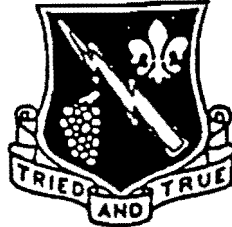


The Communicator

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97th Signal Battalion Association

(For Those Who Served 1942 - 1993)

3608 Dupont Circle

Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455

800-978-4270

(804) 464 0513

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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 editor.

Published in Gig Harbor, WA

W.H. Crews, Editor

SEVENTH ANNUAL REUNION REPORT (See related article under President's corner.)

And the good times rolled! With twelve (12) first time attendees at the reunion and a bunch of old timers ready to raise hell, the New Orleans reunion got off to a bang under the leadership (by default) of President Paul Muuss. Details of the several functions to include the two board meetings and the general membership meeting are discussed in the several articles of this newsletter. Now that the general membership is thoroughly convinced that the cooks of today aren't the same as they were in "our" Army, recommendations are being accepted by all concerned for a replacement breakfast menu - that is to say NO MORE SOS - at a Holiday Inn, and especially as a farewell breakfast on a Sunday morning.



**Newsletter
Deadline**

15 MARCH

15 SEPTEMBER

15 JUNE

15 DECEMBER

1996 REUNION, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

Sam Sanchez, host at Corpus Christi has all but finalized plans for our 1996 reunion in that city. Tentative dates are 17 - 21 April 1996 at the "Quality Hotel Bayfront". Further details will be provided in later editions of the Communicator as they become available.

1997 REUNION

No definite plans or site selection were made at the New Orleans reunion for the 1997 reunion. Instead, members requested that Paul Muuss and Bud Brown investigate the possibility of our 1997 reunion being held in Colorado Springs, CO; Northern California; or Laughlin, Nevada. More info in a later edition of the Communicator.

MINI REUNION

The next scheduled mini reunion for the southeastern region is to be held in Huntsville, AL 5 - 8 October 1995. Cecil and Hilde Lisenby will be hosting this event. The hotel selected is Holiday Inn, Huntsville West, off I-65. Contact Person: Doris Harden, 1-800-826 9563. Attendees are responsible for making their own hotel reservations. Information flyers will be mailed by the Secretary at a later date. For further information contact: Cecil or Hilde Lisenby at 205-536 2260. All members are invited to attend.

DUES

As required under the Association by-laws, members are to be notified at least 60 days in advance that their dues are to be paid on 1 Jan of the current year. This requirement is normally met with the September newsletter. If you have not paid your current dues, please do so now. A Dues Form is provided at page 14 to assist members in this action. Further, a discussion of a "Lifetime Membership" for those members who forget to pay their dues on time is provided below.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The subject of "Lifetime Membership" was discussed and approved by the general membership at New Orleans. The program will be administered by the Secretary/Treasurer with the following specifics:

Cost: \$100.00

How Paid: Lump Sum or in four (4) equal payments of \$25.00.

Membership Card: Special Membership Card will be issued.

The rationale for this program is that many members belong to several veterans organizations and dues must be paid each year. It has become a problem remembering when and to whom the dues are to be paid. Further, it will make the duties of the Secretary/Treasurer much easier and the bookkeeping will be minimized. Those members wishing to become lifetime members are encouraged to submit the required funds to the Secretary as soon as possible. Note: no consideration was discussed for the case of a member having paid his dues ahead of time, (Many members have paid through the year 1996) being given credit for the prepaid year(s).

97TH SIGNAL BATTALION HISTORICAL BOOK

After much searching and input from many members, the planned publication of the "51st Year Memorial Book" will not occur. It was deemed too much of a job for such a small organization to tackle. This task would require many, many hours of research and much professional help at too great an expense.

RECIPES FOR "TRIED AND TRUE " COOKBOOK

Those members that did not have the opportunity to enter their own private "recipes" in our just published cookbook, don't despair. Emerick and Louise Miller have requested that additional recipes be included in later additions to the present cookbook. So hurry, hurry and get those additional recipes in to Louise. (See related article and recipe form on pages 12 and 13.)

MEMBERSHIP ROSTERS

New membership rosters, both active and inactive, were prepared by the Secretary and distributed by him to active members in January. Others desiring copies of the rosters should send a SASE (.78) to the Secretary requesting same.

SEARCHING FOR A LOST COMRADE.

Members wishing to locate an old buddy but do not have the address and telephone number should submit full name, last known address, city and state, and area of residence to George Zentner. George has access to a "PC telephone disk" that contains over 80 million names, addresses, and telephone numbers. Send your request along with a "SASE, business size" for return of any names that are listed on the disk.

