

THE COMMUNICATOR



A Publication of the
97th Signal Battalion Association
For those who served 1942 - 1993



Published 3 times per year
Issue 3 October 2012

The Communicator

Issued to members of the 97th Signal Battalion Association as an informational guide to activities of the Association, and to further the comradeship

Newsletter

publication dates:

The Newsletter will appear three (3) times a year:

February, June and October.

Deadline for news etc.

15 Jan. 15 May 1 15 Sep

Many members can also read/print the newsletter on-line. Those members without a computer will receive a paper copy in the mail.

Communication:

Secretary/Treasurer:

Meir I. Horvitz

3414 Glen Ellen Drive
Fairfield, CA 94534\
sec_treas97sigbn@comcast.net

Newsletter Interim Editor

Meir I. Horvitz

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sec_treas97sigbn@comcast.net
Phone: 707-207-3273

Visit our Website:

www.97thsigbn.org

WEBMASTER:

Jay Horvitz

jmhovitz@comcast.net

A Note From The President...

Meir Horvitz has taken over the "Communicator" and may need some help. If anyone can see their way clear of helping him. Give him a call.

I lost a very dear friend recently, Donald "Duke" Schneider. May we all keep him and Marge in our prayers. He was a faithful member and a great guy,

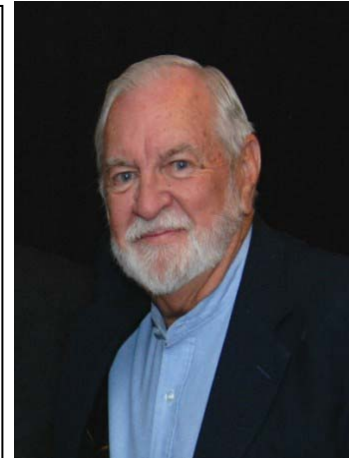
We are still looking for a Reunion Coordinator. I have several books on the subject. If anyone is interested, please contact me. The books explain everything that you have to do, step by step. Remember, you don't have to host a reunion, just research places where we can have a reunion.

If you are in contact with some members and they haven't made a reunion lately, encourage them to come to Des Moines next May. We need some more active members.

Hope this finds you all in good health.

Respectfully

T&T André



**President
André Arceneaux**

Attention

Please, send any administrative or news items pertaining to our membership, new members, change of addresses (incl. e-mail), illnesses, deaths notices, promotions, etc....



To the :

Secretary/Treasurer:

Meir Horvitz

3414 Glen Ellen Drive, Fairfield, CA

Phone: 707-207-3273

Email: sec_treas97sigbn@comcast.net

Please, No Jokes, Political Commentary
or other Spam!!!

THE COMMUNICATOR



ONLINE

*How to read the current & older
Newsletters*

<http://www.97thsigbn.org/communicator>

No password needed;

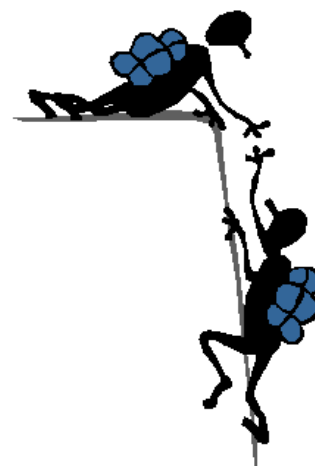
All Newsletters from 2005 to
current issue are on this site.

Webmaster: Jay Horvitz;

e-mail: jmhorvitz@comcast.net



HELP!!



We need our members to step up and help us out..

OPEN POSITIONS

1. Reunion & Hospitality Coordinator
2. Newsletter Editor
3. Reunion Hosts
4. Historian

Message from Dave Harris:

The member that assumes the role of Historian/PIO can obtain assistance from the Army Retirement Office (RSO) Website. When I was in this position I found that the RSO Newsletter to their Retirees was a great way to notify former 97th Troopers of their Association. A very good tool to use.



