344
#5 North Jersey, New Jersey	337
#5 GEN M. B. Ridgeway - Dayton, OH	337

New Association Chapter

The Cincinnati Chapter located in Cincinnati, Ohio, our youngest chapter, was approved to be chartered by the Board of Directors on 26 May 2001. Congratulations and our best wishes to the local officers and membership.

2002 Early Bird Program

2001 members who have renewed for 2002 prior to midnight, 15 November 2001 will be listed as Early Birds in the Winter Paraglide. Those who renew through their Chapter will earn their Chapter and extra \$1.00 rebate. Chapters do not receive the extra rebate for members renewing direct to the National Office. New or those members who skipped 2001 are reinstatements and not eligible for Early Bird status. Rebate will be paid as of business received by 31 December each year.

Government Traveler Program Brochure

Your Chapter received a limited number of the brochures indicated above. The brochure contains a Bass Hotels and Resorts Travel Card which can be used in Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts; Crowne Plaza Hotels and Resorts, Holiday Inn Hotels and Resorts, Holiday Inn Express and Staybridge Suites. Members interested in obtaining this brochure should contact the Chapter Secretary. See mail address/email address in the Chapter Officers column.

320th AFA Association Reunion

Last reminder for the 320th AFA Association reunion scheduled for Clarksville, TN (Ft. Campbell) 27 - 29 September 2001. If any member is interested, contact the chapter secretary for a registration form and further information. The 320th always has a great reunion! Joe expects many 508th Troopers there as well as Redlegs. Jack Damron will represent the Chapter and hopes to see other Chapter members in the area there too.

Membership Letters

William F. Moran (I/45-46) writes: Bob, Membership cost enclosed for 2001. Keep up the good work. I enjoy reading Chapter and Division news - wish there were more.

I've purchased just about all the items advertized - I don't use what I have already. Too bad background patches, bumper stickers, decals for windows, even old jump suits would be marketable.

PS Have a six pack on me.

Ed's Note: Bill. Sorry for the delay in getting your note in the newsletter. It was placed in the wrong folder. We are looking into carrying a few more items such as bumper stickers and window decals.

Robert (Bob) Thompson writes: Dear Editor, Stick with the 508th and sooner or later all your concerns or questions will be answered.

Reference to Bill Moran's letter published in the May - June (Vol. 5 No. 3) issue. For years I have been searching for the name of the "ship" that brought the 508th back from Germany in '46. Two memories stick with me about that return trip. The first one was that "we" had to help an east bound ship that some how had lost power. The second memory was running into a violent North Atlantic storm. I was a fairly decent sailor if I could be on deck. Being below deck I wasn't a happy camper. Anyway, I ventured on deck during that storm taking all the storm had to offer. Suddenly the ship made a violent pitch to the starboard. I caught the ship rail, held on for dear life, and in my mind I believe I saw a dolphin eye to eye. After that encounter it did not take me long to find

more secure protection to ride out the storm.
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As Bill states a few days after we were in Camp Kilmer we were informed that the 508th was to be deactivated. I was with Hqs. Company, 3rd Battalion and the major was highly agitated that such a highly decorated fighting unit was dispensed with little or no ceremony.

I took the option of being separated from the service. However, I believe my airborne training and experience helped me and gave me the perseverance to have had a good career, a marriage of 52 years, two fine sons and, of course, three great grandchildren. I am now 75 years old and I can say that I am in much better condition physically and mentally than most of my peers.

Airborne always, Bob

PS I might as well send in the 2002 dues now.

Ed's Note: Thanks for the early dues payment. Glad to hear an article brought back old memories.

Robert (Bob) W. Wright writes: Hi Bob, I see in the newsletter that the great **Alex Elliot** had you pass the hat to support the Chapter in recruiting and growth.

As the guy who was "Division Soldier of the Month" 101st, thirteen times, 8th US Army "Soldier of the Year" 1958, and did a PLF off the second floor railing of the 598th Engineer Company barracks in Camp Chick, Beppu, Japan (Because CPT Willard E. Culp, CO, said Airborne Engineers could do it!) And even now claims to be the very "Paratrooper of the 50's I cannot be outdone!"

I must match the amount collected. Enclosed find my personal check in the amount of \$413.00. I wish it could be thousands. Airborne Forever, Bob

Ed's Note: Bob, Thanks ever so much. Your generosity is overwhelming!

Chapter Officers

Chairman/Treasurer

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Down Memory Lane

The following story was extracted from the D Day Issue of the 82d Abn Division "The All American Paraglide" entitled "Souvenir Brochure Nederland" dated Tuesday, September 17, 1944.

Headline: 508th Finished 3 Weeks OF Intensive Fighting

508th Bearing Brunt On Wide Defense Sector. 1st To Enter Germany

The air over the DZ was filled with flak but no other gunfire was heard as our 1st and 2nd Battalions reached the ground and began to assemble. The 3rd Battalion, jumping near the edge of the DZ came down squarely up a 20mm anti-aircraft position. The crew fled in panic and joined a small party of die-hard enemy firing from the edge of the area. These were driven off and the assembly completed. The battalion moved out to their objectives.