ASSOCIATION "800" NUMBERS.

The Association has its own telephone numbers. One of the lines provide direct 800 access. The numbers are: 1) 800-978-4270, Access code #97 must be used, 2) 804-464-9701. Members are encouraged to use either of the above numbers when desiring information relative to the Association.

SIGNAL CORPS OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL

A search is being made for all persons affiliated with the Signal OCS Program (Ft Monmouth and Ft Gordon) 1941 - 1968. Graduates, cadre, and committee members. Anyone that took part in the program please contact Richard Green at (904) 752 6950 (Class 2-67).

ATTENDEES AT THE NEW ORLEANS REUNION, 19 -23- APRIL 1995

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Andre Arceneaus * | John & Dot Goodfellow |
| Betty Austin | Nathan Hamrick * |
| Rene Austin * (Guest) | Dave & Gloria Harris |
| Emilio Bandiero * | Elsie Hawk |
| Denver Barnes | Robert & Louise Henderson |
| Buddy Beane | Milton & Elsa Highsmith |
| <i>Pete Besselman</i> | <i>Charles & Edith Hornsby</i> |
| Gloria Besselman | Robert & Nancy Huckabee * |
| Ray & Ersilia Brandoli | Max Krewson |
| Bud & Jan Brown | Richard Kuroolvech * |
| Ray Brown | Hartwell & Lotti Lawrence |
| Jean McCormick | Cecil & Hilde Lisenby |
| Bill Carr | George Luketich |
| Ted & Marianne Cobb * | Gil & Olga MacDonald |
| Malcolm Cossairt | Ray & Ruth Mason * |
| Mike & Marilyn Cragel * | Jake & Nikki Meyer |
| Bill & Frieda Crews | John & Roses Medinger |
| A.J. "Ski" & Dorothy Czyzewski | Ray & Pat Melendez * |
| Frank & Doream Degg | Bernie & Ella Mewhort |
| Max & Margaret Dittmar | Joseph Milici |
| Donald & Eva Dulen * | Emerick & Louise Miller |
| Herman & Jeannette Ertlschweiger | Joyce Pullam * (Miller) |
| Darryl Fontenot * | Ron & Josephine Mosier |
| Rudy & Jill Friederich * | Paul & Rose Muuss |
| Dexter & Mary Gillis * | Lou & Dot Nava |
| Roy Giuliano | James & Helene O'Kelley |
| Marianne Carrier | Mike & Jeanie Marino * (O'Mara) |
| Manual & Hanne Ortiz | John Petorock |
| Daris Pinkston | Dave & Dee Radke |
| Mike Roberts | Brooks & June Rometry |
| Sam Sanchez | Donald Schneider * |
| Bob & Linda Sentell | Rocky & Children Sentell |
| Bill & Jan Sevier | Rev Marty & Vera Silseth * |
| Phil & Helga Smith | W.T. & Mardean Smith |
| Harvey & Ursula Spencer | Bill & Nan Warlick |
| Andrew & Maureen Whitton | George Zentner & Ruth Young |

Austin's Guests; Dolly, Carol, Kathleen & Summer Czyzewski
Lisenby's Guests; Chris, Berry, & Derek Messelt

* First time Attendees

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It was fun in New Orleans, but it is good to be home again. Rose and I were gone 6 weeks - 2 whole weeks in New Orleans - and now are busy getting caught up at home.

Not everything was perfect at our reunion, but everyone there was determined to have a good time. I thank those who gave me words of encouragement during the week. I really enjoyed meeting all of you. I found everyone was very generous and in a reunion mood!

I received a great deal of support to host the reunion and I thank one and all. Our two Board meetings and our general membership meeting went well too. We settled all of our old business and put the discord of the past behind us once and for all. The inner dissention was also gone and we were back to a bunch of ex-soldiers celebrating our stay in the 97th.

My congratulations to Harvey Spencer on being elected Vice President and to Dave Radke, Andy Whitton, and Don Highsmith - our new Board members.

My thanks to Milt Hoopman, Bud Brown, and Joe Buccolo for their service as Board members. It was the support of the Board that helped make our reunion such a success.

We made some changes to our By-laws and our Editor and Board Member Bill Crews will outline those in this newsletter. Every change made sense and improved the Association.

Bud Brown recommended that we make available a lifetime membership as an option to our members. The cost would be \$100.00 and could be paid all at once or in installments. More on this from Dave Harris. When he gets the finishing touches put on this subject, he will publish it in the newsletter going out before the end of the year.

