

WARREN R. WILKINS UPDATE



DEVILS



DIGEST



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WARREN R. WILKINS UPDATE

By Ken Hamill

Warren R. Wilkins served in C Company, 508 ARCT in 1951-52 at Fort Benning, GA. Warren worked for a Mr. Holt in New York and became a friend of the Holt family. When Warren developed a serious medical problem, Mrs. Theresa Holt attempted to get him admitted into a VA facility, but could not. Warren was admitted into a private nursing home that is paid for by his Social Security retirement check. His address is: Berkshire Nursing Home, 10 Berkshire Road, West Babylon, NY 11704. Mrs. Holt has attempted to acquire veteran's benefits for Warren since his problems began. Documents in my possession date back to May 2013. She has correspondence from Warren Wilkins's Representative, Congressman Bishop; the Army Human Resources Service Center, Fort Knox, KY; the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Indianapolis, IN; the Federal Records Center, Dayton, OH and the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), St. Louis, MO. Warren Wilkins' military records were most likely destroyed in the NPRC fire of 12 July 1973. No trace of Wilkins or his pay vouchers or leave and earnings statements were found. A search of organizational records failed to locate veteran Wilkins being discharged from Camp Kilmer, NJ. Our life member, Aristeo Blanco of C Co 508 ARCT and Reno, Nevada had served with Wilkins at Fort Benning, GA and sent me 4 photos of Wilkins and friends at Fort Benning, 1 photo of Wilkins as a SFC E-6, copies of the 508 ARCT Yearbook 1951-52 and a notarized statement of his service with Wilkins. Life member Jim Vanderhoof of C Co. 508 and Lexington, KY sent a copy of the 1951 Christmas Dinner menu that includes a roster with Pfc Wilkins name listed. I prepared a SF 180, NA form 13075 and a personal letter to NPRC and sent these items to Theresa Holt for signature by Wilkins. She then mailed the package including Blanco and Vanderhoof's...

proof of Wilkins veteran status to the National Personnel Records Center. It probably took 32-35 days or so, for the NPRC to receive the package from the time they sent me the SF 180 and NA 13075 forms by email. Theresa Holt and I were a bit naïve. Theresa had previously sent information to NPRC by way of her congressman and did not worry about time constraints. I felt the Warren Wilkins situation to be a wide open search for veteran's status dating back two years and surely the NPRC would be looking forward to receiving this positive information. Theresa Holt and I later called NPRC and were both crushed to learn that NPRC computers did not show receipt of any correspondence or forms relating to Warren Wilkins. The NA Form 13075 clearly states "If we do not receive this information from you within 30 days, your request will be closed without further reply". Do I believe that a NPRC clerk would discard our support package because it arrived a couple of days late? Anyone could recognize the contents of our package as important, historical photos and documents. But, the NPRC computers did not contain information about Warren Wilkins. There is not a doubt in my mind that a NPRC clerk discarded the whole caboodle. One of my phone conversations with NPRC generated the following email "This request is more than a year old so you will need to submit a new request". I planned to resubmit by preparing the complete package, then requesting the forms from NPRC to start the clock, filling out the SF 180 and NA 13075 and sending it all to Theresa Holt. Fortunately, I had copies of the items sent in the original discarded package. We also had received additional proof from 6 more 508 ARCT veterans. They sent excellent supportive documents, photos and/or notarized statements of their time in service spent with Warren Wilkins. My new letter to NPRC described our intent to prove that Warren R. Wilkins was a soldier who earned veterans benefits...

...The letter also listed the 8 veterans who sent statements, photos or documents in support of Warren. It included their complete home addresses and a description of their enclosed items. I called NPRC on 4 May 2015 and requested forms SF 180 and NA 13075. I received an email with the attached forms in minutes. I filled out both forms as much as I could. The total package consisted of my letter and ten enclosures, including the two forms and all of the statements, photos and documents sent by our 508 ARCT veterans. The package was sent to Theresa Holt by Priority mail on 5 May. Theresa informed me that she received the package on 7 May, would visit Warren Wilkins for his signature on 8 May and would send the package to NPRC by certified mail.