WHERE IN THE WORLD... FINDING 97TH ARMY BUDDIES

Eugene Darmstedter is the Association Membership Chairman. He asks that each of us reach back in our memory bank and come up with some names from those days when we were in Germany. It's important to **find more of our younger guys** who served from 1965 and later. We have to use any type of search available to us

Finding Old Buddies
Tel: (716) 822-2380
E-mail:

marygene@roadrunner.com

US Mail:
Eugene Darmstedter
4 Sunrise Drive
Blasdell, NY 14219

LASTNAME, MI	FIRST NAME	ADDRESS	DOB	ASN



Ill Members

These members are ill, and would appreciate **cards, phone calls, e-mails**, etc. We hope, they are on the way to recovery, and/or are well again!!!

Raymond Brown
Richard Holliday
Charlie Hornsby
John Kilburn
Manual Ortiz
Rosie Roberts

If a member hears of another ill member, please notify **Meir Horvitz** who will contact **Andy Whitton**, so that he may send get-well wishes on behalf of the Association.

Taps



Remembering our Comrades who have taken their Last Retreat

In the June Communicator Irvin Landry was listed as deceased. This was an inadvertent error. He is still alive and kicking.

Michael Blasko Date Unknown
James E. Carter August 11, 2012
Don S. Cassel December 12, 2011
Victor W. Gorlinsky August 12, 2012
J.J. Meyer February 12, 2012
Robert R. Largen May 7, 2012
Clifford Peterson March 28, 2012
Don Schneider August 5, 2012
George Zentner—August 18, 2012

We also would like to remember our Members' spouses who passed away

Trudy Dawson July 11, 2007
Portia Mears - September 21, 2007



We really would like to publish *your* story. Please consider it!!

In the past we have had a few contributions to this Newsletter from some of our members present and past about their military service, especially those that were in Germany during WWII. It is so important to hear about the experiences of our members that shaped their lives. Most have a great reservoir of stories that would be interesting to the group.

We have published several of those accounts so far, and hope, it will become a regular feature in forthcoming issues. We invite any comments, suggestions and especially your story.

If possible, we would like to do **an oral** interview at one of our reunions, but we have a **mail in form** for your written response because some of our members with the most interesting stories often cannot attend a reunion for one reason or another.

Some of the topics you may consider including:

- Why did you Join?
- What was your occupation at the time of your entry into the Armed Services?
- Where did you receive your Basic Training and further training?
- What and where was/were your assignment(s)?
- Why and when were you in the 97th Signal Battalion?
- What were your experiences in Europe and any other part of the world? When, where and how long.
- Where were you at the end of the war (assuming you were of that generation)?
- When did you come home?
- What did you do after you returned home?
- Looking Back what impact did your experiences have on your life?

Any additional information you can provide would be welcome. We would like photos in uniform and a recent photo (before and after). Original prints are preferable, we will return them as soon as possible.

Computer Tip



If you write lots of letters, you'll appreciate this one.

Store your common address—the ones to whom you write letters the most—in AutoText entries. In this way, you can input just the first (or last) name of the person you need, press **F3**, and have the address inserted at the top of your letterhead—sure beats typing it out all the time.

To define an address as an AutoText entry, follow these steps:

1. Select the paragraphs containing the address. Press **Alt+F3**. Word displays the Create New Building Block dialog box. (See Figure 1.)

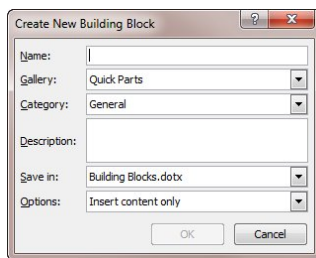


Figure 1. The Create New Building Block dialog box.

3. Replace the contents of the Name field with the name you want assigned to the address. For instance, use the last name of the person or the person's title.
4. Use the Gallery drop-down list to choose AutoText.
5. Click on OK.

