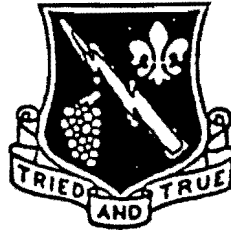


The Communicator

PUBLISHED: SEPTEMBER 1994

NEWSLETTER NUMBER: 2 (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

(804) 464 0513

16205

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.

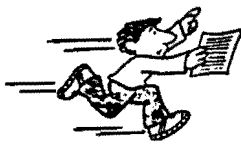
Published in Gig Harbor, WA

W.H. Crews, Editor

SEVENTH ANNUAL REUNION: Dates of the New Orleans Reunion have been revised and the hotel selected as described below:

Date of Reunion: 19 - 23 April 1995 (Editor's Note: For the earlybirds, the hotel is reserved from April 17 thru 24.)

Hotel: Holiday Inn, I-10
Veteran's Blvd
Metairie, LA 70003
(504) 885-5700



**Newsletter
Deadline**

15 MARCH

15 SEPTEMBER

15 JUNE

15 DECEMBER

Location: The Holiday Inn I-10 is located in Metairie, LA at exit #225 off Interstate 10, less than 20 minutes from downtown New Orleans and the French Quarter. A ten (10) minute drive from the New Orleans International Airport.

Room Rate: Special room rate at \$60.00 per room per night for up to four people per room. All guest room rates are subject to a current 11.75% hotel tax.

Reservations: Reservation cards have been inserted with this newsletter. Make your reservation early and forward them to the Hotel, or phone in the reservation. All reservations must be made by March 17, 1995 on which date the unused portion will be turned back to the Hotel for use by the public. We have 125 rooms set aside and they are expected to go fast.



Your attendance at our Annual Reunion will give you an opportunity to visit that vibrant, friendly and inviting city of **NEW ORLEANS** (See enclosed brochure) with it's great cuisine, jazz, low priced tours, and shopper's paradise. For those who have never visited New Orleans, here is a splendid opportunity to see first hand why so many people extol its virtues. From all indications it appears that this Reunion will be the best attended ever held by the Association.

DINNER/JAZZ CRUISE BANQUET - FRIDAY APRIL 21, 1995 7PM - 9PM.

If you plan to attend the Dinner/Jazz Cruise Banquet it is imperative that you mail your registration form (see page 10) as early as possible, but no later than 90 days from receipt of this newsletter. We are striving for an attendance of 200 or more which will entitle us to a private area on the boat. In October you will be receiving information regarding the various tours conducted by the New Orleans Steamboat Company.

In the upcoming December - January newsletter other tours will be listed in which you may participate. In addition, information will be provided regarding airport pick up points for the hotel, rental cars, RV parking and other necessary information. Further information may be obtained by calling John Truffa (407) 626-5939 or by dropping John a note.



EDITOR CHANGE. As noted in the last newsletter, Dave Harris has relinquished his duties as Editor of THE COMMUNICATOR in order to devote more time to recruiting. For those who missed the headline, the new editor is Bill Crews. For those wishing to throw rocks or other accolades, call me at (206) 265 6043, or drop me a line at PO Box 1923, Gig Harbor, WA 98335. All comments, criticisms, and or suggestion are welcome. (I didn't say what I would do with them.) Comments and or suggestions should be submitted NLT 15 days prior to publication. (See page 1.)

DUES. As required under the By-Laws, members are to be notified at least sixty (60) days prior to dues payable date. This newsletter will serve to satisfy that requirement. Members are reminded that Association dues are payable 1 January of each year.

PLEASE
NOTE...

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. There will exist vacancies as Vice President and two Board of Directors (Bd Dr) as of the New Orleans reunion. Members wishing to nominate persons to fill any of these vacancies are encouraged to submit names to the Secretary not later than 1 February 1995. Written permission of those nominated are required stating that: "They will serve if Nominated and Elected."