We also agreed that association funds could be used to publicize mini-reunions. These are very popular and I recommend you try to attend one soon! One of the big advantages that I hear about a mini is there are no meetings!! Nothing but fun!

The SOP for the CP room that John Medinger and Bernie Mewhort authored was adopted without change. Essentially we decided that the operation would be up to the reunion host. No association funds can be used to support the CP and the beverages, food, and any other items left over will be sold at the end of the reunion and those funds go into the association bank account. We did this in New Orleans and it worked fine.

Sam Sanchez gave us an update on Corpus Christi and we are all looking forward to next April. Sam says the trip will be worth it. I can tell you that I am looking forward to it because Sam will be in charge and all I have to do is relax and enjoy myself. However, there will be meetings.

The idea of Area Coordinators was dropped.

We are still working on a site for reunion 1997. I am putting together a package for Colorado Springs and Bud Brown is exploring California and Laughlin, Nevada. More on that in later newsletters.

Our association is in the best shape ever!! We are financially sound and we have put away the personality disorders that distracted us recently. Gil MacDonald has provided sound advise and counsel and has helped us get back to an association that puts the members first, not personal egos.

It was especially heartening to see 12 first time attendees in New Orleans!! Many there were from my era in the 97th (56-60). We are hoping to see many more in Corpus Christi in April 1996!

Feel free to call our toll free number 1- 800 978-4270, then 97 when prompted, or our fax line at (804) 464-0513 or you can call or fax me at (719) 390 - 7274.

Tried and True!!

PAUL MUUSS

ASSOCIATION FUNDS FOR MINI REUNIONS

The Board of Directors recommended and the general membership approved the use of association funds for the purpose of advertising and advising of mini or regional reunions that members may persue. Funds will be used only for the purpose of informing members of the meeting(s) i.e. ; postage, and reproduction of flyers, etc. Request for funds may be sent to the Treasurer for disbursement.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the general meeting, election of association officers were as follows:

Paul Muuss - unanimously acclaimed President 1996 - 1998
Harvey L. Spencer - elected Vice - President 1996 - 1998
Milton D. Highsmith - elected to fill unexpired term of
Bd Director Milton Hoopman who resigned for
health reasons , 1995 - 1996
David L. Radke - elected to fill vacancy on Board 1996 - 1998
Andrew Whitton - elected to fill vacancy on Board 1996 - 1998

Note: Those candidates not elected this term will remain on the ballot that will be used at the 1996 reunion election of officers.

REQUEST FOR PHOTOS

Joe Milici, Association Historian and recorder, is looking for photos or negatives of the New Orleans reunion for the Association photo album. As you clean up your trip memorabilia, please send the excess to Joe.

THE PHANTOM REPORT

JUST FOR
FUN!

We are all most thankful for our Chaplain Marty Silseth's prayers and words prior to our meeting and Banquet. His mention and prayers for those who perished in the Oklahoma City disaster were most welcome. Our Chaplain brought to our attention the efforts the 97th played in feeding thousands of people shortly after WW II in Bamberg, Germany.

Another successful reunion and all can be attributed to one man, our President Paul Muuss. After the unexpected resignation of our former President John Truffa, Paul picked up the Ball and Scored. We are all thankful to Paul for his total all out effort. In addition, Paul proved to be a great Master of Ceremonies.

We wish the new Board success.

Herman Ertlsweiger was responsible for counting the votes for our Board. Did anyone notice the two Dog Robbers Herman had working for him? Medinger and Mewhort. (Also known as the M&M Boys. Those two haven't pulled a detail since Eisenhower was a cadet.)

Bud Brown was heard to say "I'm not pulling this detail when we get to Corpus Christi." Apparently Bud had the detail to watch Dave Radke. Radke did a number on the Hotel Bar as only Dave can do. How he lived through Wednesday with his hangover is beyond comprehension? I'll have to ask Sam Sanchez who has the Radke detail in Corpus Christi.

Some of our River Boat Gamblers left the boat a few pounds lighter. Bob Henderson was heard to say "I was doing alright, but my wife kept skimming my profits."

We were all happy to see and meet a number of Denver Barnes troops from Wire Company of the late fifty fame. Sorry they didn't get to play Golf, but the Golfers were on the course when they arrived.

Speaking of Golf, Ray Melendez was said to hit a pretty long ball. Carr and Alverado are going to have to sharpen their game to beat Ray. Jack Grose is sitting on his Big Fat in Marion, IN saying I can beat them all. Get off your Big Fat Jack and prove it. Lets vote Ray as Chairman of the Golf Committee for Corpus Christi as Carr left a lot to be desired.

