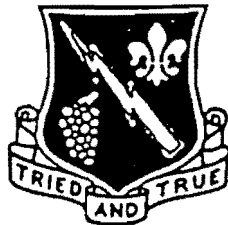


# The Communicator

PUBLISHED: JUNE 1994

NEWSLETTER NUMBER: 1 (1995)



## 97th Signal Battalion Association

( For Those Who Served 1942 - 1993 )

RED ROOF INN

3608 Dupont Circle

AMERICAN LEGION VET-NET:

CP 500315

Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455

# 16205

(804) 464 0513

Issued to members of the 97th Signal Battalion Association as an informational guide to activities of the Association. Members wishing to insert information or notices should send same to the office of the Association Secretary.

SEVENTH REUNION (1995): Dates of the New Orleans Reunion has been changed.

DATE OF REUNION: 19 - 23 APRIL 1995

HOTEL : HOLIDAY INN - I-10  
VETERANS BLVD  
NEW ORLEANS, LA  
(504) 885 5700

Further details will be announced in later issues of the Communicator.

EIGHTH REUNION (1996): Corpus Christi, Texas was selected as the site of the Association's 1996 Reunion. Sam Sanchez resides in that city and will be our host. Dates & Hotel information will be forth coming in later issues of the newsletter.



Newsletter  
Deadline

15 MARCH

15 SEPTEMBER

15 JUNE

15 DECEMBER

TUCSON REUNION: Success is the only word to describe the results of the Tucson Reunion hosted by DON & JANE ADAMS. Upon arrival until departure the agenda went like clockwork. Only good and pleasing remarks were heard from those attending.

We deeply appreciate all the hard work that DON & JANE put into making this reunion one of the very best we have had. Don has stated in a whisper that from now on he will enjoy the reunions and not be involved with the hosting. As this reunion was the second that DON has been a part of, we can see his point.

A total of 142 persons attended the banquet on Friday evening. The meal was well prepared and served in an outstanding manner. No complaints were received relative to this function.

The Group Breakfast was attended by over 60 persons. One of our members stated that the cook preparing the SOS evidently never served in the military. All present agreed, as the SOS was not up to 97th Signal Battalion standards. (MESS SERGEANT SNYDER ! WHERE ARE YOU?)

Above all we had a great reunion.

ASSOCIATION RAFFLE: Association members supported the raffle in the 97th manner. Sufficient funds were generated to purchase the National Colors & Battalion Banner with Battle Streamers plus Staffs & Bases.

The winning tickets drawn and prizes awarded are:

<u>TICKET #</u>	<u>PRIZE</u>	<u>WINNER</u>
06	\$50.00 CASH	DON ADAMS
522	VCR	VIC GORLINSKY
1712	JUICER	DON ADAMS
2589	CD PLAYER	MIKE DONOFRIO

The Association wishes to thank all members that participated in this project. As is often heard, "Give the job to a former 97th member and it will be done". What a great group of people to be associated with.

MINI-REUNION-MARION, INDIANA - 29-30 SEP & 1OCT 94: JACK & SUE GROSE has volunteered to act as coordinator for a MINI-REUNION in their home town of MARION, INDIANA on 29 SEP - 1 OCT 94. Additional information an registration form is included in this newsletter. This is an opportune time for members that reside in the mid-west and have never attended a reunion to join us for a grand ole time of comradeship and enjoyment. Lets have a large turnout.

SIGNAL CORPS ANNIVERSARY: Association President John Truffa intends to be at the celebration of the Signal Corps Anniversary on 24-25 June 1994 at Fort Gordon, Georgia. An informational report on his visit will be forthcoming in the next issue of the newsletter.

ADDITIONS TO ROSTER: ADD BELOW NAMES TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP ROSTER.