**VOLUNTEER!**

AREA COORDINATORS. Members are asked to volunteer as Area Coordinators in their respective areas. Vacancies presently exist and others will become vacant in the near future. Contact John Truffa or Paul Muuss for further details.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP ROSTER. Members that need current Active/Inactive membership rosters are requested to send a SASE (c.52) business size to the Secretary. Rosters are updated each year and made available to attendees at our reunions. Mailing rosters to each member is cost prohibitive due to the number of members (Active/Inactive over 900.) Hence the request for an SASE. Active member rosters will be updated and maintained as needed. Inactive member rosters will be published on an annual basis only. Inactive rosters will be available if members request same and supply additional SASE. Rosters have been separated into: Active and Inactive to save cost of publication and postage. Members who are not currently active do not receive the newsletter or the association roster. It is felt that most of our energy and time should be spent on the betterment of our active dues paying members and not those former members that do not wish to participate in our reunions and other activities. Members who notice that a comrade is not an active member are encouraged to contact this person and assist him/her in becoming active.

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 FAX NUMBER. Due to the generosity of Pete Alverado, the Association Secretary now has a FAX machine. Number is (804) 464-0513, (same as telephone.) Pete Alverado, after losing the golf championship to Bill Carr at Tucson, thought he could obtain special favors from his lucky star by donating this excellent machine to the association. We don't know if this will assist Pete in re-capturing the crown or not, but the membership is appreciative of his benevolence. Thanks Pete! (Note to Bill Carr: take it easy on Pete in New Orleans.) (Recent information obtained reveals that Pete was

awake until 3 AM of the golf date, with an unknown malady. Perhaps this is the cause for change of crown and title.)

THE PHANTOM REPORT. The Phantom was remissed in the writing of his last report not to mention the passing on to the 97th Signal Battalion Association Branch Number One, of Joe Miller. Joe resided in the Old Soldiers Home prior to his recent death. All the membership knew when they arrived at a Reunion Site as Joe would be sitting out in front of the Hotel with his ever present cane, watching the girls go by. Have a good trip to Branch Number One Joe.



The Phantom has learned Dave Harris, our Secretary, had to relinquish publication of our Communicator, as he was charged with making slanderous remarks. Apparently one of the M&M Boys of Melbourne, Florida didn't care for a remark made by the Phantom in the last Communicator as to which was the Best Troop/Company in the 97th. We should have kept the Slush-Fund, we could have settled this out of court. The word the Phantom gets is that if this suit is initiated, a search will be conducted in Germany to find one of Cognac's descendants [sic] to bite the Suitor in the Butt.

The Phantom was called by one Pete Alverado (AKA: The Golfing Bandit), from his home in California to announce he had shot a 78 the other Saturday. Apparently Pete let about six or seven members know of this feat. Save you money Pete, the words out that the membership is lining up to get in your pocket in New Orleans.

As noted in our last report, the Tuscon Police Department is still looking for our member who ate the artificial fruit off the walls of Shoney's Restaurant. (Here is another case where we should have kept the slush fund, we could have paid off the Police and our member wouldn't be on the lam.)

Reviewing the roster and a list of persons who attended our Tuscon reunion, there appears to be one Hell of a lot of AWOL's. Our next two reunions are in prime locations (1) New Orleans 1995 (2) Corpus Christi, Texas 1996. (In the event any member is lacking funds to attend our reunions contact Dave Harris. I'm sure Dave could make some Phone calls and we could kick in a buck or two with-out the world knowing about it.)

There is a member of our association who had a fear of height. Shortly after arriving in Boeblingen, the member went to Stuttgart and had a few bottles of bubbly and decided to end this fear once and for all. There in pitch darkness he climbed the wall of a bombed out building. Finding a rather smooth spot he fell fast asleep. Waking early on a Sunday morning he found himself two stories up and two dozen Germans dressed in their Sunday **best clothing** looking up, along with two American MP's. It must have taken our Member an hour to climb down where he was apprehended and given a free ride back to Boeblingen. No disciplinary action was taken as the First Sergeant and Company Commander charged the member off as 368 material with

plans for the next shipment out. Needless to say someone must have forgotten the incident as the member retired with many years of service.

Reviewing most of the Phantom remarks they are primarily directed at those who served in the 40's and 50's. For you members who served in the 60's, 70's, 80's, and 90's who would like to pull a friends chain, direct your remarks to Dave Harris in Virginia Beach. (The Phantoms ID must remain SECRET, the words out that a contract has been placed on his head.) THE PHANTOM KNOWS !!