An Airborne thank you is extended to the following 508 ARCT veteran paratroopers who took the time and effort to help a trooper in need.

Aristeo Blanco Jr., C Co. 508 ARCT 1951-54 now Reno, Nevada sent enclosure 3 – including his notarized statement, Photo of Lesniak, Nichols & Wilkins, Photo of C Co. guards including Wilkins, Photo of unit waiting to go Jump with Wilkins and Blanco pointed out, photo of McCarthy, Bowles, Cronin, Jasinski, Wilkins and Mooney taken at a party in Columbus, Georgia, Photo of Wilkins as a SFC E-6 member of the 25 ID, photo copies of the 508 ARCT Yearbook 1951-52 that depicts Blanco on page 2 and Warren Wilkins on page 5.

Ben E. Branch (deceased), a Lieutenant in C Co. 508 ARCT 1952-53, then Greenville, SC sent enclosure 4 – including his notarized statement upon which he placed his X and his wife Jennie signed. He died a few days after signing.

Frederick P. Gilliam, B Co. 508 ARCT 1951-53, now Jamaica, NY sent enclosure 5 – including copies of pages from 508 ARCT Yearbook 1951-52 that depict Warren Wilkins on page 6 and Fred Gilliam on page 8.

Raymond Jasinski, C Co. 508 ARCT 1951-52, now Mansfield, OH sent enclosure 6 – a notarized statement of his time in service with Warren R. Wilkins.

Eugene F. Leonard, L Co. 508 ARCT 1952-53, now Port Orange, FL sent enclosure 7 – Notarized statement & pages from 508 ARCT Yearbook 1951-52 that depict Warren Wilkins on page 8 and Eugene Leonard on page 11.

Joseph G. Lesniak, C Co. 508 ARCT 1951-52, now Coventry, RI sent enclosure 8 – including his notarized statement, Photo of C Co. 508, Photo of Wilkins in field, Photo of McCarthy & Wilkins, Photo of Wilkins & McCarthy, Photo of Mooney & Wilkins, Photo of McCarthy & Wilkins, Photo of McCarthy & Wilkins, Photo in town of Wilkins, McCarthy, Wade, Mooney, Morra and Lesniak. Photo copies of pages from the Airborne School Class 44 Classbook dated 1 June 1951 that depicts Wilkins on page 3 and lists him on page 6.

Patrick J. McCarthy, C Co. 508 ARCT 1951-53 now Quincy, MA sent enclosure 9 – including his statement and a photo of McCarthy, Bowles, Cronin, Jasinski, Wilkins and Mooney taken at a party in Columbus, Georgia, near Fort Benning.

James Vanderhoof, C Co. 508 ARCT 1951-53 now Lexington, KY sent enclosure 10 - 1951 Christmas Messhall Menu with the unit roster listing Pfc Warren Wilkins.

Our search for supportive statements, photos and documents from old 508 vets who served during Warren R. Wilkins time continues. If you served in the 508 in 1951-52 you could have proof that Warren served. Military orders could contain your name and Warren Wilkins name. Please check old Promotion Orders, Marksman-ship Badge Awards, Transfers and the like. If you went to Basic Training, Advanced Individual Training (AIT) or Jump School with Warren Wilkins, please let me know when and where. If you have photo books relating to Basic, AIT or Jump School that depict or list Warren Wilkins, please photo copy those pages that apply and send them to me with your notarized statement describing who you are and the items you are sending.

I called NPRC on 27 May 2015, package was received. A written response from NPRC will be sent to Warren Wilkins on or about 1 July 2015.