Emilio F. Bandiero  
1850 Ferry Street  
Eugene, OR 97401  
503 687 0485 56-58  
WOC, CXR

George B. Turner  
Ellen Turner  
PO Box 5033  
Sun City West, AZ 85375  
602 546 9218 68-70  
Hqs Co, Crypto

James W. Lloyd  
Louise H. Lloyd  
110 Maplewood Ave SW  
Milledgeville, GA 31061  
912 453 7446 59-64  
Co A, VHF/CXR

Sgt Ronald D. Saunders  
Roxanne Saunders  
2957 Bridgeport Drive  
Augusta, GA 30909  
706 869 8888 91-93

Brantley H. Finch  
Porn Finch  
1708 Kimberlin Hgts Rd  
Knoxville, TN 37920  
615 579 7948 54-57  
Co A, Cuba Det

James D. Drake  
Sandra Drake  
210 Chinook Court  
Newport News, VA 23602  
804 877 6948 73-77  
Co A

LAST RETREAT

James L. Ford Apr 94  
William M. Hauser 4 Oct 82  
John Malmbors 7 Apr 84  
Francis Garlisi 27 Jan 61  
James Lawrence 18 Feb 68  
John Straub 24 May 85

David C. Cope  
Monica Cope  
377 Continental Crt  
Newbury Park, CA 91320  
805 498 4106 65-67

Donald Schneider  
495 West Lake  
Honeoye, NY 14471

Andre Arceneaux  
306 State Street  
Lafayette, LA 70506

William N. Coffey  
Jane Coffey  
9 Courtland Drive  
Ballstron Lake, NY 12019  
45-46

Rad Off & Adj

Robert N. Dawson  
1818 Evergreen Park SW Apt D-19  
Olympia, WA 98502-5877  
50-53

VHF

CHANGES, DELETIONS ETC, TO ROSTER:

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Nathan G. Hamrick  
307 Willowdell Dr  
Toccoa, GA 30577  
706 282 0466

Mrs Dorothy Swiger  
2001 S. Lee St  
Americus, GA 31709

Mrs Ethel P. DeGlas  
414 Highland St  
Pulaski, TN 38428

Paul C. Carpenter  
6304 Chiswick Park  
Williamsburg, VA 23188

HARVEY LAWRENCE  
365 ORION CRT.  
MECRITT ISLAND, FL 32952

SICK CALL

Buddy Beane - Lou Nava- Gil DeShetler  
Bob Strunk - Tom Sharkey- Bill Hull  
Lawrence Tolley-

While attending the Tucson reunion LOU NAVA became ill and was admitted to local hospital. LOU & DOT wish to thank all that helped in taking care of matters for their stay & return to Georgia. LOU is feeling much better now and is looking forward in vieing BILL CARR for the golfing title.



BUMPER STICKER REMOVAL: Having difficulty removing old auto bumper stickers or decals? GEORGE ZENTNER has the solution. (No it is not removing the glass window or bumper) Use GOO GONE (Magic) as needed. Where does George get all this useful information? One does wonder.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND BD OF DIRECTOR'S: Upon election of VICE PRESIDENT & BD OF DIRECTOR'S (2) at Tucson, the composition of the Board of Directors is as follows:

President:	John Truffa	1993-95
Vice President:	Paul Muuss	1994-95
Directors:	Joseph Buccolo	1993-95
	Benton Brown	1993-95
	William Crews	1994-96
	Milton Hoopman	1994-96
	Edward O'Mara	1995-97
	Billy Sevier	1995-97
Secretary/Treas:	David Harris	Indefinite
Asst. Sec/Treas:	Charles Hornsby	Indefinite
Past Presidents:	Donald Adams	Permanent
	Gil MacDonald	Permanent

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: It is planned that the duties of EDITOR & PUBLISHER of our Association newsletter; "THE COMMUNICATOR" will be assumed by Bd of Director BILL CREWS in the very near future.

Bill has kindly agreed to take on the task so as to relieve the Secretary of a major work load. Exact date of this change has not been determined but will be announced later in our newsletter.  
(THANK YOU BILL ! ! ! )

DOWN MEMORY LANE:

ON ONE EVENTFUL WEEK-END (1950) AT PANZER KASERNE, THE TROOPS WERE ISSUED NEW M-2 CARBINES THAT HAD NEVER BEEN OUT OF THE "GREASE" THEY CAME PACKED IN. THE WORD FROM THE SENIOR NCO'S WERE; "YOU DON'T GO ON PASS UNTIL ALL THE COSMOLINE IS REMOVED FROM THESE WEAPONS AND ARE INSPECTED".