Useful Medical Information Researched Earlier by Roland Martin

Telephone numbers and websites you need to know:

1. For information relating to TFL: Telephone: 1-866-773-0404 (TDD: 1-866-773-0405)
Web site: www.tricare4u.com This information also appears on the Explanation of Benefits form sent by Tricare.
2. For information relating to Tricare Management Facility (TMA) for any questions concerning military health care: Web site: www.tricare.osd.mil
3. For prescription drug questions: Telephone: 1-866-363-8779 TDD: 1-877-540-6261
Web site: www.express-scripts.com/tricare
Mailing address: Express scripts, PO Box 60903, Phoenix, AZ 85082-0903

More detailed information has been published in earlier editions of the *Communicator*.



Panzer Kaserne Main Gate Pre WWII



Panzer Kaserne Barracks

**R
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We need more helping hands with the reunions: Hosting, duties in the CP Room, etc.

Please consider being a **Host** for a reunion in the coming years. It is never too early.

If 2 or 3 members get together to hoist a reunion it would be so much easier for every one. The more the merrier. It lessens the burden on any one individual having to do it all.

By helping out you will feel more involved in the future of the Association.

Contact some of the people who have been previous hosts. They can give you several helpful hints. Guidelines that have been established can be obtained from Meir



**97th Signal Battalion
Association
Silver Anniversary
Reunion
Des Moines, IA
May 6 –10, 2013
Hosted by George Case
Airport Holiday Inn &
Convention Center
6111 Fleur Drive
Des Moines, IA 50321-9906
Phone: 515-287-2400
Reservations: 800-248-4013**

**Come join us, get
together with some
of the troopers you
haven't seen in
years.**

The Association has established a **Benevolence Fund**. This fund is used for any of our members who are unable to attend our reunions because of financial considerations.

Should any of our comrades in need of these services wish to attend a reunion please contact our Benevolence Fund coordinators, Gilbert L. MacDonald or Meir Horvitz . Any information provided regarding these requests are treated strictly "CONFIDENTIAL" and are not made available to the general membership.

If any member is aware of another member being in need of such assistance, please notify one of the fund coordinators.

If the member who requires this assistance can arrive in the reunion city, the Association will assist with the cost of the lodging and the banquet.

The Motto: The spirit of the 97th is Alive and Well."

**COME AND
EXPERIENCE THE
HEARTLAND OF
AMERICA**



**We will need
proposals
for our 2014
reunion to be
presented at
the 2013
Reunion.**



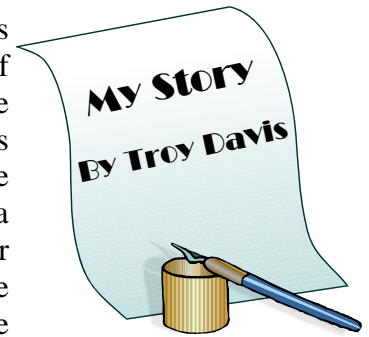
**Please be thinking about
the possibility of being a
reunion sponsor.**

First off, I'm a young 86 year old. I think I arrived, from Vietnam, to the 97th in 1968. I replaced the existing CSM who deployed to Vietnam and the 8th Div. was the host command on Coleman Barracks. I quartered there in the BEQ-BOQ area, just outside the back gate that went to Lampertheim, our alert area. My future (and current) wife and I decided to marry (both of us as retreads) and I got that done in Gibraltar. I came to the 97th after my 2d tour in Vietnam, the first with the 9th Infantry Division and the 2d with the 1st Signal Brigade, my unit being the 69th Signal Battalion (A), later changed to the Signal Support Agency Saigon. The 97th was my last tour with the active army. We had the Tiger sites, and I visited and inspected all of them with my COL Craig. I recall that Coleman Barracks housed the only military prison and it was always full. I enjoyed my tour with the 97th and finally, in January of 1972, decided to hang up my spurs and submitted my retirement papers. It was raining and cold at the end of March and my retirement ceremony was in the gym there on Coleman. I was awarded the Legion of Merit on retirement. I gave up on the military 100% on retirement and finally joined the Legion and VFW in about 1988, or maybe even later. I'm a life member of both with my posts being in Paris and when I visit, usually twice a year, I go by the posts to show my face. I'm a past Service Officer with my VFW Post. Germany is the leader in all military stuff in Europe and still has quite a few legion and VFW posts. Here in Spain, we have only Rota left after the socialist election in 1982. Jackie (my boss lady) and I are both retired, me from the military and she from her former business of running her own shops, selling ladies swimwear. She is all the good and bad, American, French and Spanish. I made her an American back in 2000 but it has no benefits to crow about. I bought her a house when I retired but we became too old for that and sold it, and bought a nice apartment here in our small town. We're both Florida residents but we sold our condo unit there in South Miami at just the right time. I'm registered with the WWII memorial and proudly wear my WWII ribbon when attending any ceremony in Paris. I earned quite a few awards in the service but the only place I can expose them is at a convention there in Paris or Germany. I became associated with the 97th, way back in about 1956 when I was with the 34th Signal Battalion (Corps) when my base was at Kelley Barracks and the 97th was over with 7th Army. We associated together on many field exercises and it was good training. We

