



News from The Descendants of WWII Rangers, Inc

March 2015

President's Message:

First, I want to mention reunions. Our Branson reunion was lots of fun. Six WWII Rangers were with us. Please take some time to view the photos and read the associated article. For next year, Andrea Buchanan and Gene Dykes are making lots of progress toward organizing our reunion set for September in the Fort Walton Beach area. They have a message included in the newsletter. Arranging for reunions is just one of several purposes of the Descendants of WWII Rangers organization.

Second, there are four additional purposes listed in our constitution and by-laws. Those are: To perpetuate the history of the men who served with the United States Army Rangers during World War II; to maintain and upkeep all memorials created in their honor; to memorialize and perpetuate the memory of all Battalion Rangers; and to educate and inform those seeking information and history of the Rangers. Regarding history, we now have a history committee chaired by David Williams. On our web page (descendants of WWII Rangers), you will find history of each of the Battalions. As for memorials, we are responsible for the upkeep of the Memorial Monument at Fort Benning. Our history committee will be compiling a list of all memorials and the organization responsible for the upkeep of each. The newsletter has been expanded to include articles about WWII Ranger activities. We encourage members to write articles to be included. At reunions, we are now including article and photo displays and historical talks to help educate those attending. As I have written previously, we are here to Honor, Maintain and Educate.

Third, when the Descendants of WWII Rangers was formed, we became the legal successor of both the Ranger Battalions Association and the Sons and Daughters of WWII Rangers. As such, materials, slogans, documents, and any other items owned by those two organizations became the property of the Descendants of WWII Rangers. The President and Board Members of the Descendants of WWII Rangers are now the official spokespersons for WWII Rangers. Although members may voice their own concerns, use of the organization name in speeches, articles, or correspondence must have prior approval by the Board of Directors. Additionally, any use of items owned by the organization must be approved by the Board of Directors.

Lastly and just as important, to be a viable organization, we need volunteers. There are lots of possibilities: working on a committee and/or helping at reunions. Please consider volunteering. Volunteers are important for the future of the organization. As Helen Keller wrote "alone, we can do little; together, we can do so much".

Karee

Current Board of Directors: **Karla Merritt** – President, **Sandy Boyd** – Vice President, **Bill McCausland**- Treasurer, **Nancy Taube** - Secretary, **Laura Moore** - At Large Member

Position	Name	Address	City	St - Zip	Email
President	Karla Merritt	126 Roberts Ln, #400	Alexandria	VA 22314	RangerDaughter@live.com
Vice Pres	Sandy Boyd	107 Westwood Way	San Antonio	TX 78218	HBOYD@SATX.RR.com
Secretary	Nancy Taube	2500 Sandycreek Dr	Shelby Twp	MI 48316	nancymwt@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Bill McCausland	7412 Spring Village Dr. Unit 404	Springfield	VA 22150	Mmccaus4@aol.com
At Large Member	Laura Moore	9022 S.E. PP Hwy	Lawson	MO64062	tiajuana_43@hotmail.com

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The following Rangers are gone but not forgotten - we keep them and their families in our prayers.

Ranger	Bat/Com	Date of Death
Allen G. Bradbury	1	December 6, 2014
Daniel F. Fields	1C	August 16, 2014
Joseph J. Gryniuk	1	March 2, 2014
John J. Hill	1F/4D	January 31, 2014
Roy E. Owens	1	October 8, 2013
George J. Richardson	1C	August 29, 2014
Phil Stern	1	December 12, 2014
Joseph P. Bruno	2F	June 30, 2013

Charles Connor	2A	April 14, 2014
James W. Eilker	2HQ	May 1, 2014
Henri J. Leboeuf	2F	October 4, 2013
Alban Meccia	2E	May 27, 2014
Martin H. Painkin	2A	August 21, 2014
Alvin Rustabakke	2HQ/C	January 23, 2015
Edmond A.Sworsky	2HQ/A	September 16, 2014
Richard Zack	2C	April 30, 2014
John Fedors	3E	September 2, 2012
Edward P. Feignbaum	3D	July 19, 2013
Paul A. Grover	3E	November 25, 2012
Alexander M. Worth	4F	June 17, 2013
Harry Donald Laughlin	5D	July 22, 2012
Ray E. Olcott	5D	November 7, 2012
Ellis E. Reed Jr.	5A	May 7, 2014
Lysle L. Rogers	5F	July 16, 2014
John P. Van Cott	5D	July 22, 2014
Otis L. Bough	6E	February 15, 2013
Walter Burtan	6E	September 16, 2014
Leonard K. Lawler	6C	December 26, 2013
Boyd E. Lowe	6D	November 3, 2013

Please notify Secretary Nancy Taube as soon as possible of the passing of a WWII Ranger, Spouse, or Descendant

Phil Stern – 1st BN – December 12, 2014

Whether he was capturing scenes of weary troops praying by candlelight or of Hollywood stars being themselves, Phil Stern had a problem seeing himself and his fellow photographers as "artists." "Matisse, I ain't," he liked to say. And although he never lost the feeling that photography was a kind of magic, he downplayed any shooter's pretensions to genius: The only thing photographers could teach great artists, he told *The Times* this year "is how to make a reasonable color slide of their latest painting. We could do that pretty well, but I can't think of anything else we could teach them." Stern was a renowned photographer for *Life*, *Look* and other magazines. He honed his skills as a World War II combat photographer but was best known for capturing Hollywood icons and jazz legends in unguarded moments. A resident of the Veterans Home of West Los Angeles, Stern had been hospitalized for several weeks, said his friend David Fahey, a co-owner of the Fahey/Klein Gallery that had displayed Stern's work for decades. Stern, a longtime smoker, had emphysema. Phil Stern died Saturday in a Los Angeles hospital.

Unlike the movie-studio portrait photographers whose work enhanced the illusion of flawless screen gods and goddesses, Stern typically photographed 1940s and '50s Hollywood stars candidly on the set, at home and at private gatherings. "He made them seem real," Robert Cushman, photography curator for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences told the *Times* in 2003. "They weren't these beautifully idealized, carefully retouched and airbrushed images anymore." Among [Stern's memorable Hollywood images](#) during the heyday of his six-decade career:

- Marlon Brando, in jeans and black leather jacket, striding across the outdoor set of "The Wild One."
- A bewildered-looking Marilyn Monroe with an impassive Jack Benny backstage at a benefit at the Shrine Auditorium.
- A young Sammy Davis Jr. seemingly defying gravity as he dances on a Hollywood Boulevard rooftop, the sky serving as a backdrop.
- A puffy-faced Judy Garland fussing with her hair during the filming of "A Star Is Born."
- John Wayne conferring with a cigar-chomping John Ford on the set of Wayne's "The Alamo."

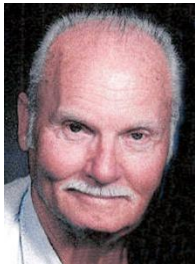
Stern, who began shooting for *Life* in 1941, told the magazine in a 1993 interview that he was rarely a confidante of the stars he photographed. "I was like the plumber who comes to fix your toilet, and then you don't see him again," he maintained. Besides, he said, "I didn't care to know them, usually — so many of them were frankly a pain." Stern and Wayne struck up a friendship despite their wildly divergent political views. "Several times, when we were both a little drunk, I would call him a 'Neanderthal fascist.' He would call me a 'bomb-throwing Bolshevik.' We both lived with it," Stern recalled. "We were, indeed, the odd couple."

Stern got to know James Dean in 1955, when the star whipped through a red light on his motorcycle and nearly crashed into him. "I called him nearly every expletive I could think of," Stern said. The two ended up having coffee together at Schwab's drugstore across the street from the site of the near collision.

For several decades, Stern also shot album covers and was a familiar presence at recording sessions with Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie and other jazz greats. Stern's pioneering, behind-the-scenes approach "contributed to an entire era's sense of what was cool and undeniably authentic," Fahey said. "He knew how to make that kind of photograph."

The son of Russian Jewish immigrants, Stern was born in Philadelphia on Sept. 3, 1919. His family moved to New York City while he was still an infant. "My dad was a salesman, a la Willy Loman," he once said. "I wanted to find the best way to avoid becoming my father."

ALLEN G. BRADBURY – 1A – DECEMBER 6, 2014



He was born in Kirksville, Mo., Feb. 14, 1924, to Woodson Bradbury and Velma Dysart. He joined the U.S. Army on March 27, 1943, and received his basic training at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He served as a radio operator with Darby's Rangers as well as the 474th Infantry Regiment 2nd Battalion. He received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and other citations. He married Margaret Hudnall. They owned and operated an insurance agency in Carbondale until retirement. He was an avid outdoorsman. Mr. Bradbury is survived by his wife of 36 years, Margaret Bradbury; two daughters, Deborah Bradbury and Toni Arellano; seven stepchildren; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a brother, Denver Bradbury; and extended family.

DANIEL F. FIELDS – 1C – AUGUST 16, 2014



He was born May 4, 1922 in Roseville, Illinois. Daniel served his country in the Army as a Darby Ranger in WWII. He later transferred to the Air Force serving in the military for 20 years. As a Prisoner of War soldier in the German prison camps, he survived to live a long, strong life. He married Vera Frisbie on June 10, 1947, while still in the military. Daniel and Vera would travel the United States throughout the 1950s, as they were stationed in many states as well as in France. In 1963, he retired from the Air Force and located to Independence, MO, where he lived the remainder of his life. Daniel and his wife continued to stay connected to other retired Rangers from WWII. Dan spent many years supporting and cheering for the New York Yankees. His love for the mountains, the outdoors, and animals is reminiscent of his years of travel to the mountains in Wyoming, and his great love of fishing.