NEEDLESS TO SAY THE TROOPS GOT VERY BUSY. THE MESS HALL PERSONNEL GRACIOUSLY LOANED THE IMERSION HEATERS TO BOIL WATER IN, SO THAT THE TROOPS COULD GET THE WEAPONS "REAL" CLEAN WHEN DROPPED IN THE BOILING WATER. ALL ONE HAD TO DO WAS FIELD STRIP THE RIFLE AND DROP THE PARTS IN THE WATER. AFTER A SHORT TIME, "PRESTO", THE RIFLE WAS SPOTLESS. AS IT TURNED OUT, SOME OF THE TROOPS BECAME REAL ANTSY AND ATTEMPTED TO CLEAN AND REASSEMBLE THE WEAPONS IN A RAPID MANNER TO THEIR REGRET. IN THEIR HASTE ONE OR TWO OF THE TROOPERS FORGOT TO OBTAIN ALL THE MOVING PARTS OF THEIR RIFLE FROM THE HOT BOILING WATER THAT WAS ON THE HEATERS. WHEN THE TIME CAME TO HOLD "INSPECTION ARMS", THESE TWO RIFLES WOULD NOT FUNCTION DUE TO THE MISPLACED PARTS. IN THE MEANTIME, W----- C. B---- OBTAINED A STRAINER OF SORTS AND FISHED THE MISSING PARTS OUT OF THE BOILING WATER. HE PUT THE PARTS IN HIS POCKETS OUT OF SIGHT. (IN ORDER TO TEACH A LESSON IT IS PRESUMED) WHEN LAST SEEN, THE TWO TROOPERS MISSING PARTS FOR THEIR CARBINES, WERE DOWN ON THEIR HANDS AND KNEES SIFTING THROUGH SAND AND GRAVEL OF ENTIRE QUADRANGLE WITH "GASPIPE" THE FIRST SERGEANT SUPERVISING THEIR EVERY MOVE WHILE SEEKING THE MISSING ITEMS.

AFTER SIFTING THROUGH SAND AND ALL THE DIRT THE ENTIRE WEEK END WITHOUT SUCCESS, TWO "STATEMENT OF CHARGES" WERE INITIATED ON MONDAY MORNING.

THE OVER-RIDING QUESTION IS: "WHAT EVER IN THE WORLD DID W----- C. B---- DO WITH THE MISSING PARTS." NO MARKET FOR THEM IN BOEBLINGEN. ONE COULDN'T SWAP THE PARTS FOR REFRESHMENTS OR OTHER PLEASANT OBJECTS. WHAT A MYSTERY.

THE PHANTOM KNOWS ALL ! ! ! !

THE PHANTOM REPORT

THANKS TO DON ADAMS EFFORT, OUR TUCSON REUNION WAS AN OUTSTANDING SUCESS. IT WAS GOOD TO SEE SOME OF THE BOYS FROM THE ACADEMY CLASS OF 1950 AT THE SHINDIG. ALTHOUGH THE PHANTOM DID NOTE A LITTLE GRAYING.

RUMORS WERE FLYING AROUND THERE WAS SOME TYPE OF RUMBLE WITH THE TOP EXECUTIVES. APARENTLY EVERYTHING WORKED OUT AS ALL OF THE ASSOCIATION' TOP BRASS IS STILL IN PLACE.

IT WAS GOOD TO SEE THE ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS, AND ALL PLEDGING THEIR SERVICES FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION. THE ONLY BOARD MEMBER I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IS "BIG" ED O'MARA. IT IS SAID THAT MRS "O" KNOCKS THE BIG GUY AROUND ON THE TENNIS COURT. JUST THINK OF THE BEATING HE MUST TAKE AT HOME. IF WE ALL DROP MRS "O" A NOTE, PERHAPS SHE WILL ALLOW BIG ED TO ATTEND THE BOARD MEETINGS.