had the AN/TRC 24's, 35's and 36's then, ancient stuff these days I suppose. We have no military around us and I've learned to live without it. We have a family cemetery there near Galax / Independence Virginia and that's where my ashes will be deposited one of the days in the near future. We're happy here and used to visit the states quite often but gave that up in about 2006 or 2007. I've turned in my US driving license and the Spanish one also, gave our new car to my brother in law, and we relax here in our apartment with a supermercado (super market) in the same building, a post office a few steps away and a farmacia (Drug Store/Pharmacy) very close, bus service and my pension is direct deposited here and we use our debit or credit cards and complain about the exchange rate, typical American.

I married during my tour there on Coleman Barracks and, as Spain didn't allow people to marry who were divorced, my future wife and I chose to go to Gibraltar and we will soon celebrate our 41st and at our age, this is where we're staying. I never did any combat duty during WWII but I was drafted in before the official end and proudly sport my WWII ribbon with the others. I'm a life member of many veterans organizations to include the Legion, the VFW, the 3d ID, the 1st Sig Bde, TREA, AUSA plus a few more. I used to make the trip, once a year to the states, but that was when I was more agile, Now, with a twice broken back, a broken hip and my share of arthritis, I hang close to home where I have my chair-lift to use to go up to the terrace (if needed) plus my scooter which I use to race around for long jaunts here in our small beach front town. I gave up driving 3 years ago and gave the new car to the brother in law in Paris. I've made my wife an American, but that's only skin deep since she feels deeply European, but we vote and that's our life. In our house. I'm the go-for, but I sure this is the same everywhere. You're out in California and you must remember my former friend who served with me in the 341h, HARVEY L. SPENCER. I know he's 'passed on, just thought I would mention it. Ursula went before him. So, I've been here since retiring, pay my taxes, vote, and the beat moves on.

Regards to all the T&Ters.



CHANGES/ADDITIONS OF ADDRESS, ETC. OF ACTIVE MEMBERS

There are additions, changes and corrections of street addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses all of the time. If you have changed any of these or if you find a typographical error on the annual roster **please let us know** so that we may update the roster. The only way the roster stays accurate is if you inform us of any changes or errors. Please send your corrections to the attention of the Secretary/Treasurer:

Meir Horvitz, 3414 Glen Ellen Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534

SNAIL MAIL/EMAIL CHANGES/ADDITIONS

EMAIL

Dave Thornhill should be dwtho1@juno.com that is the letter o instead of the number. 0.

André Arceneaux—andrearceneaux@ymail.com

SNAIL MAIL

Roy C. Brown

247 Cherryville Road,
Flemington, NJ 08822-5579

Walter Baney

17028 SE 115th Terrace Rd.
Summerfield FL. 34491-7840

Charles S Degrosky

602 Twin Ponds Lane
Bridgeville PA 15017 - 3454

Claude R Harris

7500 Cortes Drive
Las Cruces NM. 88001-6803

William J. Hyder

717 Maiden Choice Lane ST508
Catonsville, MD 21228

Edward D. Meares COL (Ret)

319 N. 1st St., Apt. 107
Bridgewater, VA 22812

Cerene Paul

665 10TH Ave. Apt # 209
Fairbanks AK. 99701-4650

Address, telephone number and email changes and corrections are printed in each issue

Please check and make the necessary corrections on your copy of the roster.