JOSEPH J. GRYNIUK – 1ST BATTALION – MARCH 2, 2014



Joseph J. Gryniuk was born in Harwinton on August 1, 1923, son of the late Anna Miniuk and was a lifelong Torrington resident. He was a proud WWII U.S. Army Veteran and was a member of The First Special Service Force, which was the first unit to march into Rome during its liberation. Joe's unit is now in the process of being awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for their service during that campaign. During the years following WWII, Joe and his wife Frances attended many annual reunions, including his 66th. They visited Italy and France with the FSSF Association on both its 40th and 50th Anniversaries, visiting battlefields and cemeteries of fallen soldiers. He was a past State Commander of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, a member of the State VFW and more recently served as Honorary Parade Marshall of the Torrington Memorial Day Parade.

CARL H. LEHMANN - 1B/3C – JANUARY 23, 2013



Carl H. Lehmann, husband of the late Audrey (nee McCloskey) Lehmann, father of Steven A. Lehmann and his wife Carolyn and Daniel J. Lehmann and his wife Linda, step father of Daniel Brown and his wife Sue and Andrew Brown and his wife Beth, grandfather of Angela, Alison, David and his wife Kim and Daniel and his wife Esther Lehmann, also survived by 5 great-grandchildren. Mr. Lehmann was a Sergeant in the Army during WW II, serving with both the 1st and 3rd Ranger Battalions; he received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, POW Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge and two Presidential Unit Citations.

GEORGE J. RICHARDSON – 1C – AUGUST 29, 2014



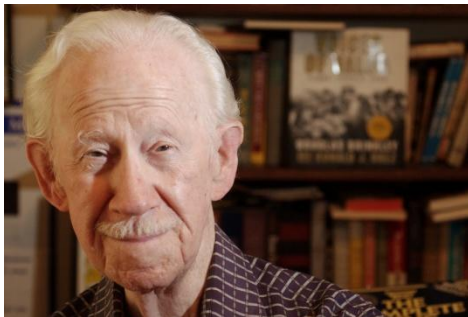
He was born September 10, 1924 in Chicago, Illinois to Fred M. and Andrea C. Richardson, one of nine children who survived to adulthood. During World War II, he volunteered to become an Army Ranger. He was assigned to the First Ranger Battalion, and saw action in both North Africa and Sicily. In early 1944, nearly all of the members of his battalion were killed or captured during a battle at Cisterna, Italy. He was wounded during that battle and became a prisoner of war. He spent many months in a P.O.W. camp in what is now Poland, before escaping with another P.O.W. during a forced march that took place as Allied troops advanced into Germany shortly before the end of the war. In 1948, he married Jean Marie Dierssen, the daughter of Henry W. and Helen W. Dierssen. He worked at both a local furniture store and Sears Roebuck before beginning a long career at Shell Oil Company that included assignments in Chicago, Tulsa, New Orleans, New York, and finally Houston.

JOSEPH P. BRUNO – 2F – JUNE 30, 2013



Joseph P. Bruno, 88, of Trafford, went to be with the Lord on Sunday, June 30, 2013. He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Janet (Young) Bruno; and his children, Nancy Jo Burtoft, Victoria (Robert), Dominic (Lora) and James Bruno. Also survived by grandchildren, Caritia Trisch (Robert), Kristin Burtoft, Jonathan Newingham (Jenny), Marla Bruno and Dominic Bruno Jr.; great-grandchild, Madalyn Trisch; sister, Eva Jane (Kenneth) Schneider; brother, James (Mary) Bruno; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Pearl Pienandz (Walter). Joe was the owner of J and W Floral Shoppe, and retired after 44 years from Conrail Railroad. He was an Army Ranger in World War II and was a recipient of a Purple Heart and numerous medals of distinction and a member of American Legion Post 331.

JAMES W. EIKNER – 2Hq – May 1, 2014



James W. Eikner was born on a date that would later live in infamy and died Thursday, May Day. In between he helped liberate Europe, free prisoners in Nazi concentration camps and set up communications equipment at Lyndon B. Johnson's Hill Country homes. He was 100. Born Dec. 7, 1913, in Aberdeen, Miss., Eikner attended Blackburn College, then a two-year institution in Carlinville, Ill. During the Depression he became a journeyman for Bell Telephone all over Texas. "He was a telephone installer and climbed poles and learned from the ground up," said his son, Jim. His draft number came up but the Army wouldn't take him because of bad teeth, he told the American-Statesman in 1998. After Pearl Harbor, the Army changed its mind and Eikner volunteered for a Rangers battalion (the modern equivalent of Special Forces). After the war he was active in veterans' and military history groups for the rest of his life. He was among the more than 130,000 allied troops to storm the Normandy coast on June 6, 1944, D-Day, and served out the war, helping to liberate a Czech concentration camp, his son said. "I think the seminal event in his life is D-Day," Jim Eikner said. "One thing he shied away from was he had a hard time talking about the freeing of the concentration camps." Decades after the war, one of Eikner's work duties was to help wire President Johnson's ranches.

MARTIN H. PAINKIN – 2A – AUGUST 21, 2014



Martin H. Painkin, of Jupiter, FL, passed away at the VA in West Palm Beach, where he was a resident of the CLC since May 2008. Born in The Bronx, NY, only child of Norman and Bertha Painkin, Marty joined the Army as a high school senior in October 1940. He landed on Omaha Beach, June 6, 1944 as a 2nd Battalion Ranger and remained on the battlefields of Europe until January 1945 when he returned to join a bond tour with actress Ann Baxter. For his bravery, he was awarded the Purple Heart with five clusters, the Silver Star, Oak Leaf cluster to Silver Star, Distinguished Service Cross, Croix de Guerre, Bronze Star, Unit Citation, Citation of the Individual and The British Military Medal of Valor. He was discharged April 1945. He will be greatly missed by his second wife Barbara, sons Jerry (Kate) of Cape Coral, FL and Howard of Tamarac, FL and stepson Steven Brandwein of Malibu, CA; grandchildren Jeremy (Liz) of McKinney, TX and Samantha of Colorado Springs, CO; and great-granddaughter Mila. He was preceded in death by stepson Joel Brandwein of Albany, CA. Marty was honored by being included in the 70th Anniversary D-Day Section of the Palm Beach Post in June 2014.

EDMUND A. SWORSKY – 2HQ/A – SEPTEMBER 16, 2014



Born Aug. 5, 1920, in NE Minneapolis. and longtime resident of Fridley MN. Proud member of the CCCs and elite Army Rangers 2nd Battalion that stormed Omaha Beach on D-Day. He also fought bravely and was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge. Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient. Married his English sweetheart, Selina "Lee" Eccles, on August 16, 1945. After the war, Ed went to work for Minnegasco, retiring in 1982 after a distinguished career. He will be deeply missed by his wife Lee, sons Edmond "Tony" (Helen) of Rogers MN, Francis "Terry" (Leslie) of St. Francis MN, and Timothy (Meg) of Duluth MN; grandchildren Dawn, Stephanie, Steven, Brian, and Tyler; and great grandchildren Brandon, Carl, Ashley, Desmon, Braylon, and Anika.

RICHARD ZACK – 2C – APRIL 30, 2014

Richard Zack (Zachwieja), 90 of Carlsbad, California was born in Hamtramak, Michigan. He was one of eight children born to Ignacy and Martha Zachwieja, who had emigrated from Poland in the early 1900s. His family moved to Warren, Michigan, where he as an industrious young boy worked on his family farm and was a newspaper boy to all the farmers in the area. He was a hardworking, independent patriot, who proudly served his country in World War II (1940-1945) as a decorated Charlie Company Army Ranger, and he bravely fought at the Battle of the Bulge. He returned from the war to marry his wife, Betty Arelene Miles. They together, doing all the labor, built their own first home. They were married 67 years. Richard worked for twenty five years, serving as Director of Public Works for the City of Long Beach, California. He was a member of Faith Lutheran Church, Vista, and after his retirement he actively helped in the landscaping, and building committee. Richards's priority was his family and his grandchildren who he was always ready to help. He shared his belief in the Lord and with Love and

compassion. He will be missed by his wife, Betty; his children: Alice Zack Fairchild and Robert Zack, and his four grandchildren: Russell and Robert Fairchild, Rosanne Weedon and Rachel Fairchild, and his sister Helene Poterek of Sterling Heights, MI.

ALBAN MECCIA – 2E – MAY 27, 2014

MECCIA, Alban "Bud", 90, of Lake Placid went to be with his Lord on Tuesday May 27, 2014 at his residence. He was born on January 14, 1924 in Garfield, NJ to parents Maria and Marion Meccia. After graduating from high school, Mr. Meccia enlisted in the US Army where he served with the 2nd Ranger Battalion in E-Company and fought in several campaigns, Ardennes, Central Europe, Normandy, Northern France and Rhineland. He landed at Ponte-Du-Hoc on D-Day. He moved on through France to the Battle of the Bulge and through the Battle of Hurtgen Forest. It was the longest battle in history the United States Army ever fought. It lasted from September to December. While in the service Mr. Meccia received several decorations and citations including the Purple Heart. After being honorably discharged, with the rank of Staff Sergeant, Mr. Meccia moved to Fort Lauderdale, FL where he was owner and operator of Lauderdale Motors. Mr. Meccia moved to Lake Placid in 1981 from Ft. Lauderdale. A pilot, Mr. Meccia enjoyed traveling with his family and taking photographs of the many places he visited and he loved spending time with both his family and friends especially the reunions with his 2nd Ranger Battalion brothers.