PETE ALVERADO, AKA- AS THE "GOLFING BANDIT" WAS DETHRONED AS THE GREATEST GOLFER OF OUR ASSOCIATION BY BILL CARR. (CARR IS WIDLY KNOWN IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES AS THE WORLDS WORSE GOLFER). THE DETHRONING OF THE BANDIT WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE LOSS HIS BACKERS TOOK. IT WAS SAID THAT A----- D----- (THE GOLDEN GREEK) LOST \$50.00 TO B-- S-----. PETE, GET SECURITY!!! THAT GREEK WILL GET RESTITUTION ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

PRIOR TO DEPARTING TUCSON, IT WAS LEARNED THAT THE TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT ISSUED AN ALL POINTS BULLETIN FOR ONE OF OUR SENIOR MEMBERS. THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS PROVIDED TO THE PHANTOM BY THE POLICE: " ONE OF YOUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS (AKA: WITNESS) VISITED SHONEY'S FOR SUPPER. OVER-COME BY HUNGER PANGS YOUR MEMBER BEGAN EATING THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLES DECORATING THE RESTAURANTS WALL. UNFORTUNATELY BEFORE VISITING THE RESTAURANT, THE SENIOR MEMBER WAS REPORTED HAVING SPENT SOME TIME IN THE HOSPITALITY ROOM AND HIS MANUAL DESTERTITY WAS SOMEWHAT IMPAIRED. THUS, MOVING FOOD FROM THE WALL TO HIS MOUTH PROVED MORE OF A CHALLENGE THAN HE COULD HANDLE. THE ARTIFICIAL APPLE THE MEMBER OF EATING SLIPPED FROM HIS HAND AND LANDED IN A NEARBY BOWL OF MAYONAISE. HEEDLESS OF DANGER, YOUR MEMBER FOLLOWED THE APPLE INTO THE MAYONAISE. COVERED WITH MAYONAISE THE MEMBER WAS VOTED THE BEST DRESSED MAN IN SHONEY'S. NOT ONLY DOES SHONEY'S WANT THEIR FRUIT REPLACED, BUT HAVE RED FLAGGED YOUR MEMBER FOR LIFE. (THE PHANTOM ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT THIS MEMBER AFTER RETURNING FROM THE REUNION WITHOUT SUCCESS) IN THE EVENT OF ARREST, DO WE HAVE "BAIL OUT MONIES"?

WE KNOW THAT THE 97TH WAS THE BEST SIGNAL SQUADRON/BATTALION IN THE ARMY, BUT ALSO ONE OF THE ARMY'S BEST BATTALIONS BAR-NONE. THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME CONFUSION IN THE MIND OF BERNIE MEWHORT AS TO WHICH WAS THE BEST TROOP/COMPANY. BIG JOHN M-----, SINCE YOU RESIDE IN MELBOURNE, FLORIDA, PERHAPS YOU COULD DROP OVER AND ENLIGHTEN BERNIE AS TO THIS DETAIL.

SHORTLY BEFORE DEPARTING THE REUNION, DON ADAM WAS BOASTING THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE REUNION SET-UP. THEN, ON THE VERY LAST MORNING OF THE REUNION, OUT COMES D----- B----- RAISING CANE AND BELITTLING THE COOKS THAT PREPARED THE SOS FOR THE BREAKFAST. APPARENTLY THE COOK HAD NEVER SERVED IN THE ARMY. D----- STATED HE COULD MAKE BETTER SOS WITH HIS EYES CLOSED.

LET US ALL MAKE IT A POINT TO ATTEND OUR SEVENTH ANNUAL REUNION IN NEW ORLEANS. HOPEFULLY OUR SENIOR MEMBER THAT THE POLICE ARE SEARCHING FOR WILL BE OUT OF JAIL BY NEXT APRIL.

KNOXVILLE, TN, -NEWS RELEASE- : The city of Knoxville, TN is going to host a celebration of the ending of World War II to honor the veterans of that conflict, their families and the families who lost loved ones. The festivities are scheduled to take place July 4, 1995, in Knoxville at World's Fair Park, approximately 50 years after the ending of the War.