A PARATROOPERS MEMORIES #8

By Ed Slocum of HQ3-508 ARCT 1955-56

All American member Edward A. Slocum of Headquarters Company, 3-508 ARCT 1955-56 and Sumter, SC has written his life story. The book is titled – Searching for the Yellow Brook Road. Ed would like feedback from us. If you spot an error, pass it on back, so Ed can fix it. Article #8 starts now. The 82nd Airborne Division 1954. We again boarded the buses and rode across Georgia, South Carolina, and 56 miles into North Carolina where we reported into the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. At the 82nd Airborne Reception Company, we were given orders to various units in the division. About six of us, including my friend Lindley Saucier, were assigned to the 82nd Airborne Parachute Maintenance Company. After drawing our equipment and completing in-processing, I again was assigned to attend school. We were to become parachute Riggers. Parachute Riggers pack personnel and cargo parachutes, and Rig equipment for heavy drops. The school is located at Fort Lee Virginia which is 20 miles from Richmond Virginia. As I remember the school was a short 12 week course.

Parachute packing. The first part of the course was to learn to pack personnel parachutes. We learned to pack both the T-7 parachute and the new one, the T-10. We worked hard and our proficiency improved. The first parachute that I packed took me the better part of 45 min. Later while working back at Fort Bragg I was able to pack five parachutes in that time. So anyway I learned to pack personnel chutes. The final test for this portion of the training was that I had 50 min. to pack a T-10 main parachute, have it approved by the instructor, and the next day load the aircraft and jump the parachute that I had just packed. Now that's a test that will really motivate you. I was rather proud of the parachute that I put together and I asked the instructor as I finished packing if I had done a good job. The sergeant looked at me and stated "I would not jump off that table with that parachute." We all had a good laugh but the next day when I'm standing in that airplane waiting for the green light, my mind kept going back to what the sergeant had said;" I wouldn't jump off of that 3 foot packing table with it."...

...My problem is that I was 1000 feet over Camp Picket, Virginia, not a 3 foot packing table. I kept saying to myself, the instructor was kidding. I know he was kidding. I hope he was kidding. Of course the parachute opened properly. I was elated. We also learned to pack cargo parachutes. These parachutes were designated for heavy cargo. The cargo parachute comes in various sizes from small 24 foot parachutes used to drop approximately 100 pounds of cargo, to a large 100 foot in diameter parachute that when used in tandem could drop a 2 1/2 ton truck. Also included in this training was learning to rig the cargo equipment so that it would not be damaged when it was dropped by parachute. The final test of this block of instruction was that we rigged a 2 1/2 ton truck, attached two 100 foot parachutes to it, loaded it into a C119 Air Force flying boxcar and pushed it out the back at 1,500 feet. We then followed it out and rode down by parachute to the drop zone. I remember how pleased I was that all went well with the cargo chutes and the 2 1/2 ton truck that we dropped. We were able to drive off the field in the truck. Cargo parachutes for Indo-China. Towards the end of April, 1954 on Friday afternoon the instructor came through the packing shed where we were and stated that training was being suspended. We had orders to pack 10,000 cargo parachutes over the weekend. These were the small parachutes, 24 foot in diameter. We packed the parachutes and loaded them onto waiting aircraft as cargo. I had no idea why we did this. Years later, I was told that these parachutes were to be used to drop cargo to the French troops who were surrounded by enemy forces at Dienbienphu, French Indo-China. The Battle of Dienbienphu had begun on March 13, 1954. The French army was surrounded by the communist fighters. After holding out valiantly for almost 3 months they were out of ammunition and food. It is my understanding that the parachutes that I had helped to pack were used to drop the supplies to the French. Although we were not officially involved in this war, history records that we furnished equipment and personnel to fly supplies to the French. The aircraft for this operation were unmarked and perhaps owned by the Central Intelligence Agency. It was too little and too late and on May 7, 1954, the French army was defeated. It is my belief that this was our first active involvement in Vietnam.