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

At the invitation of MG Robert Gray, Chief Signal Officer of the United States Army and Post Commander of Fort Gordon, I attended a Retirement Ceremonial on June 24, 1994 and the 134th Signal Corps Regimental Anniversary Ball on June 25, 1994. I was very well received on both occasions and would like to express my appreciation to the Protocol Section, especially Captain Deloise Belin and Staff Sergeant Beverly King for their services and VIP treatment accorded me during my visit.

At the Signal Ball social hour, I was escorted by Captain David La Flam, one of our active members, who introduced me to several distinguished persons. I met with BG Douglass Buchholz who is MG Gray's replacement. I briefed the General about our association and informed Mrs. Buchholz of our forthcoming cookbook. She was interested in participating and requested that we supply her with several recipe forms which have been sent to her.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, I met with MG Gray and discussed his new assignment as Chief of Staff of USAREUR and Seventh Army. He thanked me for attending the Signal Corps Anniversary and stated that when he retires he is going to make an effort to attend all Signal Corps Anniversaries.

On June 24th, I visited Col. (Ret) John Clapper, former 97th Squadron Commander, and his wife, Esther, who reside in Charlotte, NC and reminisced about the old days and in particular, the progress of our association.

In closing, there is great concern about the thinning of our ranks and loss of our WWII and Korean war Veterans. It is necessary that they and the many other Vientnam, Gulf War and current members of the 97th Signal Battalion be reminded and made aware of our association, the comradeship it offers and the benefits of keeping abreast with news of former buddies and members who served in the 97th.

We can only accomplish this goal by participation of all members. If you know of a former member of the 97th who is not a member of our Association, we are asking you to make personal contact to enlist the former member and advise the Secretary of the necessary information.

EDITOR'S NOTE: John's letter to MG Gray is at page 9.

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

Make corrections listed below to your membership roster:

Additions:

C. S. Rometry
June Rometry
PO Box 372
Locust Grove, VA 22508
703 972 2409 48-49
Crypto Ctr B Troop

John Schwanz
1217 Otter Ave
Oshkosh, WI 54901

John English Jr.
7043 Beach Dr., SW
Seattle, WA 98116
206 935 7919

Byron "Bud" Philbrick
18 1/2 Winter Street
Skowhegan, ME 04947

Barry W. Fowle
21 Falcon Court
Stafford, VA 22554
703 650 8223 50-51
Rad Co HF

Joseph Yates
406 W. Edwards
Santa Maria, CA
93454
805 925 4817

James G. Bochis
Olga Bochis
655 Snug Island
Clearwater, FL 34630
813 441 1911 54-56
WOC, Artisifer

Arthur V. Baillargeon
Pauline Baillargeon
16 Tremont Street
Exeter, NH 03833
603 772 3302 51-53
Rad Co VHF/Cook

Christie S. Kourakos
39 Blair Road
Eighty Four, PA 15330
412 941 6766
Rad Co Cook

Letitia Sumerlin
1519 Pauline St.
New Orleans, LA 70117
504 949 8825

George S. Brezan
1456 Blue Barn Road
Allentown, PA 18104
215 395 2330 51-53
Rad Co

Leon S. Leshock
Evelyn Leshock
2924 Gerard Ave
Reading, PA 19608
215 678 2561 51-53
Rad Co HF

Alvin N. Desesa
Alba Desesa
2135 Eastridge Road
Lutherville Timonium, MD
410 252 2386 21093
Rad Co HF

Pasquale A. Lamalva
Julia Lamalua
2413 Country Club Dr. SE
Conyers, GA 30208
404 483 3442 51-53
Rad Co VHF

William J. Hyder
5488 Cedar Lane
Columbia, MD 21044
410 997 9114 51-53
Rad Co

Raymond D. Mergenhagen
22 Willow Crest Drive
Buffalo, NY 14224
716 674 5893 51-53
Rad Co VHF

Raymond L. Kwasny
Barbara Kwasny
252 Canal Drive
Lake Wales, FL 33853
813 638 3000 51-53
Rad Co VHF (Darmstadt)

