Editor’s Final Message

The lead paragraph in my message of the past several issues involved predictions about the “Last” reunion and newsletter. This time there is 100% agreement among the Fort Leonard Wood attendees and those who in the past have persisted in scheduling at least one more meeting. THERE WILL BE NO MORE ORGANIZED MEETINGS. My preference expressed before and since the 2006 Fort Huron meeting was that we should end the reunions prior to the point in time when attendance would become a burden to the aging veterans. However, I now concede I am pleased that those not willing to stop won out and that the meetings (even though small) did continue until 2009 at Fort Leonard Wood. At this point I insert below Frank West’s most recent letter to me.

“Dear Max, Little did I think when I left the service on December 31, 1945, that I would again be in the company of my old friends. But the 48th started the reunions in 1959 which have continued to the present, a span of 50 great years. I did not find out about the reunions until 1984. That year it was in Bloomington, MN. I attended with Mike Jergovich and Al Grasmas. Since then we have been all across the country with the reunions and have had a good time at every one of them.

“Sadly, the reunions are now over. Our ranks have diminished. Very few men are able to attend anymore. We had a fantastic run though. We will always have the memories. The Scoop helped keep us together. Everyone was so happy to get each issue to read about their friends. We have you to thank for that.

“I would like to think that I also contributed in some way by putting together the Than And Now book. The book is still growing. I was very happy to get letters and pictures from the men. This effort was greatly aided by O. O. Munson and Ted Byler.

“I also want to mention the West Point reunions. We met for 10 years with the New York and New Jersey area men and others not able to travel to the regular reunions.

“The men of the 1108th, 48th and 235th can be proud of their WWII combat record. We served in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany and in the Pacific. Now we will have to be content by keeping in touch by mail or phone. Frank West.”

I have gone over in my head many versions of what I want to say in my final message. I keep coming back to a desire to express how my view of the reunions evolved over the years even though I realize others may not see it the same way. However, I say, “So What! May be my views might stimulate the readers to think about their comparable thoughts.” Anyway, here goes. I am working really from memory so it is somewhat erratic.

I was on active duty in Germany when I was first contacted by the early 48th reunion planners about the meetings in Chicago. From Germany I went to Viet Nam. I was not able to attend until 1968. For me, this early experience meant clustering primarily with the B company attendees who I knew best. (It appeared to me this was the predominate experience of most everyone.) The excitement and pleasure of meeting Al Kincer, Wil Tully, Jack Mailey, Chuck Hanus, Wilson Reeves, Walter Fritz and their respective wives was exhilarating. At subsequent reunions, the circle of contacts began to expand to encompass others of B Company, e.g., Frank Bonanno, plus those of C Company of the 48th, e.g., Mark Reardon, Leroy Weil, Gordon Brooker, Virgil Treloar and of course, Wilford Stagner and Marge, his wife, who ended up attending all the reunions, even after Wilford died. At every reunion I remember there was always Colonel K. S. Andersson,

WHAT’S INSIDE . . .

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2009 ROSTER .................................................. 38 – 47
History of Reunions ............................................. Back Cover
the old Group commander. He attended (going blind) until his death in the early 1980’s. I eventually got to meet for the first time, others of the 48th and the 235th. A powerful memory is that of Walter Sorrell of the 235th, who would reserve a suite of rooms where many gathered for loud and spirited celebration. Walter got on the phone (when long distance calling was not cheap) and called a long list of those not attending to berate them good naturally for not showing up. (All were saddened when Walter died suddenly just before the 1988 reunion in Alexandria, Virginia. We lost one of our most enthusiastic reunion attendees.) Speaking of the 1988 reunion, I must mention Joe Pessa who did most of the detailed arrangements and the help of Joe Foley in many ways. Also, Jack & Ginny Mailey worked hard in organizing the transportation for the tours and the convoy to Ft. Belvoir for the Specker Medal of Honor plaque ceremony and reception.

I remember a period when companies made special efforts to get record numbers of their members to show up. Noteworthy was A Company of the 235th. They used to congregate on Friday night of each reunion for a dinner together. I recall John Zimmerman being a prime organizer of this practice. Al Kinzer, did a lot of lobbying of B, 48th members to swell the ranks at the reunions. Bill Snyder spent a year contacting A. 48th members to get 46 men to attend for the first time in 1989 at Nashville.