EDWARD P. FEIGENBAUM – 3D – JULY 19, 2013



Edward P. Feigenbaum, who escaped from a prison train during World War II and returned to active duty in the Army, died Friday in Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Buffalo, after a brief illness. He was 90. Born in Niagara Falls, Mr. Feigenbaum was a graduate of St. Mary's High School and was studying at Niagara University when he enlisted in the Army during World War II. He served in the 3rd Ranger Battalion of the famed "Darby's Rangers," in the European/Mediterranean Theater. A corporal, Mr. Feigenbaum was in charge of a combat infantry squad that ventured into enemy territory on reconnaissance and combat patrols. He served time as a POW before escaping from a prison train, then returning to active duty. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Unit Badge. After the war, Mr. Feigenbaum returned to Niagara University and earned a bachelor's degree. He worked for Moore Business Forms and in 1963 began a career at Airco Carbon, Niagara Falls, from which he retired as a supervisor in 1988. Mr. Feigenbaum was past commander of the Western New York Chapter of American Ex-Prisoners of War; a member of Downriver Post 7487, Veterans of Foreign Wars, in Lewiston; and was active in Boy Scouting with Troop 67 in Wilson. In 2012, he was honored as a hometown hero by Wilson Lions Club. Mr. Feigenbaum was a member of St. Brendan on the Lake Catholic Church in Wilson. A Wilson resident since 1972, Mr. Feigenbaum in 1963 married the former Leocadia A. Listek, who died in 2006. Survivors include two sons, Michael and retired Army Lt. Col. Edward II; a daughter, Catherine Mahar; and a sister, Katherine Rotella.

JOHN FEDORS – 3E – SEPTEMBER 2, 2012

John Fedors, Sr., 91, of the Holiday Heights section of Berkeley Township, NJ died on Sunday, Sept. 2, 2012 at Community Medical Center, Toms River, NJ. Born in Czechoslovakia he lived in Somerset, NJ before moving to Holiday Heights 25 years ago. Mr. Fedors served in the US Army during WWII and was a prisoner of war and also served in the Korean War. He was a member of the DAV and VFW both of New Brunswick, NJ and was a member of the American Ex- Prisoners of War Association. He was a Government Worker with GSA in Belle Meade, NJ for 40 years. Surviving is his wife of 62 years, Geraldine (Gieratowski); his son, John Jr.; his daughter, Patricia Helleis and her husband Sean; his brother, Peter Hawryluk; his sister, Susan Lakat; his grandchildren, Zachary and Jordan and also survived by many nieces and nephews.

PAUL A. GROVER – 3E – NOVEMBER 25, 2012

Paul Arial Grover, born July 9, 1922 in Brattleboro son of Arthur A. Grover and Gertrude Grover. He had 11 brothers and sisters, nearly all preceding him in passing. He grew up in Brattleboro as a golf caddy and assisting his father in the lumber industry. Paul joined the Army in 1942, and became one of Darby's Rangers, serving in the 3rd Ranger Battalion, receiving a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and a Unit Presidential Citation. He campaigned in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. In January 1944, he along with many other Rangers was captured at Anzio, Italy. He spent 16 months in a German POW camp, and returned to Vermont after the war. He started a long career in truck driving at that time. In 1945, he married Rebecca Hopper of St. Louis, MO. They had 2 children, Paula and Stephen (Sue) of Allentown, PA. In the 60's, he started Yellow Cab of Bennington, and operated it for a number of years. After the death of his wife, he went back to truck driving until he retired in the 1980's. He remarried late in life to Audrey Newcomb in Roanoke, Virginia, where he remained. Audrey preceded him in death just 2 years ago. His daughter, Paula, passed away in 1988. He has 3 Grandchildren, Joseph Grover (Alanda) of Augusta, GA, Sarah Milligan (Jeremy) of Senoia, GA and Rebecca Stuter (Ronald) of Brewerton, NY. He also has 4 Great grandchildren, Emily and Lilah Milligan, and Maddie and Molly Grover and Son-in-law Richard Vachon of Bennington, VT. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and golf. He also loved dogs, and had pets throughout his life.

ALEXANDER M. WORTH JR. – 4F – JUNE 17, 2013



Alexander McAlister Worth, Jr. was born on May 4, 1918, the son of Alexander McAlister Worth and Martha Walker Worth. His wife and devoted companion of 23 years, Margaret Crowell Worth survives him. Alex was predeceased by his wife of 48 years, Anne Fitzsimons Preston Worth. Alex was raised in Durham, NC. He graduated in 1940 from The Citadel, The Military College of SC, in Charleston. As an underclassman there, he met his beloved bride-to-be, Anne, at a dance on the campus. Having distinguished himself as a student of the military disciplines while at the Citadel, including command of the honorific Summerall Guards, Alex took a commission in the U.S. Army. He was quickly promoted to rank of Captain, and led Company F in the First Battalion of Darby's Rangers through heavy combat in WWII, including beach landings in the

invasions of Sicily and Italy, for which he received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, among other decorations. The Citadel and the South Carolina Corps of Cadets, by William H. Buckley, credits Alex with being the first Citadel cadet to serve in the storied Rangers. After the war he settled in Greensboro, working in sales in the paper industry. In 1957 he started his own printing firm with generous help of Greensboro's Cone and Preyer families and the late Charles Gold. Shamrock Corporation early on laid claim to be the largest manufacturer of Christmas wrapping papers in the US. An avid golfer and boatman, Alex enjoyed summers at the beach with his family every season beginning 1945. Surviving family includes 3 sons, Alexander Walker Worth and wife, Drena; David McAlister Worth and wife, Lauren; and Robert Preston Worth and wife, Ellen. He is survived also by a stepson, Jeter Stanley Oakley, Jr. and wife, Sara Lynn.

HARRY DONALD LAUGHLIN – 5D – JULY 22, 2012



Harry Donald Laughlin was born on January 16, 1924 in Hillsboro, IL to Harold William Laughlin and Francis (Robertson) Laughlin. He later married Camilla Grace (Walters) Laughlin on Feb 28, 1948 in St. Louis MO. He was employed at AO Smith in Granite City, IL as a pipefitter. Harry was also a WWII veteran where he was an Army Ranger and later in the special forces. He experienced battles: Rhineland Campaign, Northern France Campaign with Battle Star, and Central European Campaign with Battle Star. His ribbons include: European Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and Purple Heart with Oak Leaves Cluster. Harry was a member of the VFW, the Masonic Lodge of Hillsboro, a Life Member of the National Rifle Association, a Life Member of Town and County Gun Club, and Sons of American Revolution. He leaves behind his spouse Camilla, sons: George Stanley (Edna Berry) of Providence, UT, Stuart Ray (Cindy Daniels) of Caseyville, IL, Steven Edward (Alice Daniels) of Granite City, IL, James Allen (Wanda Coulter) of Olathe, KS, daughter Donna Beth Robbins (Shane) of Spokane, WA.

RAY E. OLCOTT – 5D - NOVEMBER 7, 2012



Ray was born in Albany and has resided in East Syracuse for more than 46 years.

He retired from Borden's after 45 years as a supervisor. Ray served with the U.S. Army's 5th Ranger Battalion during World War II and landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day. The battalion suffered heavy losses; he was wounded and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Ray was predeceased by his two daughters, Sharon Olcott Mott in 1977 and Sandra Olcott Marvin in 1997; and a son, Roy Olcott in 2011. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor Jordan Olcott, and two granddaughters, Jessika Marvin and Rebecca Marvin.

ELLIS E. REED JR – 5A – MAY 6, 2014

Ellis E. (Bill) Reed Jr., 89, formerly of Sun City, AZ passed away peacefully Tuesday May 6, 2014 in Bethlehem, PA. Born in Newark, NJ, he was the son of the late Ellis E. Reed Sr. and Mabel (Kendall) Reed. He was an active member of the Community of Grace Lutheran Church in Peoria, AZ. Retired from the military; Bill was a decorated Army Ranger for action on Omaha Beach during the Normandy invasion in WWII. He spent most of his professional life in sales and was an avid golfer and skier. Bill provided service to the community through his membership in the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Surviving are his wife Evelyn of Northampton, PA, sister Vivian Sorg of Whitehouse, NJ, son Dennis of Bethlehem, PA, 2 granddaughters Candice, Rebecca and 5 great grandchildren.

LYSLE L. ROGERS – 5F – JULY 16, 2014



He was born Nov. 10, 1922, in Wellfleet to Chancey and Mary Elizabeth (Golden) Rogers. On July 28, 1945, he married Anne Jakubowska in Crepy-en-Valois, France. She preceded him in death. Survivors include his sons, Bernard Rogers of Denver and Dan Rogers of Ravenna; daughters, Jacki Gray of Broken Arrow, Okla., and Laurie Mapes of Minatare; eight grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. He attended school in North Platte. He joined the National Guard before volunteering in 1939 to become a U.S. Army Ranger. He served in World War II until 1945. He served during D-Day, and his group was the first into action. He and Anne lived in North Platte until They moved to a farm south of Ravenna in 1948.

Lysle worked as a farmer, trucker and cattleman until his retirement.

OTIS L. BOUGH – 6E – FEBRUARY 15, 2013



Born in Scotland, Indiana, on September 26, 1926, Otis was one of four children born to his parents, Henry and Nellie (Dove) Bough. Otis graduated from high school in 1944. Shortly thereafter, he enlisted in the Army, serving in the Philippines as a tech 5 and corporal in

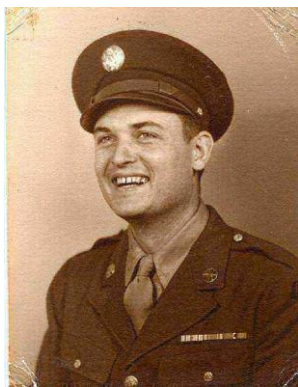
Company F 6th Ranger Infantry. Otis honorably served from December 2, 1944, until November 21, 1946. Not long after he returned home from the military, Otis married his sweetheart, Mary Byrd, on December 2, 1946. Otis's love for music was his lifelong companion. Throughout his life Otis touched countless lives with his sweet, melodious voice and charming wit, performing at venues such as, the Little Nashville Opry House in Indiana and the Martinsville Area Senior Center with the "Tune Tossers." After retiring from Blue Cross Blue Shield as a building supervisor in 1988, he and Mary got a place in Florida where they spent their winters. Otis continued to entertain there in numerous Central Florida retirement communities. Otis was a member of the Martinsville V.F.W. #1257 and a past member of the American Legion Post #230. He continued to hunt and fish, and he loved basketball, too. Otis enjoyed watching

westerns and shows about WWII, and traveling to Washington, D. C. to see the WWII monument was a highlight. Otis is survived by his three daughters, Nancy (husband, Bill) Fortier of Bloomington, Jane (husband, Joe) Proctor of Brownsburg and Cathy (husband, Roger) Gregg of Elwood; son, Richard Bough of Martinsville; and brother, Harold Dean Bough of Martinsville. He is predeceased by his wife Mary.