Knoxville wants to show its appreciation to those people who preserved our freedom and wants to pay tribute to those who did so by paying the ultimate price. More Information: Contact:

KNOXVILLE AREA COUNCIL FOR CONVENTIONS & VISITORS  
810 CLINCH AVENUE, KNOXVILLE, TN 37901 (615) 523 7263

PRESIDENTS CORNER

It is with the greatest pleasure that I report to you the details of my visit to the Sixth Annual Reunion held on May 4th through the 8th in Tucson, Arizona.

This was one of the most highly organized, well planned and comfort oriented gatherings that I have ever attended. All this was due to our most capable hosts, Don and Jane Adams who spent many long hours and days in planning every minute detail.

To those members who were unable to attend, words cannot adequately express the feeling of camaraderie that prevailed throughout the Convention and particularly at the Banquet.

Under the capable supervision of Charles Hornsby a flag ceremony was conducted which was one of the highlights of the Banquet. This consisted of the presentation of our very own Battalion Colors, to which were attached the three Battle streamers. The honors were performed by MG (Ret) Albert Crawford, SMG (Ret) Robert Sentell and MSG (Ret) Joseph Milici.

Many thanks are due those members who purchased raffle tickets making it possible to acquire our own Battalion Colors.

The "Jim Austin Achievement Award" presented to those individuals who have made significant contributions to the "Common Good" of our Association was given, retroactively from 1989 through 1993, to the following members. Dave Harris, Larry McMillan, Ken Masters, Don Adams, Joe Milici, Gil McDonald and Bernie Mewhort.

Our deepest thanks to Charolette Sbragia for her donation of a beautiful Afghan, hand made wall covering, displaying the Crest and patches of our 97th Signal. Also to all those who were so gracious in donating ever so many door prizes.

All our thanks for a job well done to our departing officers, George Zenter, Vice President, Bob Sentell and Jack Gross, Board of Directors.

Congratulations to our incoming officers who have been chosen to lead our Association for the coming year. With your support and cooperation I am confident that they will achieve their goal.

# Oh Well, It Is My Country

By Nellie Schleuter  
Hernando, Florida

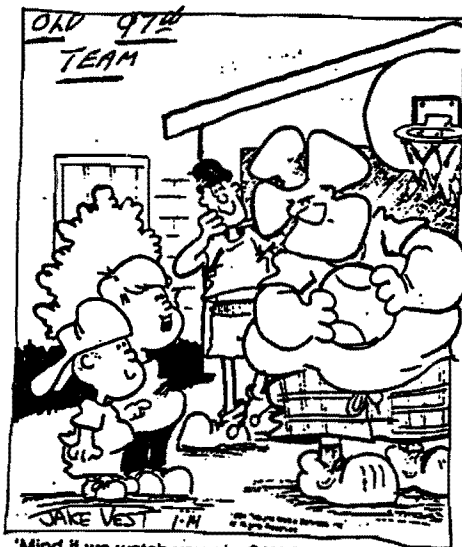
At long last I'd reached twenty-one,  
The time had come for having fun,  
When a letter from the draft board came,  
Yep, it was mine, it was in my name.  
It said, "Congratulations, son,  
Your happy-go-lucky days are done!  
So pack up your gear, and move it out,  
You're fixing to learn what it's all about!"  
*Oh, well, it's for my country.*

I did what they said, and packed up my gear,  
The next thing I knew they'd cut off my hair.  
The physical was something to write home about,  
All the shots; oh my, they left nothing out.  
They issued our uniforms large and small,  
Whether they fit meant nothing at all.  
Then came the boots heavy as lead,  
Wear them all day, you'll wish you were dead.  
Oh, but they had to be shiny and clean,  
Or else your next duty was cleaning the latrine.  
*Oh, well, it's for my country.*

My new home was called barracks, with beds galore,  
About as hard as sleeping on the floor.