Companies A & B immediately moved into the town of Nijmegen to secure the bridge spanning the Waal River. Fighting their way through strange city streets on a dark night, both companies reached the center of the city where German resistance stiffened and mounting counter-attacks made the night an ogre's ordeal. One platoon of Company A pushed ahead and reached the southern approach to the Nijmegen Bridge. Here this patrol managed to knock out a building which was believed to house the controls for the destruction of the bridge by enemy demolitions. Forced by heavy shell fire to withdraw, the patrol was unable to make contact with the company and so for three nights remained in the city. A British tank column moving in was stopped by enemy obstacles. Elements of Company A joined the British and spearheaded them through the streets towards the bridge which was later gained intact. On the 18th, Company B had been forced to fall back when the enemy artillery registered on their position and the building surrounding were set afire. Later, Company B moved to Wyler where, all day, the men fought off a battalion of SS troops. Before nightfall they pulled back to another position. And set up an iron-clad "keep out", "verboden to SS defense."

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Company C meanwhile did their job to perfection fighting a spectacular battle for Hill 97.5 after three previous attempts by other units had failed to wrest it from the Germans. This Company launched an attack which carried the hill and then withstood six successive counter-assaults by heavy artillery, mortars and twice their number of infantry. When ammunition was down to five rounds per man, the defenders defiantly rejected a German proposal of surrender and, though cut-off from the main body, held out until relieved five days later.

During this action, the 508th 2nd Battalion had skirted the city and moved toward the Mass-Waal Canal Bridge, encountering machine guns and 20 mm cannon en route. Lt. Lloyd G. Polette, leading the point, personally destroyed one 20mm gun and a machine gun position. The next day his platoon of 20 men stormed the bridge after a bloody fight and secured that crossing.

The same day, German troops overran the DZ and portions of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, returned to clear that area, just a few minutes before scheduled glider landings. The 2nd Battalion remained to secure the drop zone from further attacks.

FIRST TO CROSS THE GERMAN BORDER

The 3rd Battalion, moving out after assembly on the 17th, fought a bitter action for the Berg-en-Dal and its important road junction. On the 18th, Company H pushed down to Beek and struck three times in one night before tearing the enemy hold from that point. Company H was the first airborne unit to push to the German frontier and hold. Company G, battled through the eastern section of Nijmegen and fought tenaciously for the Waal (Rhine) River Bridge until heavy artillery and mortar bombardment which they could not combat forced their withdrawal. Company I swung out into the flats east of Beek and destroyed enemy strong points. The battalion then attacked with British tanks and pushed its lines east to include the open ground before Beek.

All battalions were relieved and pulled back to reorganize and gain a short breather. The regiment moved up again to hold a sector of the Division MLR which the enemy blasted with heavy guns and continually attacked but could never penetrate.

508th Abn RCT

Sometimes memories are not happy ones. The following selected information was taken from the official log of the 508th Abn RCT from 1 July 1953 to 30 September 1953.

Regimental S-1. The shortage of personnel has become so critical that the effectiveness of the unit is threatened. If further drains are made it may become impossible to fulfill our mission as a Class 3 General Reserve unit.

Regimental S-3. a. At the beginning of the period, the 508th ARCT was committed primarily to the support of the Infantry School and The Infantry Center. While the mission of supporting these activities up to 100% of present for duty strength remained outstanding, it was decided by the CG, TIC, to reduce support assignment of the ARCT personnel to allow for training to insure maintenance and proficiency of troops.

b. At the end of the period the ARCT had an average computed figure of combat readiness of approximately 51%. Continued release from Troop Support assignments and availability of full TO&E would allow this organization to be fully operational in four months.

320th AFA Bn. a. The battalion during this period, in addition to the prescriptions of its training mission as part of an Abn RCT, has been committed heavily for artillery support for TIC. Support has called for the use of 75mm pack howitzers and the 105mm howitzer. This support has strained the capabilities of this unit. It has been necessary to man guns and form provisional batteries with elements of Hqs Btry and SVC Btry. Infantrymen have been borrowed from the 508th Regiment to man 105mm howitzers. Officers from the 598th Engr Co and Infantry Battalions have been used in the critical positions of safety officers. The combination of all these factors presents and constitutes a serious danger in the safety of troops and spectators in these firing demonstrations.

b. Units continue to use only one barracks per battery. The two messes operating in the previous report were consolidated. This battalion now operates only one mess.

Help A Red Devil!

Bobby R. Blakenship (B/51-53) needs to hear from any member of B Co. who was present with him at Fort Benning in late '52 when a 90mm tank cannon was fired next to him causing deafness. Anyone recalling this incident please contact Bobby ASAP. His address is: 3688 Fourth St. Box 125, Berwick, LA 70342 Tel. (504) 385-1098.



(L-R) Bobby's Brother and Bobby with a couple of "Big Ones"

Below are a few of the many pictures sent to me which were taken at the Reunion held during All American Week at Fort Bragg NC this past May. Many thanks go to Clarence McCluskey, Aristeo Blanco, Stan Philbin, Ken Hamill and Harry Meyer for the fine pictures you sent. I wish we had the space to print them all. We will try and get a few in each issue for a while.. If I have entered the wrong names or omitted names, put it down to your addeleated Editor. Not only is his hearing just about gone, his grey cells need attention too. Editor



(L-R) Jack McClellan, Bob Murray & Stan Philbin



(L-R) Bob Copeland & H. Ray Caldwell (Pass the Hat)



L-R) A. Blanco, D. Burns, D. Henson, M. Blanco & B. Henson



(L-R) R. Jacobson, C. Beekman, B. Beekman & B. Murray



(L-R) Orlon and Jeanie McClung



(L-R) Maggie De Jesus, Ruth Damron & Jack Damron



Kenneth and Yasuko Hamill



(L-R) Bob Sorenson, Bob Taylor, Karen Glover & Jim Swindler



Breakfast at the Main NCO Club



Carson Johnson



(L-R) Bill Coulter, Mac McCluskey & Ken Glynn