WALTER H. BURTAN – 6E – SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

He was born June 3, 1926 in Chicago, Illinois the son of Andrew and Anna (Karpierz) Burtan. He graduated from Carl Schurz High School and was then drafted into the United States Army, where he was awarded a Bronze Star while serving as an Army Ranger in the 6th Ranger Division. Walter worked as an electrical engineer for Pipeline Service and later Plexco for over 25 years, retiring in 1988. He was united in marriage to Rita M. Piesciuk on November 30, 1985. The couple made their home in Niles for many years and in 2007 moved to Lake In The Hills. He enjoyed travel and watching and playing golf. In earlier years he played the accordion and performed at many weddings. He is survived by his loving wife, Rita, his daughter, Margie (Tom) Nolan all of Lake In The Hills, his granddaughters, Kirsten Raducka-Dakof (Mike) and Kristie Raducka, Dziadziu of Kendall Dakof. He was preceded in death by his sisters, Florence and Helen Burtan.

LEONARD K. LAWLER – 6C – DECEMBER 26, 2013



He was a loving and devoted husband and father, and truly loved and served God all the days of his life. He had wisdom and insight to share with those he loved, and was a real student of the Bible. He had a generous and giving heart and helped those in need. He had a real love for music, both singing and playing the piano, and had a wonderful sense of humor - enjoying telling stories and entertaining those around him. He was a WWII veteran serving as an Army Ranger in the Philippines and Japan. He was retired from MLG&W, and was a member of Bellevue Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, Alvilda Lockhart Lawler. He leaves behind his daughters, Carolyn DeShazo (Malcolm) of Winterspring, FL; and Debra Lawler of Memphis; his son, Don Lawler (Kim) of Memphis; grand-daughters, Donna DeShazo of FL, Denise Schulz (Tony) of Indianapolis, IN; Abby Yeo (Clive) of VA; grandson, Zach Lawler (Amy) of Memphis; three great granddaughters, and many nieces and nephews.

BOYD E. LOWE -6D – NOVEMBER 3, 2013

He was born Sunday, September 12, 1920 in Gaston County to Charles Forney and Maggie Bumgardner Lowe. He was a loving and faithful husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Mr. Lowe was a member of First Baptist Church, where he enjoyed singing in the church choir. He was retired from Thomas J. Lipton Company after 35 years of service and was a veteran of the US Army serving in WWII. He was preceded in death by a son, Boyd Alan Lowe, four sisters and five brothers. Surviving are his wife of 67 years, Leontine Gardner Lowe; a daughter, Anne L. Murphy and husband, Jim; two grandchildren, Kathryn Tayman and husband, Gene, Charles Murphy and wife, Kris; and a great granddaughter, Emily Tayman

RANGER NEWS

This is a new addition to the newsletter. We want to include updates about our WWII Rangers, wives, widows and descendants. Should you know of anyone who is ill, moving or otherwise involved with a news-worthy action, please let us know. Additionally, to get the word out faster, we would like to re-create the “Ole Guys Network”. Any Ranger or widow, who has an email address, and wishes to receive notifications, please send your email address to our secretary Nancy Taube. Our first announcements appear as follows:

- Ranger Ed Black is undergoing dialysis.
- Condolences to Ben and Doris Temkin and family on the loss of their youngest child, Kenny.
- Kathy Wiseman is having health issues and we wish her a speedy recovery.
- Condolences to Theresa Dye and family on the loss of Ranger Noel Dye.

Applicants needed

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available to Ranger family members. Applications are accepted from January 1st through June 1st. In July, winners are notified by email. Checks are sent to the applicant's address, but the check is made to the educational institution. The funds can only be used for educational purposes. For an application and additional qualifying information, please go to the National Ranger Memorial Foundation Scholarship website. Please know that the former RBA was a big contributor to this fund and that the Descendants of WWII Rangers have made contributions.

Descendants of WWII Rangers

Organization Information

501(c)(3) status:

Good news, our 501(c)(3) status is back!! We once again have a Federal Income Tax exemption. If you were at the reunion business meeting, you would have heard President Karla Merritt announce that IRS had revoked our status. With the help (and doing all the paperwork) of our legal advisor Art Leyden, we were successful with our request to have the status restored. Not only did IRS return the status, but also restored it retroactively to the date of revocation which was 15 May 2014.

Treasurer:

Ben Temkin has resigned as Treasurer. His resignation was accepted by the Board of Directors. Ben, we appreciate and thank you for all your service. In accordance with the By-Laws, the Board members voted WWII Ranger Bill McCausland to be the new Treasurer. Bill, thanks for agreeing to keep our financial records.

Financial Record Keeping:

With the return of our 501(c)(3) status, the IRS has determined that our organization meets the definition of a Foundation under the law, rather than a Charity. The required tax forms for a Foundation are much more inclusive of financial data than for a Charity. Therefore, to ensure that our Treasurer has all financial information needed, the following requirements are implemented:

1. All checks and monies collected will be sent/given to the Treasurer.
2. The Treasurer will maintain a ledger of all income and expenditures.
3. All reimbursements will be made by the Treasurer.
4. An original receipt of expenditure is required for reimbursement.
5. Annual membership dues will be collected separately from reunion related fees.

These requirements do not take precedence over the Board of Directors' approval for expenditures.

Acceptance of Donations:

As a non-profit organization, any donation must be used for the specific purpose designated by the donor. The Board of Directors does not have the authority to use the donation for any other purpose. However, the Board members can establish specific funding lines. Those specific funding lines are:

1. Ranger Benevolent Fund: This fund serve two purposes. First, the fund can be used to assist WWII Rangers who need financial assistance to attend annual reunions. Second, the fund may be used to assist with funeral expenses for families of WWII Rangers who need such assistance.

2. Reunion Fund: This fund will be used to support the hospitality room and meet other annual reunion expenses.

3. Scholarship Fund: This fund is used for donations to any of the scholarship programs established to help Ranger descendants attend school.

4. Flower Fund: This fund covers cost of flowers sent for WWII Ranger funerals.

5. General Fund: This fund covers all other organization expenditures.

In the future, when making a donation, please specify the purpose in the FOR line of your check. If no purpose is identified, the funds will be added to the General Fund line.

Use of the organization name:

Unless approved in advance by the Board of Directors, members are not to express personal views in any public forum (includes electronic media), either verbally or in written statements, as representing the views of the Descendants of WWII Rangers. This also applies to any requests for monetary donations, fund raising events, or publication corrections. Permission to use the organization name must be requested in writing by letter or email to the President, Descendants of WWII Rangers.

Ownership of the scroll with the six battalions identified:

As the legal successor, and only successor, to the RBA, the Descendants of WWII Rangers is the official owner of the scroll representing all six WWII Battalions. Therefore, this scroll cannot be used by any organization, person, or group without the Descendants' Board of Directors approval. Permission to use the scroll for any reason must be requested in writing by letter or email to the President, Descendants of WWII Rangers.

Committees:

Two ad hoc committees have been established. They are history and correspondence. David Williams is the chair for the history committee. The history committee will collect and maintain items documenting WWII Ranger training, missions and related events. After consultation with the organization President and Reunion Chair, items will be displayed at reunions. Jane Schappell has accepted the chair for the correspondence committee. There has been a group of individuals who have been sending cards. However, that group was never established within the Descendants organization. The committee will continue to send birthday cards to WWII Rangers, get-well and sympathy cards.

Ranger Store:

After ten years of managing the store, Stan and Lily Kinmonth think it is time to do other things. Stan and Lily have done a fantastic job over the years, and we very much appreciate their support for the organization. We are now looking for replacement(s). If interested, please contact Karla Merritt.

Web Site Manager and Newsletter Preparer:

Ron Hudnell has given up his post as our website manager and newspaper preparer. He wishes to devote his time to other projects. Ron, we thank you for your past support. Thankfully, Jeff and Cheryl Miller have stepped forward to prepare the newsletter. We do appreciate their help for that task. However, we are still looking for someone with computer skills to be our website manager. If interested, please contact Karla Merritt.