TO BE CONTINUED

THE FLIGHT AND LT. MATHIAS

By Mark Eckenrode

Most Americans think of the Normandy Invasion on June 6, 1944 as an American operation. The U.S. conducted amphibious assaults on Utah and Omaha Beaches with supporting airborne operations. The invasion also included three other amphibious assault beaches. Canadian units augmented by British troops landed at Juno Beach. Additionally, the British were solely responsible for landings on Gold and Sword Beaches, to include a combat jump by the British 6th Airborne Division. In fact, the opening shot of the invasion was delivered by glider infantry of the 6th Airborne shortly after midnight when they landed within 47 yards of their objective.

One must think of the ultimate Allied objective, the defeat of Germany, and work backwards. To accomplish this Operation Overlord was created, the large-scale lodgment of Europe. To accomplish Overlord, Operation Bolero was instituted which was the build-up of men and equipment in England. To secrete and confuse the German's of this build-up, Operation Bodyguard was needed. Operation Neptune was the code name for the initial assault of occupied France to accomplish Operation Overlord. Operation Neptune was subdivided into Force A as the airborne component, Force B for the glider element, and Force C as the amphibious arm of Operation Neptune. The 82nd Airborne Division's role became known as Mission "Boston." Mission "Detroit" was the follow-on glider assault for the 82nd, and there would be an additional glider landing named Mission "Elmira." Mission "Memphis" was the name for a parachute resupply drop.

Normandy is located on the Cotentin Peninsula, jutting out from the French coast in a northwesterly direction. Force C, the amphibious assault element, would approach the landing beaches from east to west, while Force A, the U.S. airborne component, would approach the peninsula from west to east.

In October 1943 the IX Troop Carrier Command (TCC) was formed for the express purpose of...

...providing airlift capacity for Force A and B. The IX TCC consisted of three Troop Carrier Wings (TCW), containing 14 Troop Carrier Groups (TCG) and one Pathfinder Group. Only four of the Groups were combat tested by D-Day. By May 1944, the IX Troop Carrier Command consisted of 1,207 C-47 Skytrain aircraft, 1,118 CG-4A Waco gliders and 301 Airspeed Horsa gliders. The 313th, 314th TCG's, plus an element of the 1st Pathfinder Provisional Group were tasked to the 508th PIR for a total of 135 C-47's carrying 2,056 paratroopers of the Regiment.

The aircraft and units were broken down into serials, chalks, and sticks. The 508th consisted of five serials: one for each battalion, one for the HQ and B Company of the 307th Engineer Battalion, and one for the pathfinders. A serial is a tactical group of two or more aircraft. Chalks designated the position of each aircraft within a serial flight. The chalk position was literally chalked on the sides of each aircraft allowing the aircrews to quickly identify the aircraft. The men were broken down into sticks of 15 to 18 paratroopers per plane.

The Pathfinders departed from the Royal Air Force Base at North Witham at 22:30 hours on June 5 with a Time Over Target (Drop Zone 'N') of 01:38 on June 6th. The first serial was to arrive 30 minutes later and each successive serial arriving over the DZ at six-minute intervals. The Regiment itself departed from the RAF Base's at Saltby and Folkingham, England.

Upon taking-off, the planes circled overhead until all the planes were airborne and then formed-up by serial and then each aircraft fell into chalk order. Each chalk consisted of a nine plane group consisting of three - three plane cells arranged in a "vee" pattern within a larger "vee" flying in trail. The serials flew southwest across Southern England to the departure point code named "Flatbush" before turning east over the English Channel towards Nazi occupied France.

Once over the Channel the jump commands began in the event a plane should have to ditch. The air armada also dropped down to 500 feet MSL to avoid German radar and all aircraft...

...lights, except navigation lights, were turned off for operational security. In the English Channel, a submerged submarine, code named "Hoboken," lie in wait for a predetermined time for it to surface. Aboard was a Eureka beacon to send a signal for the flight to turn left and fly on a southeasterly direction. The aerial armada threaded its way between the islands of Jersey and Guernsey where a fighter escort joined the "Skytrain" as they headed for their initial point near Les Pieux on the Cotentin Peninsula code named "Peoria."