New Members



John W. Steller
6 Park Place
Newburgh, NY 12550
Phone: 845-561-8035
Email: steller39@aol.com
C & HQ Co.'s 58-61

Robert C. Walter
3325 Bonanza Road
Lake Odessa, MI 48849
Phone: 616-3748087
C Co. Oct 1945 – Mar 1947

A great big Welcome.
We hope to see you in
Des Moines

CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Cut out this form and mail it to the Secretary/Treasurer

Name: _____

Old Street/Email Address: _____

New Street/Email Address: _____

Effective Date: _____ Tel. No. _____ Email Address _____

OFFICERS, SECRETARY/TREASURER AND DIRECTORS

As of June 1, 2011

President (2011-2013)

André Arceneaux
306 State Street
Lafayette, LA 70506-4217
Tel. 337-233-64345

Vice President (2011-2013)

Johnnie Albritton
2304 Bradford Drive 6D
Wilson, SC 27896-1786
Tel. 252-243-6584

Secretary Treasurer

Meir Horvitz
3414 Glen Ellen Drive
Fairfield, CA 94534-7957
Tel. 707-207-3273

PAST PRESIDENTS

Donald K. Adams
Gilbert L. MacDonald
John J. Truffa
Paul W. Muuss
Harvey L. Spencer
Edward R. O'Mara
Emilio F. Bandiero
Eugene L. Darmstedter
Charles R. Hornsby, Jr.
Robert A. Sentell
Meir I. Horvitz

CHAPLAINS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George A. Case (2010-2014)

102 S. 18th Street
Clear Lake, IA 50428-2248
Tel.: 641-357-7569

Stephen G. Fenner (2010-2014)

2120 Hivley Street
Sarasota, FL 34231-6820
Tel.: 941-924-4583

Andrew P. Whitton (2011-2013)

70 Blanchard Road
Marlton, NJ 08053-2943
Tel.: 856-983-7587

Victor L. Brown (2011-2013)

P. O. Box 93
Chandler, OK 74834-0093
Tel.: 405-258-0330 & 405-258-7389

Joseph R. Federl (2012-2014)

11124 North Lake Shore Drive
Mequon, WI 53092-5811
Tel.: 262-241-4194

David W. Thornhill (2012-2014)

1041 Virginia Avenue
Culpepper, VA 22701-19993
Tel.: 540-825-1541

Andrew P. Whitton

70 Blanchard Road
Marlton, NJ 08053-2943
Tel.: 856-983-7587

Bernard L. Carter

2519 Deerfield Drive
Petersburg, VA 23805-2502
Tel.: 804-732-0732

OFFICIAL ASSOC. PHOTOGRAPHER

Walt Fort

1048 Buckingham Drive
Allentown, PA 18103
Tel: 610-740-0808

SALES & PROMOTIONS

George A. Case (2010-2014)

102 S. 18th Street
Clear Lake, IA 50428-2248
Tel.: 641-357-7569

OPEN POSITIONS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
REUNION & HOSPITALITY
COORDINATOR

BENEVOLENCE

Gilbert L. MacDonald
4704 Roundrock Drive
El Paso, TX 79924-1008

Meir Horvitz
3414 Glen Ellen Drive
Fairfield, CA 94534-7957
Tel. 707-207-3273

HISTORIAN & PUBLIC INFORMATION DIRECTOR

Open Position

**Request for Membership
Payment /Renewal of Dues**

As required by the By-Laws of the 97th Signal Battalion Association,
I hereby request that I be admitted as an Active Member in the 97th Signal Battalion Association.
Dues are ten dollars (\$10,00) per year, payable January 1 of the Dues year.
To participate in the decision making process of the association, members must be current in their dues.