MEMBERSHIP

by Nancy Taube

The Board of Directors and Descendants of WWII Rangers welcome the following **New Members:**

Evan Bender of Woodland Hills California, Grandson of Ranger Ted Fleser, 1D/FSSF

Hugh F. Boyd IV of Macungie Pennsylvania, Grandson of Ranger Jack B. Street, 1Hq/D/B

Steve Clavelle of Carencro Louisiana, Son of Ranger Alexander Clavelle, 6A

Anthony J. Damico Jr of Meadowbrook Pennsylvania, Son of Anthony J. Damico, 1B/3E/4

Beverly Davidson of Chester Texas, Daughter of Ranger Charles Kilpatrick, 3B

Nancy Fortier of Bloomington Indiana, Daughter of Ranger Otis Lee Bough, 6E

Bonnie Louie of Novato California, Daughter of Randall Ching, 5B

Paul Mackin of Antioch California, Nephew of Robert Mackin, 4F

Jeremy Painkin of McKinney Texas, Grandson of Ranger Martin Painkin, 2A

Susan Schnaufer of Lanesboro Minnesota, Daughter of Ranger Howard Johnson, 1HQ&B

Todd Sharp of Whitmore Lake Michigan, Grandson of Ranger James R. Copeland, 5B

Craig Spinner of Greenwood Indiana, Grandson of Ranger Leo Strausbaugh, 6B

William P. Stanton of Edina Minnesota, Son of Ranger John Joseph Stanton, 1B, 3D&E

Jay Van Cott of West Islip New York, Son of John Van Cott, 5D

2014 Branson Reunion High Lights

By Karla Merritt and Sandy Boyd

First, let me tell you the story behind making arrangements for the Honor Guard. Due to all the “red tape” required to obtain permission to travel to Branson, the Ranger Training Brigade representative suggested calling Fort Leonard Wood for assistance. As he indicated, calling Fort Leonard Wood would be much easier than sending paperwork up and down all the levels to allow Brigade personnel to travel. Therefore, the call was made. After several days, Karla received a call from a Public Affairs Officer at Fort Leonard Wood. He acknowledged that assistance was 95% certain, and he would put out the notice. The other 5% would be either an emergency or training situation that would take precedence. A few more days elapsed. The phone rang, and Karla was speaking with a SGT. Following the “business” portion of the conversation, Karla had to ask her curiosity question: “Have any of you attended Ranger School?” His reply: “Yes, Ma’am, we all have.” He went on to add: “Ma’am, when we heard about your request, we volunteered. We said WWII Rangers must have Ranger-qualified soldiers as their Honor Guard.” As I understand, until these young men stepped forward, the Honor Guard was to be made up of MPs. Karla is uncertain as to who was the most excited—Karla, that we were actually getting Ranger-qualified personnel, or the young soldiers, that they would be with our WWII Rangers.

The showboat show was spectacular. The performers were exceptional, and the theme was patriotic. Our cruise hit a snag. Due to mechanical problems, we never left the dock. However, that was not an issue. We were too busy with lunch and watching the show. During the performance, the announcer recognized our WWII Rangers. They received a tremendous round of applause.

Our memorial service was outside in a beautiful gazebo and garden setting. David Williams read a prayer first delivered by Father Basil. WWII Rangers representing their battalions read names of the departed. The 4th Battalion and Regiment names were read by active duty soldiers.

Our banquet was delicious and festive. The invocation was prepared by Reverend Georgine Lomell Buckwalter and was read by our Vice President, Sandy Boyd. The talk was from Ranger John Raaen, 5th Battalion, who spoke on his experiences during the Normandy Invasion. The talk was very educational and appreciated by all. The contents of the invocation and the talk appear in this newsletter.

The fellowship during the Reunion was warm and constant. There were opportunities to renew friendships during meals, in the Hospitality Room, and on excursions. The six WWII Rangers attending were, of course, the center of attention! The six included: Wilbur Gallop, 1st and 4th Battalions; Art Wilson, 1st Battalion; James Luton, 1st Battalion; Ivan Cady, 2nd Battalion; Warren Burmaster, 2nd Battalion; and James Copeland, 5th Battalion.

Branson Reunion Banquet Invocation

Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen. Or, should I say: “Good evening, Fellow Sibs in the Ranger Family?” Tonight, we are here to put our hands over our hearts in **salutation and continuation** of the legacy of the Ranger **HONOR** it is our privilege to carry forward into the coming generations. And, as we all surely must know, **HONOR** is in short supply in our society today. People toss aside long term relationships like so many used Styrofoam cups. **TRUST** is at an all-time low: in our national institutions, our houses of worship and even in our hometowns. Yet, coursing in our veins is the red, white and blue blood of that **COURAGEOUS, TRUST-WORTHY** band of brothers, called **the Rangers**. I ask you to take a moment, and place your right index finger on your left wrist. Be silent and feel your pulse. You are the child of some of the bravest men this world has ever known. And today’s world so needs people who will, like they did... honorably stand up and “fight, fight, fight for right, right, right” ...more than ever. Not with grappling hooks, bayonets and the grenades of old...but with votes and political pressure and just plain **SHOWING UP** and **SPEAKING OUT** when things around us are wrong, wrong, wrong. Moral courage and trust-worthiness is part of the incredible legacy of our brave fathers. Their hearts which “beat so **TRUE**” are every bit as important as their tales of their “daring-do.” After my father, Len Lomell (D Co, 2nd BN), died in 2011, I took a wad of his ties before they went to Goodwill. I then boxed them up and gave them to all the men I knew that could wear them with integrity as they found it necessary in their lives to **STEP UP TO THE PLATE**, To do **THE RIGHT THING** in the face of incredible odds...whether they found themselves in the court room, the Board Room or the classroom. I cannot tell you how grateful my male friends were. They treat daddy’s ties more like holy relics than talismans. But you see they are both. If you are a daughter of a Ranger, make a headband or a scarf out of something that reminds you of who **they** were, who **you** are, and what is your legacy and your responsibility.

Let us bow our heads in prayer: Oh God of all the Generations: present, past and future...we ask you to join us tonight in celebration. We’ll leave a chair empty at our table. Be our Host, for we are always your guests. Grant that the feasting and fellowship of this night may strengthen the bonds we share, may nurture us and equip us as individuals and as an organization...yes, to savor and honor the past...but to also embrace, with courage and fortitude, the mission of your Coming Future...as our fathers once did. Amen.

The Rev. Dr. Georgine Lomell Buckwalter

Reunion Banquet Talk

Good evening ladies and gentlemen:

My name is John Raaen. On D Day, June 6th of 1944, I was Headquarters Company Commander of the Fifth Ranger Infantry Battalion, a Captain. I have been back to Normandy six times since the invasion, and I just got back from that sixth time in mid-June. Each time I have gone back, there has been something different from the other times. For instance, the Normands, the local French, have always turned out massively for the June 6th ceremonies. All the public buildings were flying the flags of the Allies, American, British and Canadian, as well as the French tri-colors. Every Frenchman you saw was carrying and waving at least one of those miniature flags. But in 2004, the flags on the public buildings were still there, but the little hand carried flags were missing. The crowds still turned out, but French-American relationships were sour, and I guessed that the French government was letting us know their displeasure.

This year, the flags were back and the crowds bigger than ever. Seventeen Heads of State attended the ceremonies, and you can imagine the security measures the French took. It made traveling on D-Day a nightmare and getting into the Colleville cemetery for the ceremonies on June 6th was worse than TSA ever thought of being at one of our airports.

But I'm here to talk about D-Day itself, not about the anniversaries of that Day.

The Ranger Force had loaded onto their Landing Ships in Portland Harbor on the first of June 1944. For the next few days, believe it or not, we trained hard, not just physical training but far more importantly, the maps, photo mosaic maps and sand tables, for the first time, had names on them. Everything we had seen in the camps just before we loaded out had all the names of places and things deleted. With those names, we knew the invasion would take place in Normandy, not the Pas de Calais, not Brittany, not the Low Countries.

On the fourth of June we got the word, tomorrow would be D-Day. Our ships hauled anchor and set sail for Normandy. During the dead of night, the invasion was postponed and all the ships turned around and came back to their harbors. It was now June 5th. Again we got the word; D-Day was to be on June 6th, 1944. That night of June 5th and early morning June 6th, the 5th Battalion was still loaded aboard their landing ships and, now, headed for the Normandy coast. The Battalion was split in half, each half aboard different ships.

There were actually two Ranger Battalions in the Ranger Force invading Normandy---the 2nd Rangers and the 5th Rangers. The Ranger Force was also known as the Provisional Ranger Group. The Group was commanded by Lt. Colonel James Earle Rudder who also commanded the 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion.

Our mission, that is the mission of the Ranger Force, was to capture and destroy six German 155-mm guns on the coast at a place called Pointe du Hoc. Succeeding in that, we were then to set up inland defensive positions that would prevent German reinforcements from the west from reaching Omaha Beach, the name of the beach most Americans would land on. That accomplished, we would advance to the southwest, expanding the beach head toward Isigny and St. Lo.

The guns at Pointe du Hoc were emplaced atop a high cliff, a cliff over 100 feet high. The guns were well protected by Infantry, mine fields, ditches and wire. Those who knew of the mission thought it was impossible, a real life Mission Impossible.

But the guns had to be neutralized. Their field of fire covered both Utah Beach and Omaha Beach as well as the anchorage of the invasion ships that were to fill the English Channel.

The High Command determined that neither aerial bombardment, nor navel gunfire nor paratroopers, could do the job. So the mission was given to two well trained, but green Ranger Battalions.

The plan divided the two battalions into three task forces. Task Force A had three Ranger companies of the 2nd Rangers, Companies D, E and F. This Force would attack the Point, climbing the cliffs and capturing and destroying the guns.

Ranger Force B would attack a major artillery position nearer the beaches, known as Pointe de la Percee. Only Company C of the 2nd Rangers was in this Force B. And, by the way, this Ranger Force B was the first to reach the high ground beyond the beach.

Ranger Force C was the major Ranger Force. It had eight Ranger Companies, two from the 2nd Rangers, A and B Companies, and six from the 5th Rangers, Companies A through F. Ranger Force C had a Plan A and a Plan B. Plan A was to follow Force A up the cliffs if Force A were successful. If it were not, Plan B went into effect and Force C would divert to Omaha DOG GREEN Beach, land at Vierville and march or fight its way to Pointe du Hoc and attack it from the land side.

They say that any plan is a good one until the first shot. At 0550, the USS Texas fired that first shot. Scared me out of my wits. My landing craft was abeam the Texas when that blast, roar, crash, whatever, shook the channel around it. The target of that broadside was, Pointe du Hoc. After that, all hell broke loose. Every warship, every Rocket ship, and there were hundreds of them, opened fire on targets on the Normandy coast.

What went wrong after the first shot? The guide boat for Force A lost its way to Pointe du Hoc! By the time Colonel Rudder, the Ranger Group Commander, realized this, he was forty minutes behind schedule in reaching the Pointe. Force C, the main Ranger Force, had given up on Force A and was committed to capturing the guns at Pointe du Hoc by land.