Then there was the development of the membership listing. I am inserting in the box below part of the opening page of the 2003 roster dealing with this and the start of the newsletter in February 1999.

Eventually, we decided we simply had to have caps to wear at our reunions. Al Kinzer was called upon to arrange for the design, production and purchase of the 48th caps. Jim Morrison had the same job for the 235th. For many years they were bought for every reunion (different styles and colors) until the number of orders from members needing one grew too small to make this feasible. Guys like Clarence Krava started buying Tec shirts emblazoned with the 48th’s crest for distribution to those wanting them. (Marge Stagner wore hers proudly at every subsequent reunion.)

In 1986 General Clark, who had been the 235th Commander and later Group Commander, announced at the Hot Springs reunion in 1986 that the Army’s heraldic element would OK the establishment of a unit crest for the 235th and displayed design options (prepared by Dallas Lynch) for consideration by the reunion attendees. A design was selected and a lot of work and money contributions ensued by 235th members (particularly promoted by Dallas Lynch and General Clark). At the 1988 reunion in Alexandria, Virginia the insignia devices were ready for distribution. Now the crest started showing up on the 235th caps, sewn on blazer pockets, incorporated onto the reunion banner hung on the wall at each reunion and in other ways.

At the 48th’s mini-reunion in Chicago in 1993, Bill Munson revealed that since 1988 he had been in contact with the Corps of Engineers museum at Fort Leonard Wood, researching the specifications for a permanently displayed bronze wall plaque. It would cost about $1,000. The response from attendees was immediate and enthusiastically positive. Jack Mailey quickly pledged his donation which got the ball rolling. This developed into a project to get it done. Bill Munson contacted Dallas Lynch of the 235th who launched a similar effort by 235th members. In fact the 235th got their’s done first, using Dallas Lynch’s design. Some different design viewpoints among 48th members had to be resolved. By 1994 the final arrangements were complete. The plaques were placed. Miniature bronze copies were available for purchase by individuals. Very attractive paper copies were made (same size as the miniature plaques). Note some photos of the plaques are included in the photo coverage of the museum later in this newsletter issue.

Attendance declined in the late 1990’s prompting attendees to develop stronger friendships beyond war time unit associations. For me, this meant getting to know better the extended Spears family who hosted four reunions starting in 1999 and the Bottoms’ who did a great one in 2004 plus the 2009 Fort Leonard Wood meeting. I enjoyed Pat Currier and his son Scott and great daughter-in-law Dawn, who did the Port Huron reunions and, with help from the Wests, did the 2008 DC meeting. I always looked forward to meeting Fred and Betty Blake, Art & Ella Hoover (with daughter Lynda and son-in-law Ray), Lou and Vivian Ehrlich, the Seibolt clan and others.

I have rationalized that we really had our “FINAL REUNION” in four parts. I will cover these in the reverse order in the following pages:
- Main Event in 2006 at Port Huron, Michigan (Per the vote at Dayton in 2005. Sponsors donated funds to make it special).
- Extension One in 2007 at Port Huron (My theory: For Scott Currier to include a boat ride on the Lake not available in 2005).
- Extension Two at The WWII Memorial in Washington DC (We had to see that.)
- Extension Three at The Home of the Engineers (To donate our Reunion Banner to the Corps of Engineers Museum.)

See also page 36.
Dana LaRochelle, General Manager (self described as a 42 year old grandmother) looked out for us very well. On one occasion she provided, to some of us, parts of a chinese buffet order intended for the hotel staff.

Jennifer Brown, representative of the motel staff serving us.

---

Captain Chris Sawfer (who guided us through the entire reunion) greets Maealine Bottoni, the hostess.
(We owe the Bottoni's big time for stepping in to salvage this reunion when the original hosts could not do it.)

Remarks from our Hosts, Frank and Maealine Bottoni

We were pleased with the turn-out at Fort Leonard Wood on October 15th, 16th, 17th for the last reunion of the 1108th Group along with its 48th and 235th Combat Engineer Battalions. Max Jonah, Frank Bottoni, Art Hoover, Harry Boyko, Louis Ehritz, and Ed Schramm were the veterans present. Also joining our gathering were two Korean War Vets, Rudy Vesely and Charles Philipian. We went there to retire our Reunion Banner and two hooked-rug wall hangings (used as podium scarves at the reunions). The banner was signed many times over the years. The two wall hangings were handmade by two of our Ladies of our group. The weather was not the best, but a good time of fellowship was had by all.