Upon reaching the Normandy Coast the air armada encountered a cloudbank, which would spell disaster for flight cohesion. Coupled with German anti-aircraft artillery, the flight formation became scattered. The chances of landing with unit integrity were dashed. The 508th was to become the most widely scattered regiment within the 82nd's area of operations on D-Day.

First Lieutenant Robert M. Mathias was the Platoon Leader of the Second Platoon, E Company, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Lt Mathias was the stick commander of 16 men in his C-47. Once feet wet, Jumpmaster Lt. Mathias gave the jump commands. Upon reaching landfall machine gun fire ripped through the aircraft with the men calling-out "Let's go!" Lt Mathias refused to give the command until the green light came-on. A German shell exploded next to him and shrapnel tore through his reserve chute and into his chest knocking him down. He got up as the jump light turned green. As blood streamed from his body he gave the command to "Follow me!" as he went out the door with his stick following. Lt Mathias was later found that morning still strapped into his chute, hanging from a tree. Lt Mathias is documented as being the first American officer to be killed on D-Day June 6, 1944. First Lieutenant Robert M. Mathias was Airborne All The Way and a Paratrooper to the end!

On July 12, 1944 the 508th completed Mission Boston, boarded two LST's on Utah Beach and returned to their base in England. Of the 2,056 paratroopers from the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment who took part in D-Day only 939...

...returned to Nottingham for rest, refitting, regrouping and training for their next combat mission. After 37 days on the line, the Regiment suffered 1,161 casualties (56% of Regimental strength) with 307 killed in action, 487 wounded in action (26 later died from wounds), 173 injured in action (3 later died from injuries), and 165 missing in action, though a number of these later turn-up as prisoners of war. **Next:**

Final Mission, Occupation and Deactivation

Chapter Historian's Note: *The European campaigns, which the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment engaged in, will be omitted from this series. Countless tomes have been published chronicling their exploits and this format will do no justice to their story nor have anything new to add to the narrative. The "Military Links" section on the Red Devils website has a link titled "Books Dedicated to the 508th P.I.R." This is a list of eleven books totally devoted to the activities of the Regiment during WW II.*

508 veteran Jack Wheeler sent the following article that I made much shorter about a little known entitlement. A Department of Veterans Affairs benefit called the Aid and Attendance and Housebound Improved Pension benefit, known as A&A, which can cover the costs of caregivers in the home (including sons and daughters who are paid to be caregivers, though not spouses) or be used for assisted living or a nursing home. The A&A Pension can provide up to \$1,788 per month to a veteran, \$1,149 per month to a surviving spouse, or \$2,120 per month to a couple. It's been an entitlement for 61 years, but sat idle because the VA employees have not been educated about it. The VeteranAid.org website was created to provide information about A&A eligibility and how to apply. To qualify, a veteran need not have suffered a service-related injury. He or she only had to have clocked at least one day of his or her 90-day minimum military service during a time of war and need caregiving for activities of daily living. Applying for the Veterans Affairs benefit called the Aid and Attendance can be confusing and arduous. If you think you are eligible, get a friend to help you research the VeteranAid.org website. All of your questions could be answered in the Frequently Asked Questions Section. Hooah!!!