Force A, read that as the three companies of the 2nd Rangers, after finding they were at the wrong Pointe, raced along the three mile shoreline from Pointe de la Percee to Pointe du Hoc. All surprise was lost as German positions fired on them from the cliffs. A race against time. As Force A reached Pointe du Hoc, their careful plan of assault was thrown to the winds. Boats landed helter skelter. Grapnel projectors didn't work. Nothing went right. But the first man was up the cliffs in 50 seconds and as more Rangers made their way up, the force grew larger. No matter the machine guns firing into their backs. The British cruiser, HMS Glasgow took care of that. And the Pointe was won, except there were no guns.

Mission two for Force A. Block the coastal road. 1st Sgt. Len Lommel was acting as a platoon leader in "D" Company of the 2nd Rangers as well as being the company First Sergeant. He, among other leaders, immediately undertook the second mission. Set up road blocks along the coastal road. While on patrol from his platoon blocking position, Lommel saw some heavy wheel tracks in a dirt road to the south. He and one of his men, Ranger Jack Kuhn followed the tracks and found the missing guns of Pointe du Hoc. Lommel, Kuhn and another patrol led by Sergeant Rupinski from E Company of the 2nd that arrived later, destroyed the guns.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the eight companies of Range Force C were landing on Bloody Omaha. Landing control waved us off as we attempted to land on DOG GREEN. Our first wave, the two companies from the 2nd Ranger Battalion, was decimated as it landed at the boundary of DOG WHITE and DOG GREEN. Colonel Schneider, the Force C Commander and the battalion commander of the 5th Rangers, a thousand yards away and still out of the water, watched that landing through his field glasses and said, "I'm not going to lose my battalion on that beach". So he shifted our landing to DOG RED Beach where the two flotillas of the 5th Rangers landed INTACT, a full Ranger Battalion ready to go. Across the beach and up the bluffs we went. The 116th Infantry followed us and the beach head was established.

Thank you for being here, wish I were, and thank you for listening and....

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!!!

2014 REUNION IN BRANSON, MISSOURI



Karla Merritt, Sandy & Hugh Boyd



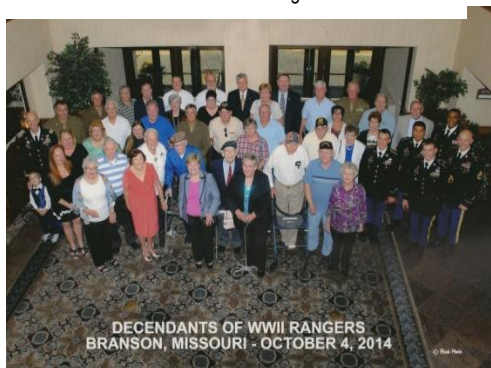
2nd Bn Re-Enactor Steve Smoot with WWII Rangers Ivan Cody (2nd) and James Luton (1st)



A toast to our Rangers



Ranger William (Halftrack) Burmaster (2nd) & Sons



Ranger Wilbur Gallop dancing with Laura Moore



Art & Johanna Wilson with Judy McDevitt (standing)



Ranger Wilbur Gallop discussing weapons with SSG Hudson Costa with SSG Michael Beattie looking on



Andrea Buchanan with her son, Craig Spinner



The Honor Guard from Fort Leonard Wood, from left to right: SSG Hudson Costa; SFC Joshua Knea; SFC Victor Walker; SSG Michael Beattie; and SSG Joel Solano



At the banquet: Steve Ketzer; Vickie Thayer; Sandy and Hugh Boyd; and Karla Merritt



Ranger James Copeland with his grandson Todd Sharp

2015 RANGER REUNION IN FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA

Message from 2015 Reunion Co-Chairs

Planning is underway for the 2015 reunion to be held in the Fort Walton Beach area according to committee co-chairs Andrea Buchanan and Gene Dykes. This location was chosen because of its proximity to Camp James E. Rudder at Eglin Air Force Base, home of the 6th Ranger Training Battalion. The dates of September 19-22, 2015 were chosen because this is when the 6th RTB can offer us maximum support and assistance. They have been invaluable thus far in helping us to acquire affordable lodging and meals. The Soundside Inn at Hurlburt Field AFB has blocked 50 rooms on the soundside (ocean portion) of the base from the 19-22nd. You will be within yards of the ocean. Our sergeant contact guarantees there is not a venue on the coast that can beat the price and quality of the Soundside Inn.

If you are planning to fly, consider Pensacola International Airport (30 minutes) or Northwest Florida Regional Airport (VPS), which is 20-25 minutes away from Soundside. The planning committee made an onsite visit the last week in February, so we will have an itinerary for you this spring in the next newsletter. Mark your calendars now, talk it up with family members, and plan to join us in Florida in September! The most important thing we can do for our beloved Rangers is to keep their legacy alive.

SAVE THE DATE

Bataan March, White Sands, New Mexico: 22 March 2015

Best Ranger Competition: 10-13 April 2015

Ranger Hall of Fame Inductions: 11 August 2015

WWII Rangers and Descendants Reunion: 19-22 September 2015 in Fort Walton, Florida

CHRISTMAS PARTY IN ATLANTIC CITY

The annual Christmas Party was held in Atlantic City on December 8, 2014. We had a turnout of 25 people which included 2 Rangers, 4 Widows and 9 Sons and Daughters and their families. Jeff and Cheryl Miller were the chairpersons for the Christmas Party. They took over this duty from Jack and Jane Van Cott. "Those were big shoes to fill and I hope we did everyone proud." said Jeff Miller. Santa (Art Leyden) also came and handed out the exchange gifts. Good food, lots of laughter and great friendships were celebrated that night. Ranger Ed Black was also supposed to be there but due to illness he was unable to attend. You were missed Ranger Black! Four photos from the party appear below:



Ranger Bill McCausland & Ranger Ben Temkin



Rangers, Widows with Sons & Daughters
(missing from photo was Matthew Temkin)



Santa Art Leyden



Relaxing in Hospitality Room



Rangers Herman Kasoff, Ray Tolferson and Art Wilson met for their annual Christmas Brunch to visit and exchange good wishes for the New Year

71st Invasion of Anzio Anniversary



Città di Anzio
medaglia d'oro al merito civile



CENTRO DI RICERCA E DOCUMENTAZIONE
NELL'AMERICA E NELLA STORIA DELLA ANZIO
AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENT COMMISSION
AND DOCUMENTATION CENTER



SE VUOI LA PACE
PREPARATI

**PROGRAMMA CELEBRAZIONI
71° ANNIVERSARIO DELLO
SBARCO DI ANZIO**
Eventi principali
1944 - 2015

12:00 Giovedì 22 Gennaio
Cerimonia Ufficiale
Piazza Garibaldi - Monumento ai Caduti

13:30 Sabato 24 Gennaio
Convegno, Mostre e Filmati storici
Paradiso sul Mare (per l'intera giornata)

Domenica 25 Gennaio
Sfilata dei Mezzi Militari
Sacro Cuore, Felsuccia, Levinio Stazione,
Lavinio Mare, Anzio Colonia, Marconi,
Porto e Centro Storico

11:30 Esposizione Mezzi Militari e Figuranti
Piazza Pia, Piazza Garibaldi

15:30 Rievocazione dello Sbarco di Anzio
Spiaggia del Tirreno (Yellow Beach - Il Ray Beach)



**71st ANNIVERSARIO
ANZIO BEACHHEAD**
21-25 GENNAIO 2015

Il Presidente del Museo dello Sbarco

Il Sindaco
Luciano Bruschini

The Program for the 71st Anniversary of the invasion at Anzio



SOSTA AL VITTORIA
bato e domenica
lano i mezzi d'epoca

...allo scorso anno il com-
...si limita alle celebra-
...L'appuntamento è la
...del 22 gennaio alle 10 in
...Cesare Battisti per la depo-
...di fiori al momento ai Ca-
...presenza del sindaco Ales-
...e delle autorità civili
...il cimitero si sposterà al
...Cimitero Monumentale
...davanti al monumento
...Terza divisione america-
...ricordare tutte le vittime ita-
...americane che hanno
...vita durante il conflitto.
...senna prevede altri due ap-
...non organizzati dal-
...strazione comunale.
...di 21 alle 10, il tradizio-
...mento "Per non dimenticar-
...anni organizzato da An-
...torelli, che, sedicente,
...con gli americani subito
...sbarco, per la toccante ce-
...della deposizione di tre-
...rrose sulle tombe di tre-
...oltre 7861 soldati se-
...Cimitero monumentale
...di Nettuno; saranno gli
...alle scuole medie cittadi-
...re una rosa accanto alle

...care, non solo per aver col-
...volto il mondo intero e per so-
...sersi protratta per più di quattro anni, ma soprattutto per gli ideali
...di violenza, non tolleranza, razzismo di cui si è fatta portatrice e so-
...stenitrice. Sono stati anni bui in Italia come in Europa, anni che cau-
...sano dolore ancora oggi in quegli anziani che l'hanno vissuta, ma
...questo dolore non può e non deve essere dimenticato.
...Ecco perché sono così importanti le commemorazioni, ci aiutano a
...rendere omaggio a chi si è sacrificato per noi e ci fanno ricordare
...che poco più di settant'anni fa vivevamo nella paura e nel terrore.
...Ricordare vuol dire anche insegnare ed educare coloro che non
...c'erano mentre si verificavano quegli eventi, le nuove generazioni.
...A tal proposito quest'anno, in occasione del settantesimo sbarco
...alleato, l'American Battle Monument Commission ha organizzato,
...presso il Cimitero militare americano di Nettuno, delle lezioni di
...storia accompagnate da visite guidate gratuite.
...Le lezioni sono rivolte a tutti gli studenti delle classi medie e supe-
...riori, con l'obiettivo di far conoscere al giovani un momento storico
...che ha coinvolto direttamente la loro città e che nel fiori viene solo
...accennato. Servendosi della sala mappa, nel sacrario, verranno il-
...lustrati i punti salienti della "Campagna Italiana", ponendo partico-
...lare attenzione allo sbarco del 22 gennaio. Agli studenti verrà data
...la possibilità anche di ascoltare i racconti delle vite dei soldati ame-
...ricani li esposti, usando così la conoscenza storica a quella umana.
...La lezione e la visita durano circa un'ora e mezza e sono disponibili
...tutti i giorni, da lunedì 19 a sabato 24 gennaio, dalle 8 fino alle 17.
...Per avere informazioni è possibile telefonare al numero 06 9880284
...o scrivere a sicilyrome@abmc.org. (ed)