You'd collapse on the bunks with the Sarge's shout,  
"In five more minutes the lights go out!" You'd lie in  
the dark with heart heavy with dread,  
Then reveille sounds and it's up out of bed.  
Then make it up with the sheets so tight,  
You can bounce a quarter plum out of sight.  
Off to the mess hall, in dawn's early light,  
A bunch of sleepyheads, boy what a sight!  
*Oh, well, it's for my country.*

Back to the barracks and make it clean,  
Then out to the drill sergeant, big and mean.  
Left, right; not gee and haw,  
Yells the biggest man I ever saw.  
His voice is loud and he looks so tough,  
"Now fall in," he roars, "or I'll get rough."  
Six weeks of torture and boot camp is done,  
We'll get a pass and have some fun.  
Wrong, Uncle Same was still pointing at me,  
Saying, "Son, we need you to go overseas."  
Now many years have passed away,  
Most of us are bald or gray,  
But one thing I'm sure we all agree,  
We'd do it again, to keep America free.  
*For it's still our country.*



Mind if we watch you play? We've never seen anything that heavy move without wheels.  
WHO IS THIS ??? ? ? ? ?  
IS IT: C. AAMOLD - J. GROSE  
B. SENTELL - B. SEVIER -  
J. TRUFFA - G. ZENTNER - AND  
OTHER 97TH "JOCKS"

## ATTENDEES AT THE 97TH SIG BN ASSN REUNION, 5 - 8 MAY 1994, TUCSON, AZ

DON & JANE ADAMS  
GRADY & BESS BANISTER  
PETE & MIEKO ALVERADO  
DON & MABEL ALLEN  
BILL & ROY ARNDT  
DENVER BARNES  
WILLIAM & JANIS BAKER  
PETE & GLORIA BESSELMAN  
RAY BROWN  
BUD & JAN BROWN  
HARLEY & BETTY CARRIGER  
BILL CARR  
ART & MOLLY CRONK  
A.J. & DOROTHY CZYZEWSKI  
AL & BETTE CRAWFORD  
BILL & FRIEDA CREWS  
ALGER & JANIS CHEVALIER  
ANGELO & LILO DEMOPOLIS  
FORREST DECKER  
GIL & MI DESHETLER  
DON, JULIA & DERYK DAMON  
MAX & MARGY DITTMAR  
JOHN & VERA DOWNING  
BOBBY & KATIE FRANK  
ROY GIULIANO  
MARIANNE CARRIER  
DAVE & GLORIA HARRIS

MILT & ELSA HIGHSMITH  
MILT HOOPMAN & DAVE TURNER  
BILL & JOAN HULL  
CHARLES & EDITH HORNSEY  
HERBERT & NATALIA JACKS  
ANDREW JACKS  
CLAUDE HARRIS  
JON & DIANE HEINZER  
RALPH & GWEN KEEFER

GEORGE LUKETICH  
HARTWELL & LOTTI LAWRENCE  
MAX KREWSON  
JIMMY & PATRICIA MEARES  
PAUL & ROSA MUUSS  
GIL & OLGA MacDONALD  
JOE MILICI  
JOHN & ROSES MEDINGER  
RON & JO MOSIER  
RAY & RUTH MAKI  
BRUCE & MARGARET MERRY  
EMERICK & LOUISE MILLIER  
BERNIE & ELLA MEWHORT  
TOMMY & BETTE MALCOLM  
MINOTT & VELMA OPDYKE  
ED & GERRI O'MARA  
JAMES & HELENE O'KELLY  
LOU ORNELAS

CERENE & MARY PAUL  
DARIS PINKSTON  
LOU & DOROTHY NAVA  
JOHN & JEAN RIVERS  
DAVE & DEE RADKE  
SAM & OFILIA SANCHEZ  
ROBERT SENTELL  
ROCKY SENTELL  
TOM & JEAN SIPPOLA  
ROLF & LOIE SCHUMANN  
HARVEY & URSULA SPENCER  
W.T. & MARDEAN SMITH  
BOB & ARDITH STRUNK  
BILLY & JAN SEVIER  
JOHN & HELGA SMITH  
PEARL STUTZMAN  
ROBERT & ETHEL THOMSON  
ROBERT THOMAS  
JOHN TRUFFA  
TONY & SUE VEGA  
HARRY & MARIA WINTERS  
JIMMIE WATSON  
DON & JACI WOODS  
ANDREW & MAUREEN WHITTON  
LOUIS & ANN YOUNG  
RUTH YOUNG  
GEORGE ZENTNER  
HARRY & MARY ZANDER