Bill D. Sewell
3701 E. 11th Street
Tulsa, OK 74112-3951
918 744 8466

Change of Address:

Dwight F. Ackles - Rt 1, Box 188, Ord, NE 68862

Tom Beaulieu - 2878 Sun Ray Lane, Green Bay, WI 54313

Robert M. Call - 3109 NE 67th St., Gladstone, MO 64119

Robert E. Casanova - 615 D Hazelwood Way, Semi Valley, CA 93065
Fred C. Ford - RR 2, Box 1454, Jacksboro TN 37757-9802
Bernard J. Jansen - 617 Abbey Lane, College Station, TX 77845
Stanley E. Kujawski - 920 Luther Dr. #D, Crown Point, IN 46307
Robert A. Ryłowicz - 321 Turnberry Lane, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
Clair Knutson - 34637 Hastings Dr NE, Cambridge, MN 55008-7750
Paul C. Carpenter - 6304 Chiswick Park, Williamsburg, VA 23188
Malcolm H. Cossairt - 6426-HCR-5130, Pomona, MO 65789
John S. Erb - P.O. Box 64, Mayville, NY 14757
Ronald E. Gottfried - 302 E. Finley, Upper Sandusky, OH 43351
Nathan G. Hamrick - 307 Willowdale Dr., Toccoa, GA 30577
Jack N. Hayes - 740 N. 95th St., Seattle, WA
Marvin Rineer - 2405 Willow Dr., Wilmington, DE 19804
Hartwell H. Lawrence - 365 Orion Court, Merritt Island, FL 32952
James G. Adams - 800 N. Pineview, Goldsboro, NC 27530

Corrections:

Ronald W. Clegg - Naples, not Maples
J.F. Bohl - Nelsonia, not Melsonia
Sam Sanchez - Telephone number is 512 851 5089, not 5009

Delete:

Kenneth Hall - letter returned
John L. Seavers - letter returned
Anton J. Werhanowicz - letter returned

From Inactive to Active:

M. BIZIC	J.G. ADAMS	A. ARCENEUX	J.G. BOCHIS
G.M. SMITH	W.T. SMITH	S. STAIB	L. SUMMERLIN
J. BLANCHARD	M. BOHANON	RAY BROWN	R. CASTERLINE
W. COFFEY	D.C. COPE	D. FONTENOT	L. GOERTZEN
R. GROTHOUSE	B. HOLMES	D. HOSKINS	C. KENT
C.S. ROMEDY	H. JACKS	E. KIDDER	W. KLINE
J.W. LLOYD	W. MARTIN	R. MELENDEZ	H. MORENO
DAVID MURPHY	H. ORTLIEB	D. OWENS	M. PARRY
J. RIFFLE	R. SAUNDERS	E. SEEGER	F. SERJEANT
T. SIPPOLA	R. WAFFENSMITH	J. WASSENBERG	D. MORAN
L. ORNELAS	J.F. ARMSTRONG	R.A. FEWLESS	C. FROELICH
M.O. HOUCHINS	D.E. INGRAM	R. KURLOVECH	J. MAC KAY
R.E. PEPPER	N. PLOTKIN	J. RALSTON	D. SCHNEIDER
T. SHARKEY	R. KIRBY		

Last Retreat:

Homer G. Nelson - 1986

Leroy T. Sargood - ?

Sick Call:

BUDDY BEANE	CHARLES STURGIS	BOB STRUNK
MRS. EMMA SECOR	BOB MASK	TOM SHARKEY
GEORGE S. BREEZAN		

COOKBOOK

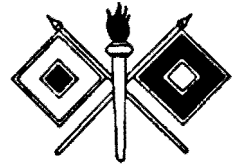
URGENT!

The "Tried and True" Cookbook is now at the publishers!
Get your order in now!!!. See page 11 for ordering
info.



97th Signal Battalion Association

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
4244 Royal Oak Drive
Palm Beach Gardens Florida 33410
(407) 626-5939



Major General Robert E. Gray
Commanding General
U.S. Army Signal Center & Fort Gordon
Fort Gordon, Georgia 30905-5000

Dear General Gray

It is my honor and privilege, on behalf of the 97th Signal Battalion Association, to extend to you and through you to the entire United States Army Signal Corps the warmest greetings and salutations as we celebrate the one hundred thirty fourth Anniversary of the Signal Corps. The Corps has travelled a long road since its inception under the leadership of General Myer with its "state of the art" communication devices (flags and torches) of that day and age to the monumental multiple means of communications at our disposal this day and age.