SUPPORT COMPANY 508 ARCT REUNION

ATLANTA AIRBORNE AWARDS FEST

The Atlanta Airborne Awards Festival took place 1-4 April 2015. The host hotel was again the outstanding Atlanta Airport Marriott on Best Road. We got our very nice \$90 plus tax room around 3:00 PM. We registered with Annette Purcell and hung out in the hospitality room. We took full advantage of the \$40 each registration fee and snacked, ate meals and drank wine and beer every chance we got. The Atlanta Fest hospitality room provides the best food and drink bar of all my experiences. Thursday was trip day and those who travelled to Fort Benning on the bus said it was a good day. Demonstrations at the Airborne School were excellent and the lunch at the new Airborne School Dining Facility was a nice experience. We took the alternate trip to the Atlanta History Center and a fun lunch at Mary Mac's Tea Room. The Atlanta History Museum consisted of a modern museum displaying many items from the Civil War, shaping traditions – folk art in a changing South, Bobby Jones fairway and the Centennial Olympic Games. There were also out buildings, trails and gardens. The Smith Family Home and Gardens had a good sized vegetable plot and several sheep. The Swan House was built for the Inman family in Buckhead during the 1920's. The mansion had English and Italian classical styles and did accommodate 20th century living. The museum has a Chick-fil-A and a restaurant, both serve a lunch menu. We did not attend the Memorial Luncheon on Friday. Instead, we caught the shuttle to the airport, added \$6 to our MARTA Breeze cards and went north by train to the Perimeter Mall. She enjoyed shopping and we enjoyed a great lunch at a nearby Restaurant where we sat outside. My date said the Ladies brunch was super, great games and prizes and wonderful food. The banquet had a nice crowd. Colors were posted by Fort Benning troops. All went well - the pledge of allegiance; National anthem; invocation; the meal was good; the head table was introduced; Mr. Sunny Park was guest speaker; several airborne awards were presented; the colors were retired; Ogy Sneidze gave a solemn prayer and the Sentimental Journey Orchestra played dance music until late. It was another wonderful Atlanta Airborne Fest.

The Support Company 508 Airborne Regimental Combat Team Association has officially stood down, but still enjoys reunions. Jim Strickland stayed in touch and suggested we meet this year at a place near Jud Haverkost and Speedy Gonzales, both recovering from severe medical problems. The dates selected were 17 - 20 June and the host hotel is the Quality Inn at Exit 4, Clarksville, TN, where they have a full breakfast buffet. Names of those that plan to attend follow: Jean & Jane Ashcraft, Joe & Barbara Bedmarz, Earl Christy, Alex & Ikuko Elliott, Delfo & Lillian Ferranti, Bob & Mary Helen Gee, Frank & Amber Gonzales, Speedy Gonzales, Jim & Paulette Grimes, Ken Hamill & Almeda Medlin, Jud & Sandra Haverkost, Jim & Willie Mae Heyward, Paul Jones, Sue Lutes & sister Jackie Morgan, Peggy Rentfro, Jerry Strickland and Jim Strickland. We will arrive Wednesday and take a shuttle from Nashville to Clarksville. There are several nearby restaurants on Wilma Rudolph Blvd. We will spend time with Jud, Speedy and the group and enjoy a Thursday supper at Logan's Roadhouse. A visit to Fort Campbell has been arranged for Friday. We will travel to Gate 4 at Fort Campbell where we will meet our tour guide and bus at 0900. We will be taken to a briefing hall on Post where we will receive an orientation / briefing about Fort Campbell and the famous Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division. We will tour the Post on the way to the Air Assault Training area located where the old Jump School with 34 foot towers were back in the 1950's. We will observe several demonstrations at the Air Assault School. Our tour guide will then take us to a modern military dining facility to have lunch with the troops. After lunch we will go to an indoor training facility where we will have an opportunity to fire three different laser training weapons at fixed and moving targets. We may also visit the AAFES Exchange that we used to call the PX. We may visit the Post Commissary as well. We will try to visit the Post Museum located close to where the old Post Headquarters used to be. This June Devils Digest is being printed while I attend the Clarksville Reunion. I plan to publish a group photo to be taken at the Clarksville Reunion in the September Devils Digest.



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**TAPS - 508th PARATROOPERS
RECENTLY DECEASED**

Duane M. Donison **Fayetteville Chapter**
508 P.I.R. 1970's **4 December 2014**
Charles D. Turner **Vulcan Chapter**
508 P.I.R. WWII **18 Sep 2014**

Statistics

Annual Members.....23
Affiliate Members.....14
All Americans.....299
Total Members.....336

June 2015 Treasurers Report

Printing expense Mar 2015: \$143.01
Newsletter Envelopes Jun 2015: \$30.87
Chapter Account 31 May 2015: \$2126.16