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# A former soldier finally finds long-lost buddy after 43 years

BY HEIDI GLICK  
CORRESPONDENT

While flipping through the worn pages of a black-and-white photo album, Otis Drake pointed to a collage of photos featuring two young servicemen in uniform. One of the men was Drake, the other his friend, Forrest Duke. The men became good friends while stationed at Camp Croft, S.C., in 1945.

They had a lot in common, Drake said. Both were married, and both loved guns and hunting. Often they played pool at the USO and ran errands together.

"Our biggest difference was that I smoked and he didn't and he liked beer and I couldn't stand it," Drake said, laughing.

Eventually the friends left the camp and then the military, but corresponded for three years.

But all that changed one day when a letter Drake sent to Duke was returned stamped with a message that said no one lived at that address and the street no longer existed. Thinking the post office erred, Drake wrote again and again - but to no avail.

And so began Drake's 43-year-long search for his friend, a search that culminated in victory last month when Drake found Duke's phone number and address in Hyde Park, N.Y., through a military search service.

Drake and his long-lost buddy Duke reminisced for two hours on the phone and have already made plans to see each other this summer.

"It was a long haul, and I finally won," Drake said, beaming.

Drake, 76, sat in his West Ocean View home, surrounded by letters, legal papers and rejection notices - some current, some yellowed with age. But he saved them all, proof of a search that sometimes got him so frustrated he'd quit - but never for long.

He wrote to the Department of Personnel for the Army, Social Security offices, to congressmen and senators. None could give him the location of his friend unless he was a family member or needed it for legal purposes.

"I didn't know what to do, didn't know how to contact him," Drake, a retired crane operator, said. "That went on about one year or two. I wondered what he was doing, how he was getting along. This is where I started my long search."

He researched newspapers in the area of Duke's last address and asked the newspapers to print letters to the editor about his search for his friend. Drake received some responses from readers, but none that helped.

He wrote to the Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics, signed documents in his wife's name hoping that would help, put an ad in the magazine Veterans of Foreign Wars and even sent money to different people on talk shows who claimed they could find anyone. All he got back from them were canceled checks.

He smiled, recalling how he received Duke's number in the mail three weeks ago.

"That was it. That made my day," he said. "After 42 or 43 years of chasing that sucker, that's got to be him."

Drake got the number in the mail around noon on Jan. 8 but didn't call until 7:30 p.m. because, he said, "I was dreading to call. I didn't want to be let down."

He recalled how a woman answered the phone. He asked her if it was the residence of Forrest R. Duke, his friend. She replied, "Yes," then put Duke on the phone.

They talked for almost two hours, reminiscing about the service, talking about children, their jobs, and the stunts they used to pull in the Army.

And then the conversation stopped.

Duke's wife, who was on another phone listening, said her husband was so emotional he couldn't talk.

When he recovered, they talked again. Duke said he had tried to reach Drake but couldn't. Both families had moved so often that they lost track of each other.

"He was having the same trouble but the only thing was he wasn't as hardheaded as I was," Drake said, laughing.

The friends hope to visit each other this summer.

Reprinted From: "THE BEACON"  
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT 11 Feb 94

**MESSAGE FROM "SAM SANCHEZ":**

The City of Corpus Christi is preparing to welcome the 97th Signal Battalion Association for the Associations' reunion in 1996. The City Tourist Bureau has promised and almost guaranteed 70-80 degree weather during the week we are here in Corpus Christi. They are also planning to program the normal spring rains that fall during that time of the year to fall during the last quarter of 1995. How's that for accommodation, HA HA. They are also planning to have shuttle services from the hotel to the shopping malls, and some other things that are still in the planning stages. The weather will be good, the food great, the hotel should finish remodeling by then, the rooms should be nice, the atmosphere outstanding for partying or liesure, and of course all your friends will be here. So, as we say in South Texas, "You all come, Amigos!" More in the next news letter, Sam.