Rudy Friederick, the former TI&E man of Radio Company (51-52), showed up on his Big Red Cycle. It was good to see Rudy and meet his wife Jill. Rudy is known as the foremost authority on the Medal of Honor. He is the author of the book, Medal of Honor Citation

We can't sign off without thanking Denver Barnes and Bob Sentell for operating and providing refreshments in our CP room.

THE PHANTOM KNOWS

STEVE FORREST

Information has been received that the actor "Steve Forrest" , brother of actor Dana Andrews served as a member of the 97th Signal Bn during WW II. Request that anyone who may reside in or near Southern California attempt to locate this former member so that we may notify him of our association and reunions.

CHANGES, DELETIONS, ADDITIONS, ETC TO THE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER.

Make corrections listed below to your current membership roster of January 1995:

ADDITIONS TO ACTIVE STATUS.

~~CHANGES~~
Changes

Robert C. Niehoff
5725 N. 86th Pl
Milwaukee, WI 53225
414 463 9627 48-51
B Trp Lineman
Eileen Niehoff

William H. Facemire
Lois Facemire
726 Smith Mill Road
Cecilia, KY 42724
802 862 9838 50-52

Filemon Delgado
Maria Delgado
PO Box 122
Maricopa, CA 93252
A Trp (football)

Samuel F. McNeil Jr
Eileen McNeil
Box 357
Big Run, PA 15715
814 427 2859 62-69
Bn Commander

Robert V. McKevitt
Mary Ann McKevitt
7769 Soputhbreeze Dr
Sacramento, CA 95828
916 688 1236 89-92
Company C

Theodore F. Telcher
Elizabeth Telcher
2403 Landover Blvd
Spring Hill, FL 34608
904 686 1616 42-44
Hq Co Rad Repr

James H Partridge
Elana Partridge
68 Hill St
Leominister, MA 01453
508 537 2769 51-53 ROC

ADD TO INACTIVE ROSTER.

William K Casteel
Roswitha Casteel
6406 Abilene Court
Plano, TX 75123
214 517 4377 61-64
Hq and A Co 67-70

David Cohen
1300 C NW 29th Ave
Delray Beach, FL 33445
45-46

Norman Dietz
HC 2, Box 7317
Palmer, AK 99645
907 745 3735

Richard A. Koziol
Delores Koziol
1504 Spicewood Drive
Mesquite, TX 75181
214 222 1093 61-65
Hq and B Co Cook

Vernon Kvernum
1325 23rd Street
West Williston, ND
701 572 2401 58801

Stephen A. Sikorsky
Patricia Sikorsky
3955 Mill Road
Seaford, NY 11783
516 783 9116 65-66
Company B

Richard E. Webb
Emma Webb
813 Gonsales Dr
Dothan, AL 36301
334 793 1814 80-82
Bn CSM

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Magdalene Bohanon, 4228 Alverado Dr, Ft Wayne, IN 46816-1606
Fred C. Ford, RR2, Box 58 Speedwell, TN 37870
Raymond Brown, 53 N. Rhea Rd, Tempe, AZ 85284
George Zentner, 203 Cape Circle, Panama City Beach, FL 32413
Wilton H. Adkins, 10719 County Rd 156, Savannah, MO 64485
Jack N Hayes, 225 140th St SW, Everett, WA 98208

OTHER CHANGES

Donald Umatum, not Umatom
Keasler 1946 - 48, not 63 - 64
Cragel, Tel area code 810

ADD to ASSC Roster: Mrs. Robert Mask, Mrs Maria Winters,
Mrs. Charles Sturgis

SICK CALL: Angelo "Greek" Demopolis,

LAST RETREAT

Robert Mask 3 Mar 1995
Harry Winters 4 April 1995
Donald W. Weatherman August 1994
Charles C. Sturgis 28 May 1995



EDITOR'S NOTE

It has been brought to my attention that our current policy of just listing our deceased comrades in the Last Retreat column bears some

reconsideration. Therefore, if any member wishes to eulogize any of our former members and feels that they have given more to the 97th than just to have their names placed on a roster, please write a few good words about the person and his service to the Association and the 97th and send them to the Editor for review and publication in the next edition of the Communicator. (Thanks Bill)

BY-LAWS UPDATE

At the General Membership meeting in New Orleans the following changes to the Association By-laws were discussed and approved by the membership:

1. Section IV Membership. Delete 2nd and 3rd sentences and Item 5 Membership Committee. replace with:

Request for membership shall be submitted to the secretary along with the requisite dues. The Secretary will validate the status of the application, update the roster, and notify the Board of Directors.