2015 VETERANS' DAYS ACTIVITIES

COL Reuben H. Tucker Chapter
Arlington National Cemetery
9-10 November 2015

Veterans Day Activities POC's
Paul DeVries: (703) 799-4419 (571) 245-5161
pdevries61@hotmail.com
Stephen Couchman: (410) 257-7919
couchman@comcast.net

The 508 Chapter will buy a wreath for \$120 and Ken Hamill will attend to speak at the 508 P.I.R. Memorial site. The Tucker Chapter needs our help. Send your donations to Ken Hamill made payable to Vets Day. **Note:** I will personally match the total member donations up to \$100.00

82 Airborne Division Association
69th Annual Convention
12-15 August 2015
Rosen Centre Hotel
9840 International Drive
Orlando, Florida

Reservations: 800.204.7234

www.RosenCentre.com / (407)996-9840

Registration Form and Information located at:
WWW.82ndairborneassociation.org/events

Members are reminded that National is trying to issue the Paraglide in hardcopy through annual subscriptions of \$30.00. National is hoping for the Paraglide to provide the Association with some much needed revenues, while giving members a hardcopy of the Paraglide.

Subscription Form and Information located at:
WWW.82ndairborneassociation.org/paraglide/subscribe

Thank you **William D. Kelly** of St. Petersburg, FL for your generous donation to our Chapter Treasury. Bill reminded me that he served in B Co, 307th Eng Bn, 82 Abn Div prior to attending Engineer Branch OCS and assignment to the 598 Engineer Company, 508 ARCT 1952-53.

Our Chapter has not received life member rebates from the 82nd Airborne Division Association for a few years. Several Chapters have donated their rebates to National. We cannot sustain our normal Chapter debts on annual memberships alone. Our cut of the \$25 annual memberships is \$8.00, National gets the rest. We have 23 paying annual members.

I heard from Al Vaitkus, Support Company, 508 ARCT 1955-56 and Mission Viejo, CA. "Thanks Ken. sorry I did not respond well lately". "On May 1st had a triple bypass and a valve replaced, so am still recuperating." "It may be another couple of weeks before things become more normal with me." "Take care, Al" The Chapter wishes you a speedy recovery Al !!!



Stay informed of the 82nd Airborne Division plans, troops and activities by way of:

www.82ndairborneassociation.org/whatsnew

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 508 CHAPTER, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

FORMAL NAME (No Nicknames) _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

9-DIGIT Zip _____ ASN _____ (or) SSAN (Last 4) _____

MARITAL STATUS _____ SPOUSE'S NAME _____ NUMBER OF CHILDREN _____

OCCUPATION _____ HOME #: (____) _____ CELL #: (____) _____

EMAIL _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

____ ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR YEAR 2015 \$25.00 + Wounded warrior _____ Ed Fund _____ Total Sent _____

____ LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP (\$250.00 FOR 49 YEARS AND UNDER OR \$175.00 FOR 50 YEARS +) \$ _____

____ ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY, RESERVE, NAT. GD – Current Rank and Date of Rank: _____

____ RETIRED MILITARY – Retired Rank and Date Departed Active Military Service _____

____ MILITARY VETERAN – Rank and Date Departed Military Service _____

508 UNIT: Co _____: Bn _____: Location _____ FROM MO/YR _____ TO MO/YR _____

Combat Tour Location: _____ FROM MO/YR _____ TO MO/YR _____

NEW MEMBERS MUST INCLUDE PROOF OF AIRBORNE QUALIFICATION

MAIL TO: KEN HAMILL; 2207 Coventry Drive; Columbus, GA 31904-5034



Members of B Company, Airborne School Class 44, Fort Benning, GA graduated 1 June 1951. Joe Lesniak of C Company, 508 ARCT 1951-52 and Coventry, Rhode Island sent the photo. If you are in this photo, please circle your head and shoulders with a pen and return this page 8 to me. If you remember Warren Wilkins please notarize this page before sending it to me. Anyone who remembers Warren Wilkins depicted in March 2015 Devils Digest page 8 photo should notarize that page and return it to me.