Just arrived 97th Signal Battalion (Crest) patches. These patches may be put on "Blazers, Hats, Jackets, etc. The patches can make an old jacket look new and a new jacket look better, and may be attached by sewing, Velcro (Sticky Tape), sew on snaps or glue.

The price is \$5.00 each plus a SASE. Make check or money order payable to: "97th Sig Bn Assn". If you have questions call or write to:

Samuel B. Sanchez-3401 Harold Dr., Corpus Christi, TX 78415  
(512) 851 5089

Also available is a good supply of 97th: CAPS, BATTALION CREST, CONSTABULARY & 97TH DECALS, SEVENTH ARMY & CONSTABULARY SHOULDER PATCHES, TOOTHPASTE TUBE SLIDERS AND 51ST YEAR COMMEMORATIVE COINS.

COINS: \$3.00 EA-4 FOR \$10.00 PLUS \$2.00 POSTAGE

CAPS: \$5.00 97TH CREST: \$3.25 / \$6.00 Pair

97TH DECALS: 3@ \$2.00 - US CONSTABULARY DECALS: \$3@ \$2.00

US Constabulary Patch: \$3.50 Seventy Army Patch: \$1.75

ALL ORDERS: \$1.25 POSTAGE

What's the difference between a room  
at a Red Roof Inn and one at an expensive hotel?

At 3:00 a.m., it's hard to tell.

Most of your time in a hotel is spent with your eyes closed. So most of the time it's pretty hard to tell whether you're sleeping in a clean, comfortable room at a Red Roof Inn or a clean, comfortable room at a much more expensive hotel. That is, until you wake up and look at your bill. That's when

you find out how much more you pay at those other places for the few extra amenities you rarely even use. If you use them at all. So when you want a great room at a great price, and don't want to pay for more than you use, Hit the Roof. Red Roof Inns. It is strongly advised that you make your reservations in advance

to insure that the appropriate rates are extended. For reservations at any of our more than 200 Inns, call:



Call 1-800-THE-ROOF

To insure appropriate rates are extended, please use your VP+ Number:  
#CP500315



HURRY

HURRY

LOOK

# WE WANT YOU!

LOOK



WHAT: MINI-REUNION  
 WHERE: MARION, INDIANA  
 WHEN: 29th, 30th September, 1st October 1994  
 Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
 HOST: HOOSIER HOSPITALITY  
 MOTEL: DAYS INN  
 1615 North Baldwin (State Road 9, North)  
 Marion, Indiana 46952



RATES: \$45.10/Per Night (Tax included)  
 Large Hospitality Room  
 Indoor swimming Pool & Hot Tub

QUESTION???: WHEN IS THE LAST  
 TIME YOU TELEPHONE A BUDDY??  
 ISN'T IT TIME TO WISH THEM  
 GOOD HEALTH AND INVITE TO OUR  
 REUNIONS ??

WE MUST OCCUPY AT LEAST TEN (10) ROOMS ! ! ! ! !  
 Each person is responsible for their  
 own alcoholic refreshments.

DONATION FOR COFFEE, TEA, SNACKS, SOFT DRINKS, CUPS,  
 PLATES, ETC FOR HOSPITALITY ROOM IS: \$10.00 PER PERSON

RESERVATIONS: MADE THRU JACK GROSE, USING THE FORM  
 BELOW: RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED  
 BY TUESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 1994 ! ! ! ! !

MAIL TO: Jack Grose, 1301 E. 38th St, Marion, IN 46953

YES ! I will attend the Mini-Reunion Sept 29 to 1 Oct 94.

I will require \_\_\_\_\_ Room(s) There will be \_\_\_\_\_ persons in party

I will arrive \_\_\_\_\_ & depart \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the following:

First Nights Deposit \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to CP  
 (\$10.00 per person)

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE #:

----- NOTE ----- TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE  
 MARION, IN AREA: CONTACT:

Grant County Convention & Visitors Bureau  
 215 S. Adams Street, Marion, IN 46952  
 1-800-662 9474