**Per le celebrazioni torna
in città Karla Merritt Cain**

Alle celebrazioni per il
71° anniversario dello
Sbarco torna ad Anzio e
Nettuno la signora Karla
Merritt Cain presidente
dei discendenti dei cadu-
ti del Wffl Rangers degli
Stati Uniti. Il padre di
Karla, Paul Cain, che
sbarcò ad Anzio, si ar-
rolò in una unità del
l'esercito statunitense in
Irlanda. Addestrato con
i Comandos britannici
in Scozia fu poi assigna-
to al I Battaglione dei Rangers Compagnia B. In seguito fu spostato
nel III Battaglione Compagnia E. Con questo battaglione sbarcò ad
Anzio il 22 gennaio del 1944.
In precedenza Paul Cain aveva partecipato agli sbarchi in Algeria,
Sicilia e Salerno. Fu catturato dai tedeschi a Cisterna il 30 gennaio
del 1944 e trasferito come prigioniero di guerra allo Stalag II B in
Polonia. Torno negli Stati Uniti alla fine della guerra. Alle 12,30 del
22 gennaio Karla Merritt Cain deporrà una corona di fiori alla
targa che si trova all'entrata del Paradiso sulla Riviera Zanardelli
che ricorda i Rangers caduti in battaglia.

President Karla Merritt made the newspaper announcing her intention to attend the 71st anniversary of Anzio

D-Day Anniversary – by Kathy Wiseman

On June 6, 2014 the free world commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Allied invasion in Normandy France. The 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions participated in the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944. The 2nd Battalion landed at the Pointe du Hoc and on Omaha Beach, led by Colonel James Rudder. The 5th Battalion also landed on Omaha Beach, led by Colonel Max Schneider.

It was that morning that the Rangers adopted their motto; *Rangers Lead the Way*. General Noman Cota, who was the Assistant Division Commander of the [29th Infantry Division](#), met up with Colonel Max Schneider commander of the [5th Ranger Battalion](#). In a meeting with Colonel Schneider, Cota asked "What outfit is this?" Someone yelled "5th Rangers!" To this, Cota replied "Well, God damn it then, Rangers, lead the way!" Colonel Schneider and his men led the troops up the hill to the German bunkers. It was the beginning of the end for the Germans.



There were 3 Rangers who attended the 70th anniversary commemorations: Allen Spero 5E, John Van Cott 5D and Ray Tollefson, 2A. Franck and Anne Maurouard and their children, Alexandre and Eloise, acted as our tour guides. They did a fantastic job guiding us to all the different events. And they had plenty of people to guide! Allen was accompanied by his daughter, Lori McLaughlin. Ranger Van Cott brought his wife, Jane, and his entire family! I accompanied my

father, Ranger Tollefson.

On June 5th we attended the dedication of the new Visitors Center at the Pointe du Hoc. Our friend, Jean-Marc Lefranc, orchestrated the event in conjunction with the American Battle Monuments Commission. Ann Rudder Erdman, the daughter of Colonel Rudder, was also there. The highlight of the day came when Ranger Spero got out of his wheel chair and began dancing with members of the band who were performing after the ceremony. Ranger Spero must have been quite a dancer back in the day because he can still swing dance today.

On the evening of June 5th we were on the beach in Grandcamp-Maisy. The French presented a firework show that spanned 50 miles along the landing beaches. On the beach we could see the fireworks begin at Utah Beach and expand as far as the eye could see.

On June 6th we attended the official ceremony at the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer. Our Rangers were on the stage with President Obama and French president Francoise Hollande. The guests of the Rangers were seated in the VIP section. Unlike June 1944, it was a beautiful day. The ceremony was very moving and well accepted by the crowds. The remainder of the day was spent visiting the cemetery and viewing a WWII vehicle parade thru Grandcamp-Maisy.



On June 7th there was a special ceremony at the Pointe du Hoc. Jean-Marc and other members of the D-Day committee

prepared the event. In attendance were 25 members of the 75th Ranger Regiment, the Army Band from Germany, Secretary of the Army, John McHugh, Major Christopher Hammonds, Mary Eisenhower (granddaughter of President Eisenhower) and Ann Rudder Erdman. The events that occurred at Pointe du Hoc, 70 years previous, were commemorated with speeches and flowers lay at the monument.



That evening we attended a dance in Carentan. There were over 2,000 people, dressed in 1940's outfits, dancing to live music under the tents. They had several bands so the music never stopped. The Rangers were given a table of honor to view the celebrants. The Rangers enjoyed the party and left about midnight. I'm told the dancing continued until at least 3 AM.

All of these commemorations were wonderful, but the best part of our visit was the French people. The people of Normandy really appreciate what the Americans did for them. These feelings are being passed down to the younger generation and will never be forgotten. Wherever you go in Normandy, a relative of the Rangers will be treated with the utmost respect. As the years pass, the Norman people and the Ranger descendants will continue to celebrate this camaraderie. This is the lasting gift that our Rangers gave us. Rangers Lead the Way!

HISTORY SECTION:

Each newsletter will include a historical outline of famous battles/raids our Rangers fought in, important dates and references. The next few pages contain documents related to the Normandy Invasion. As lead-in to the documents, the following excerpts are taken from a brochure prepared in the U.S. Army Center of Military History by William M. Hammond.

“A great invasion force stood off the Normandy coast of France as dawn broke on 6 June 1944. The largest armada ever assembled. The Naval bombardment that began at 0550 that morning detonated large minefields along the shoreline and destroyed a number of the enemy’s defensive positions. In the hours following the bombardment, more than 100,000 fighting men swept ashore to begin one of the epic assaults of history.

The attack had been long in coming. From the moment British forces had been forced to withdraw from France in 1940 in the face of an overwhelming German onslaught, planners had plotted a return to the Continent. American planners began formal cooperation with Britain in December 1941, just after the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor and the German and Italian declaration of war against the United States.

As the day of the invasion approached, the weather in the English Channel became stormy. Heavy winds, a five-foot swell at sea, and towering skies compelled Eisenhower to postpone the assault from 5 to 6 June.

Omaha Beach was a tangle of obstructions: concrete cones, slanted poles, logs tilted seaward with mines lashed to their tips, and steel rails welded together at angles and so strongly set into the beach that their ends would stave in the bottoms of landing craft. The Germans had also made good use of a line of cliffs, four miles long and up to one hundred fifty feet in height, that paralleled the length of the landing zone. Dotted the ravines and draws that led through the bluffs with antitank and antipersonnel mines, they had scattered blockhouses, bunkers, and machine gun nests in strategic locations where they could dominate the shoreline below.

The remnants of three companies of Rangers who had come ashore with the first units also did good work. Assigned to destroy a battery of six partially casemated 155-mm. guns thought to be positioned atop a promontory named the Pointe du Hoc, those highly disciplined infantrymen scaled the nearly 100-foot height and cleared it of its German defenders. Although the guns had been moved a few hundred yards inland, the Rangers still managed to spike them. They then held their position for two days against waves of counterattacking Germans, incurring losses that would reduce their combat effectiveness to about ninety men before reinforcements finally arrived.”

HISTORY SECTION

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

OVERLAND PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

WHEN TO LAND

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE OVERLORD ASSAULT

Factors Planners Considered:

- Low tide early in the a.m. to give one hour of daylight to saturation bomb defenses.
- Low tide early enough to yield two high tides in the course of the day, so as to facilitate a rapid buildup of strength ashore.
- Low tide at H-Hour to allow the engineers to clear the obstacles beginning at low water and moving toward the shore as the tide came in.
- Late-rising full moon to facilitate the airborne drop at 0200, Pathfinder drop at 0030.
- Reasonable seas, to give good visibility and reduce seasickness among assault troops.
- A fair wind blowing inshore to drive dust and smoke toward the enemy.
- A period that had long days to facilitate maximum use of air power.

Obviously, every one of those conditions could not be hoped for, but the planners selected several possible windows that should have produced optimum conditions.

Windows:

- 21-22-23 May
- 5-6-7 June
- 19-20-21 June (but no full moon then)
- Dates in July.

On 8 May 1944, the planners selected 5-6-7 June as the best date.