Our guide at the base was Captain Chris Sawfer. He gave us a great tour. We found things there were sure different. We returned to the base for the ceremony at the Corps of Engineers museum where we presented our artifacts to Colonel Mize, who represented the Museum. Max Jonah gave a brief history of our Group. As usual Max did a great job.

Saturday night we went to dinner where Captain Sawfer and his family joined us. We then returned to the motel where a Memorial Service was provided by the Bottoni daughters, Karen and Cathy. Comments were offered by members and cake and coffee were served. Others in attendance were Maealine Bottoni. Ella Hoover joined by her daughter and son in law, Lynda and Ray Lippert. Also attending were Ed Schramm’s son, Scott Schramm, as well as Yvonne Vesely, Linda Philipian and Vivian Ehritz. After fond farewells we were all on the road again Sunday with farewells and great memories.
All Attendees
See Page 5 to match up faces with names.
A few shots taken in the motel lobby which served very well as our "Hospitality Suite" during the entire reunion.
We were guided to some of the training sites. We found that our old friend the Bailey Bridge is still very much in use sixty-five years after we built so many of them.

However, a replacement bridge system is coming into use to accommodate the much heavier loads involved in the current army. The new system no longer will be able to be placed by manpower alone, as was the Bailey. Heavy lifting equipment will be necessary.
A specialized truck and some components of the new bridge in development

Below are a few shots taken from our moving bus as we were driven around the extensive training areas for many types of construction equipment operator and maintenance people. What was very impressive was the really huge training areas and the very high inventory of the equipment involved. Many were very large items, bigger by far than what we had available in WWII.

At this extremely large and well equipped training base we were shown barracks areas for trainees from all the armed forces. This included the Airforce, The Marines, The Navy and others.
OUR VISIT TO THE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS MUSEUM

As we go in, during our Friday afternoon tour, some soldiers also making a visit.

Several other large groups of soldiers toured also.

Captain Sawfer and the vets pose by a piece of the Remagen bridge over the Rhine, saved from destruction by an engineer unit

The tour starts with a briefing

THE GREAT REGIMENTAL HALL
<<<<< --- >>>>>
OUR PLAQUES

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO BILL MUNSON AND DALLAS LYNCH FOR PROMOTING THEM INTO EXISTENCE.

The start of the tour of exhibits. Due to low lighting and much glass reflection making most flash photos unusable, this and one photo of the Bailey bridge mock up to lower left, is all we got.

Max and Chris talk about Chris' tours to Iraq and Afghanistan
The museum people say they are getting memorabilia from other units. They are thinking about how they will display it perhaps on some kind of a schedule. They were pleased to get our banner and the other items.

The last chance to sign and view our banner.

The army guys there said they were going to sign it too. After all, they were guests at our reunion.
Max Jonah was “drafted” to address The audience at the ceremony retiring our reunion banner. Max brought our other vets to the floor.

Our ceremony followed one by the 26th Engineer Battalion (service in Vietnam). They were presenting their plaque for display in Regimental Hall. Their members stayed to witness our ceremony.
FINAL CEREMONY

The Last Roundup of the 1108th
A sampling of photos on this page
FINAL REUNION - EXTENSION 3
ON LAKE HURON

A sampling of photos on this page
Final Reunion - Official Port Huron

A sampling of photos from that issue are included below. Also copied from the February 2007 issue are the three pages listing the "Final Reunion Sponsors" and their parting comments.
**“FINAL” REUNION SPONSORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPONSOR</th>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>HONORED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harry Boyko</td>
<td>A&amp;C, 235th</td>
<td>Ocala, FL</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Currier</td>
<td>A, 48th</td>
<td>China, MI</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leon Genis</td>
<td>Hq, 235th</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>Arnold Blumberg, Edward Jacksonsikie, Abe Gardner, Luzon, Mercer and many other friends.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To my dear friend, S/Sgt Arnold Blumberg, you are missed. My heart goes out to all.