2. Section V Officers, Add as Item 9:

Item 9. Vice President. The Vice President shall maintain cognizance of all pertinent Association activities and in the absence of the president act in his stead. Further, the Vice President shall assume the ex-officio leadership of all standing committees acting for the President.

COOKBOOK

A letter from the Millers and an order form for the Tried and True Cookbook are on page 12. A blank form to use in providing additional recipes for the cookbook is at page 13.

FORMS

A Dues Form and Change of Address Form is at page 14.

97TH PARAPHERNALIA

A price list of the several items of 97th paraphernalia sold by Sam Sanchez at previous reunions is at page 15. Members desiring to purchase these items please contact Sam.

"Tried and True" Cookbook News

What a surprise for Emerick and me to receive an award for our work on the cookbook. The praise really goes to all of you who sent your recipes in and bought the cookbooks. We want to follow through with Joe Milici's suggestion that we add recipes from other members to the book. A recipe form is attached. Please, all of you folks who have not yet sent a favorite recipe, send in at least one of your very favorites. We will check on getting them printed and added to the book. Also, remember that we still have several books for sale. Send your recipes and orders to us at the address below.

"TRIED AND TRUE"
Emerick and Louise Miller
2501 Laverne Drive NW
Huntsville, AL 35810

We will see that your cookbooks are mailed to you as soon as we receive your order. Remember, any profit goes to the treasury of the 97th.

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone # _____

Number books wanted _____ at 10.00 Total _____

Shipping and handling per book 2.50 Total _____

Amount of check remitted _____ Grand Total _____

"TRIED AND TRUE"

**Recipes From Members and Friends
of
The 97th Signal Battalion Association**

(Please type or print plainly)

Only one recipe per page

RECIPE TITLE _____

Please use these abbreviations: tsp., tbsp., c., pkg., oz., pt., qt., lb.

INGREDIENTS

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

METHOD

SUBMITTED BY: _____
State: _____

**SEND TO: Louise H. Miller
2501 Laverne Drive NW
Huntsville, AL 35810**

Please type or print name legibly

FORMS

Members may use the forms (coupons) below to pay dues or when making a change of address.

Enclosed please find my check to renew/pay my yearly/lifetime dues.

Mail to: Dave Harris Dues: \$10.00 per year or \$100.00
Lifetime

Name: _____ SSN _____ Tel # _____

Dues for 1996 _____, 1997 _____, 1998 _____ Other _____

Lifetime _____ Installment No. if less than full amount _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Change of Address Notification

Mail to: Dave Harris, 3608 Dupont Circle, VA Beach, VA 23455
Bill Crews, P.O Box 1923, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Name: _____ SSN _____

Old Address: _____

New Address: _____

Effective Date: _____ Tel # _____

Signature: _____

It is imperative that members keep both the Secretary and Editor informed of their current address.

97TH SIGNAL BATTALION ASSOCIATION

TRIED AND TRUE

PARAPHERNALIA PRICE LIST

| | | | |
|---|--------------|-------|---------|
| Aprons | | | \$13.50 |
| Battalion Crests | \$3.25 each, | 2 for | 6.00 |
| Battalion Inactivation Commemorative Coin | 1.75 each | 3 for | 5.00 |
| Battalion 50th Anniversary Comm Coin | 0.75 each | 3 for | 2.00 |
| Battalion Crest Buttons | 0.50 each | 3 for | 1.00 |
| Caps | | | 5.00 |
| Decals, Constabulary | 0.75 each | 3 for | 2.00 |
| Decals, 97th Sig Bn Assoc | 0.50 each | 3 for | 1.00 |
| Patches, Battalion Crest | | | 2.50 |
| Patches Constabulary | | | 3.30 |
| Patches, 7th Army | | | 2.25 |
| Post Cards | 0.50 each | 3 for | 1.00 |
| Pot Holders | | | 6.00 |
| Shoe Shine Cloth | | | 0.50 |
| Toothpaste Tube Squeezers | 0.50 each | 3 for | 1.00 |
| T - Shirts | | | 11.00 |
| Vests | | | 18.00 |

Members interested in ordering Aprons, Battalion Crests, Inactivation Coins, Battalion Crest Buttons, Caps, Pot Holders, T-Shirts, or Vests, please add \$2.00 for postage. Zero for Handling. The other items can usually fit in a regular envelope unless you are ordering several items.

Note: Please send orders and a check to cover costs of items and postage or SASE to Sam Sanchez.