Other Considerations: Planners were eager to use the earliest possible date

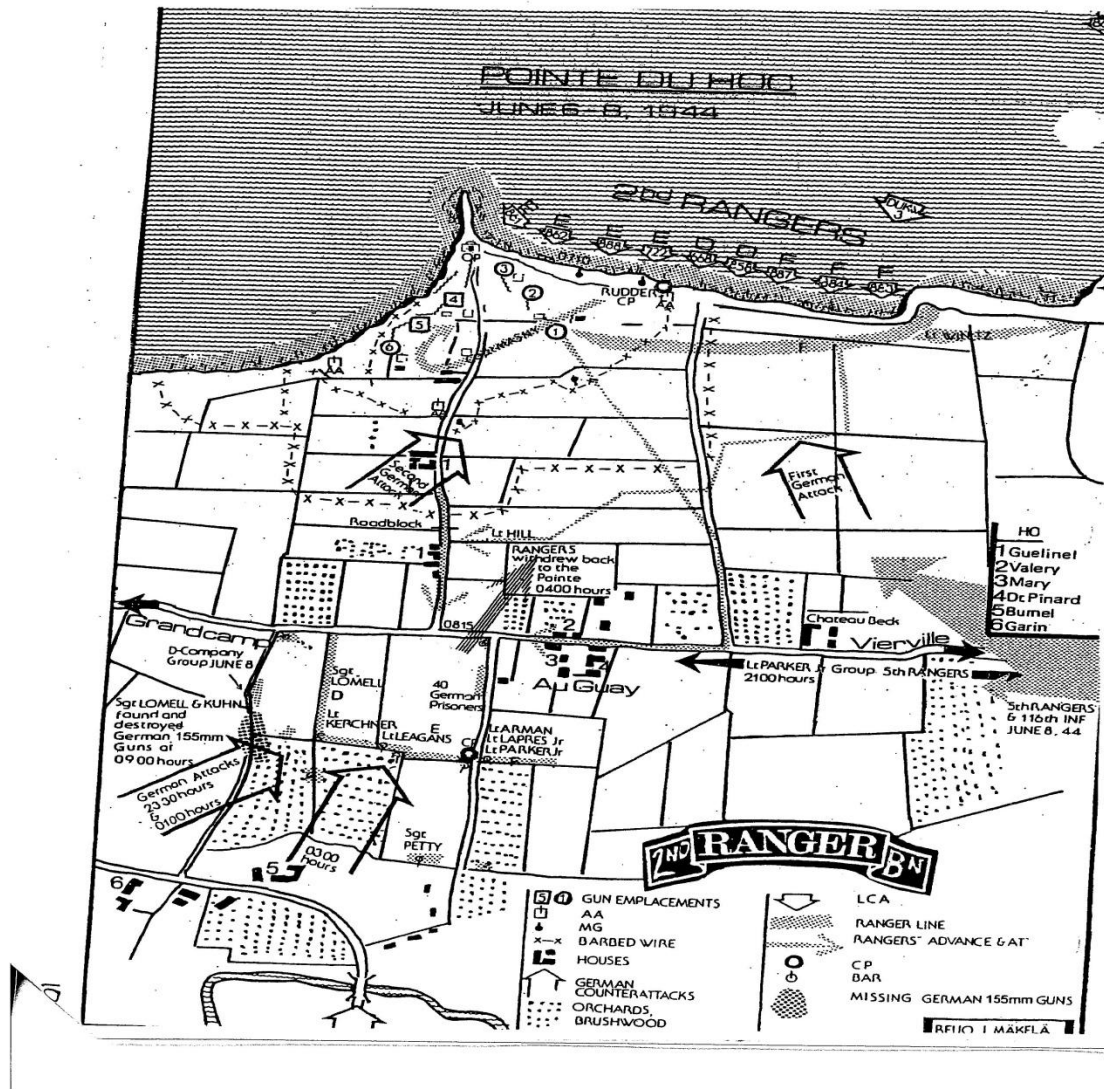
- **Political Considerations.** Churchill feared allowing the Soviets to push too far into Central Europe. He was already thinking about the post-war situation.
- **Strategic Considerations.** SHAEF wanted as long a campaigning season as possible, and wanted to exploit the long summer days and good weather.
- **Security Considerations.** Putting off the invasion increased the risk that German intelligence would discover SHAEF's intentions.
- **Practical Considerations.** The initial D-Day was 5 June, but the invasion was put off for 24 hours because of bad weather. Ships were already at sea and had to be recalled. If the invasion were postponed again on 6 June, with the ships at sea again, then many of them would have to be refueled. That could not be accomplished in time to carry out a landing on 7 June. Therefore, a postponement on 5 June meant a 6 June landing or a further postponement until 19 June. Eisenhower was thus under many sorts of pressure to launch the invasion on 6 June, regardless of the marginal weather conditions.

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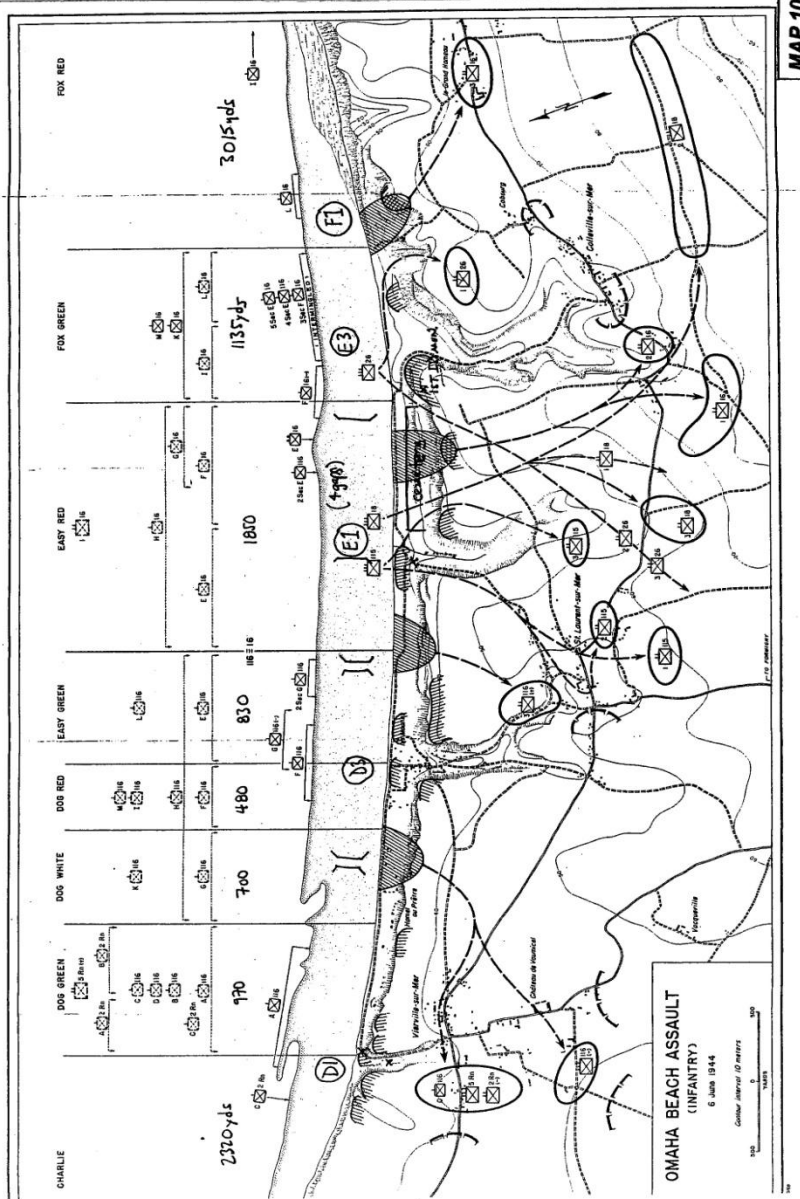
MAP PACKET #1



Pointe Du Hoc



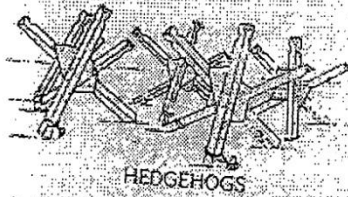
OMAHA BEACH ASSAULT



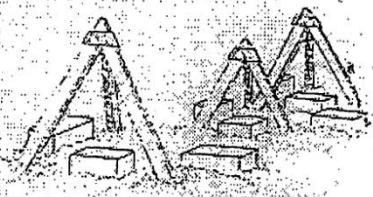
OF OMAHA BEACH



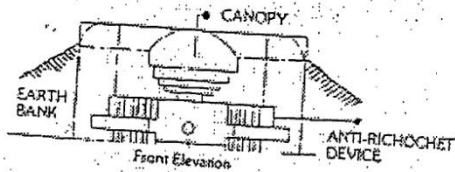
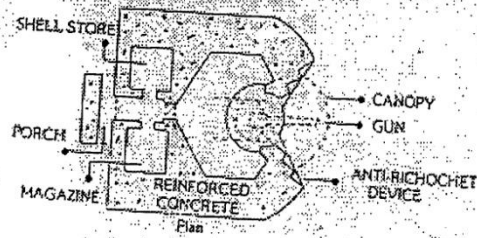
UNDER WATER & BEACH OBSTACLES



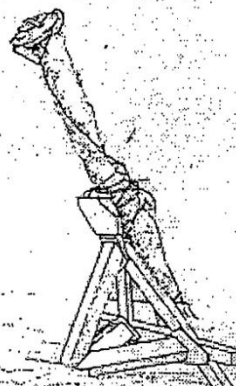
HEDGEHOGS



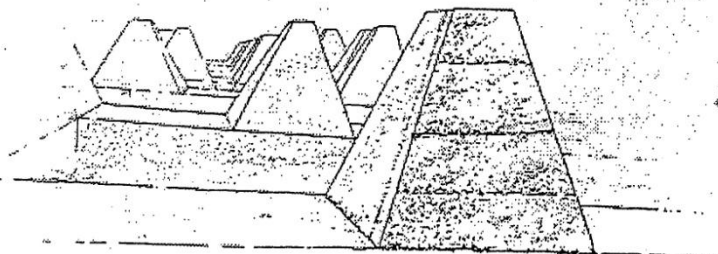
TETRAHEDRA I



TYPE 'C' GUN EMPLACEMENT



TETRAHEDRA II WITH
STAKE & MINE ATTACHED



CONCRETE ANTI-TANK DEVICES



News from The Descendants of WWII Rangers, Inc POSTAGE

2500 Sandycreek Dr., Shelby Twnshp, MI 48316

The next issue of the newsletter will include reunion information. All newsletter contents are subject to review and approval by the Board of Directors for the Descendants of WWII Rangers. **Contents of the newsletter may not be reproduced or republished without Board of Directors approval.**

**See you at the WWII Ranger Reunion
In Fort Walton Beach, Florida
During September 19 - 22, 2015!**