Personal Information:

Member's Name: _____ Spouses Name: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (e.g. 707-207-3273): _____

Email (example@domain.com): _____

How did you hear about the association? Friend Website Other (Please specify)

I Served in the 97th Signal Battalion From: _____ Till _____

Company _____

How would you prefer to receive the Newsletter? Email; Postal (Snail) Mail

DUES:

My Dues are enclosed for the following years:

2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

The Association also offers a Lifetime Membership of \$125.00

Check Here if you wish to make a single payment.

Incremental Lifetime Dues Payments (\$25.00 each):

Payment 1 Payment 2 Payment 3 Payment 4 Payment 5

Please make checks Payable to: **97th Signal Battalion Association**

Mail Payment along with completed form to:

Meir Horvitz
Secretary/Treasurer
3414 Glen Ellen Drive
Fairfield, CA 94534
Sec_treas97sigbn@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP NEWS & SERVICES

All Members: Entries for the Membership ROSTER:

New e-mail addresses and address changes/corrections are published as they become available. Make corrections/changes in your member roster. Add new member addresses to your roster as they are published in the newsletter.

Note: Sometimes these additions or changes are received after the cut-off date; they will be published in the subsequent newsletter.

When you change your address, telephone # (indicate if unlisted/unpublished), your e-mail or any pertinent item, please inform the Secretary/Treasurer of these changes. We try very hard to keep the *Active Roster* up to date at all times.

Also, please instruct a family member or friend to inform the Association when you pass on to your last retreat.

Meir Horvitz, Keeper of the Roster;

Email: sec_treas97sigbn@comcast.net



WHERE IS MY NEWSLETTER?



We hear quite often from members who have not received their Newsletter. Reasons:

- / did not pay my dues!

Please, remember to keep your membership up to date!!! Dues 10 be paid January of each year. This guarantees your receipt of the Newsletter.

- *Most of the time it is from our "Snowbirds" who neglect to give notice of having two addresses.*

ATTENTION "SNOWBIRDS"

All 97th Members heading south or other directions for the winter are reminded to advise us of ANY address change; ASAP, even if it is only a TEMPORARY address.

Any changes are to be sent to Meir Horvi1z in enough time for mailing.

Note: Because the 97th Newsletter is sent as standard, non-profit bulk mail, THE POST OFFICE DOES NOT FORWARD IT TO YOUR NEW ADDRESS-even if you notify them of the change.

We don't want ANYONE to miss all the great things that are happening in the Association! Use below for. Please print or type your address as it should appear on YOUR mailing label and send It to:

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Melr Horvitz 3414 Glen Ellen Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534, Tel.: 707-207-3273

Name:	
Old Address:	New Address
Street	
City	
State, Zip	
Date From:	Date To:
Remarks	
Cut out this form and send it to the Secretary/Treasurer	

97th Signal Battalion Supply Depot



7th Army Decals



7th Army Shoulder Patch



Signal Corps Flag Pins



Caps



Böblingen Short Sleeve T-Shirt



Chambray Shirt



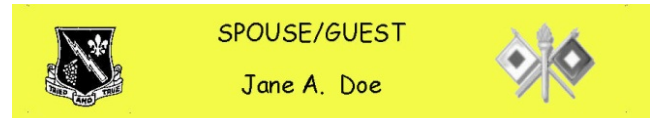
Golf/Polo Shirts



Böblingen Tote Bag



License Plate Frame



Name Tags



Battalion Crest



Camp Shirt



Heavyweight Dri Duck Shirt



Pullover Shirt

Due to U.S. Postage regulations, in order for us to retain our non-profit bulk mailing status, we cannot include a Supply Depot Order form with our Newsletter.

If you wish to purchase any of the items carried in our Supply Depot please go to our web site

[www.http://97thsigbn.org/](http://97thsigbn.org/)

Click on the Supply Depot Tab and you can open both the catalog and the order form