The membership of the 97th Association are a proud bunch. Proud of their service in the United States Army, proud of their service in the Signal Corps and particularly proud of the fact that the 97th Signal Battalion journeyed down the road with the Signal Corps, during very critical times, for over 50 years.

They enjoyed the challenges they met and appreciated the accolades and applause they received for their achievements. They are indeed "Tried and True" and proud of it. We are indeed very proud that one of our own stands in the forefront to lead and train the troops as you prepare to meet the unknown challenges of the next century. Coming from the "Tried and True" tradition we know, without question, that you will do so with vision and foresight, wise and strong leadership and with great distinction.

We wish you and the Corps the very happiest of Anniversaries.

Pro Patria Vigilans!

Sincerely and Respectfully,

John Truffa
President

REUNION REGISTRATION
 97TH SIGNAL BATTALION ASSOCIATION
 19 - 23 APRIL 1995-NEW ORLEANS, LA

RETURN NO LATER THAN:
1 APRIL 1995

BANQUET

FRIDAY, 21 APRIL 1995: 1900-2100
 BANQUET ON BOARD PADDLE WHEEL SHIP - JOHN JAMES AUDUBON
EARLY RETURN OF REGISTRATION NEEDED FOR LOGISTICAL PLANING



MAIL TO: DAVE HARRIS
 3608 DUPONT CIRCLE
 VA BEACH, VA 23455

REGISTRATION FEE:
 \$3.00 PER PERSON
 (NON REFUNDABLE)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE: 97TH SIG BN ASSN

NAMES (AS WILL APPEAR ON NAME TAGS)

_____ (MEMBER) _____ (SPOUSE) _____ GUEST (S)

ADDRESS (STREET) (CITY) (STATE) (ZIP) (TEL #)

MEMBERSHIP CARD # _____ CURRENT FOR YEAR _____ FORMER TROOP/COMPANY _____

" REGISTRATION FOR SOCIAL EVENTS "

<u>FUNCTION</u>	<u>SELF</u>	<u>SPOUSE</u>	<u>GUEST</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>\$TOTAL</u>
Registration Fee:	_____	_____	_____	X \$3.00	_____
Banquet & Entertainment:	_____	_____	_____	X \$35.00	_____
Farewell Breakfast :	_____	_____	_____	X \$7.00	_____
Hospitality Room (CP) *:	_____	_____	_____	X \$10.00	_____

* FOR: Beer, Wine, Soda, Coffee, Tea & Snacks.

** Each attendee to furnish own HARD ALCOHOL. (BYOB)

I HAVE ENCLOSED \$ _____ FOR EVENTS & COST INDICATED: \$ _____

BANQUET: FRIDAY - 21 APRIL 1995

SPECIAL DIET NEEDED: _____

NUMBER IN PARTY THAT WILL PARTICIPATE IN: PINOCHLE TOURNAMENT: _____

GOLF TOURNAMENT: _____ SCHOOL OF COOKING CLASS: _____

I WILL ARRIVE: _____ & DEPART _____ BY: _____ AIRLINE.

HOTEL RESERVATION MADE: _____ RENTAL AUTO: _____ AGENCY: _____

WILL YOU PERFORM A SHORT TOUR OF DUTY AT THE REUNION?: _____

WOULD YOU CONSIDER HOSTING A REUNION?: _____ WHERE: _____ YEAR: _____

IF NOMINATED & ELECTED WOULD YOU SERVE IN AN OFFICER POSITION OF THE ASSOCIATION?: _____



Good News! The "Tried and True" cookbook filled with the favorite recipes of members, wives and friends of the 97th Signal Battalion is going to press. It is a very attractive hard cover, three ring binder. The cookbook will be ready for shipping for the holidays and will make a great gift.

Please fill in the order blank and send with check to:

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

We will see that your cookbooks are shipped as soon as possible. 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 _____