Your Buddy Leon Genis

**Arthur Hoover**  

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<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
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<th>HONORED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B, 235th</td>
<td>Topeka, KS</td>
<td>Jim Morrissey</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

On James Morrissey by Ella Hoover: Shortly after Art and I were married in 1946, Art told me what a “super” man Jim was. Jim was a Captain and was a Company Commander in the company Art served with in Italy. Art had the deepest respect for Jim and we began to know him and his wife, Adel, when we sent a letter with our Christmas greetings each year. They always sent a letter also, and we enjoyed hearing from them each year. We did not know of the reunions until Jim contacted us and urged us to come in 1986 to Hot Springs, Arkansas. We did.

When I met Jim and Adel I immediately saw the qualities that Art had spoken of as I got to know Jim. We always looked forward to our visit with the Morrises at the reunions. Jim’s last one was in Florence, Kentucky in 2003. Jim told Art & I that that it would be the last time he would be able to attend and he left this world in February of 2004. I can truly say he was one of the most friendly and neat people I have known. We visited them one summer in San Antonio when we were traveling with our RV. They made us feel so welcome in their home with the two couples we were traveling with. If every young soldier had a Commanding Officer like Jim Morrissey, he would be a LUCKY MAN!

In Rememberance to a wonderful person, Jim Morrissey.

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<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>HONORED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B, 48th</td>
<td>Florissant, MO</td>
<td>Orville Munson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Double O&quot; Munson, who has been instrumental in making the world (and us) more knowlegable of the actions of the 48th during the “big one”, WWII.</td>
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Max Jonah  

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<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>HONORED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B&amp;C, 48th</td>
<td>Sarasota, FL</td>
<td>K. S. Andersson, A. J. Goodpaster Allen Clark, Al Kineer, Will Tully &amp; Wilson Reeves</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
With respectful memories of our Senior Leaders: Kingsley Andersson - 1108th Group Commander who came to our reunions until his death; General Goodpaster, a world class celebrity who never lost touch and was with us in 2004 just before he died; BG Clark - 235th & 1108th Commander who got the 235th’s crest for us and attended reunions until his death; Al Kincer - B, 48th commander who has kept close to his men plus their wives and widows until the present; Will Tully and Wilson Reeves whose leadership I admired during the war and with whom I’ve enjoyed friendship during our many reunions.

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<th>Sponsor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Art Kalish</td>
<td>C, 48th</td>
<td>Villa Park, IL</td>
<td>Walker Sorell</td>
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<td>Dallas Lynch</td>
<td>Hq, 235th</td>
<td>Little Rock, AR</td>
<td>Andy Goodpaster</td>
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<td>Recon - S2</td>
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<td>Frank Polich</td>
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<td>Cassino, Rome,</td>
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<td>Allen Clark</td>
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<td>Pisa, Poe</td>
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<td>Paul Brose</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Mack Gibson</td>
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<td>George Reed</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Dr. Ben Warren</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mark Reardon</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bill Munson</td>
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All have Passed On: Worked with Sorell & Goodpaster during first breach of Gustav line at Cassino, 28 Jan. '44. General Goodpaster said this was his launching pad to future success.

Frank Polich: Relentless drive with many casualties.

Allen Clark: His leadership revived 235th Bn. My son & grandson are named after Allen Clark.

Paul Brose: Rome, Pisa, Poe, Brenner Pass, 235th Bn Ops on 50 mile front. Great management!

Mack Gibson & George Reed: Recon courage, able fighters, accurate reports on enemy, terrain & projects!

Dr. Ben Warren: Post Trauma comfort/care.

Mark Reardon: Good friend, excellent job as unit historian!

"OO" Bill Munson: Excellent leader, fighter, Engineer, Friend!

ESSAYONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&quot;Double O&quot;</th>
<th>A &amp; Hq, 48th</th>
<th>Tahlequah, OK</th>
<th>Not Specified</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Munson</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mable &amp; Sharon</td>
<td>A, 48th</td>
<td>Barron, WI</td>
<td>Harvey Nelson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nelson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Pessa</td>
<td>Hq, 48th</td>
<td>Evans, GA</td>
<td>Max Jonah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harold Ragotzkie</td>
<td>A, 235th</td>
<td>Albany, NY</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Rate</td>
<td>Hq, 235th</td>
<td>Rochester, NY</td>
<td>Bill Spears</td>
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William Spears, a gracious host of 4 reunions. Request the Port Huron hosts include a candle ceremony with TAPS sounded for our departed comrades. (This was done.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPONSOR</th>
<th>UNIT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Edmund Rose</td>
<td>Hq, 235th</td>
<td>Salem, VA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roy Sariff</td>
<td>Hq, 235th</td>
<td>Plant City, FL</td>
<td>Not Specified</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerald Smither</td>
<td>A, 235th</td>
<td>Clearwater, FL</td>
<td>Archie Visnaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>S/Sgt Archie Visnaw, (died in 1990) 3rd platoon sergeant, Co. A, 235th Engrs. (later battlefield commissioned) was instrumental in pulling this grateful platoon leader through his first assignment in a field of operation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia Sorrell (Wife of Walker)</td>
<td>Hq, 235th</td>
<td>Montgomery, AL</td>
<td>Walker Sorrell and his Friends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Editor's Note: Walker Sorrell was a key staff member of the 235th and a high-spirited participant at our early reunions before his death in 1988.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leland Van der Veer, Jr.</td>
<td>A, 48th</td>
<td>Fultonville, NY</td>
<td>Chester Campbell and William Spears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporal Chester Campbell, killed early in Italy, was my very good buddy. William Spears was a great participant in so many reunions and is fondly remembered.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank West</td>
<td>C, 235th</td>
<td>Carteret, NJ</td>
<td>BG allen Clark, Mike Jergovich, Milford Rostkowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Living: The young, spry, dynamic duo of Al Kincer and Will Tully; The Deceased: Curtis Ponder and Frank Walker.</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Yeager</td>
<td>B, 48th</td>
<td>Parsippany, NJ</td>
<td>Al Kincer, Will Tully, Curtis Ponder &amp; Frank Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All good soldiers. All good friends. A major regret in my life was losing touch with all my buddies in the 48th and 2335th for forty years.</td>
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THE NEXT STEP
MAKE VISITS TO THE COMBAT ENGINEERS WEB PAGE

A PIECE OF THE WEB PAGE (IN GREAT COLORS ON THE INTERNET). SEE FOLLOWING PAGES.

VI Corps Combat Engineers

Welcome History Photo Gallery Resource/Reference/Links Memoirs Newsletters Media Sale Items

Welcome to VI Corps Combat Engineers

page updated 11/19/09

November 7, 2009

In Memoriam...

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the wounded and fallen at Fort Hood, who have experienced a horrendous tragedy, this past Thursday. This weighs heavily upon my soul, for it was only last week when a couple of "my vets" and myself, were invited to spend three days with the 36th Engineer Brigade, the very same soldiers who were mercilessly gunned down by a fellow soldier, killing thirteen and wounding dozens more, before being shot himself.

My heart goes out to Colonel Kent Savre, and all the fine men and women who lost friends and loved ones. I proudly wear my "Rugged" pin in remembrance.

Stay Rugged,
Marion

Dedicated To

This site features information regarding the 36th (2826th, 2827th & 2828th), 39th, 540th (2832nd & 2833rd) and the 1108th (48th & 235th) Combat Engineer Regiments, who bravely fought against the Axis powers from North Africa into Sicily, Italy, France, Central Europe and ended their tour of duty in Germany in 1945.

http://www.6thcorpscombatengineers.com/11032009 1:32:27 PM]
A LABOR OF LOVE

I spent hours deliberating the content of this newsletter before coming to the inescapable conclusion; it all revolves around that simple but oh so encompassing word - love. It’s the reason I pursued my father’s WWII history, the reason I continued and expanded my research, the reason I spent thousands of hours creating and maintaining my website, the reason I decided to produce a documentary dedicated to him and his fellow engineers, and the reason I am here today writing to you. Without that passion, none of this would have been possible. It remains my drive even when I run into obstacles and momentary set-backs and keeps my hopes and dreams alive. LOVE!

Special thanks...

I am honored to be invited to address you once again, and wish to thank Max Jonah for his continued support. I’d also like to thank everyone who contributed materials for the website and the documentary, and encourage everyone else to take a moment to do the same. Additional materials are always welcome!

I must express special thanks to Al Kincer, my dear friend and mentor. I miss him very much and words cannot express the influence he had on my work. I am forever grateful for our friendship. You shall never be forgotten.

Al Kincer, 48th Combat Engineer Battalion

The website...

The website continues to grow exponentially from its humble beginnings in June 2004, when it was a simple two-page spread with the meager facts I knew about my father and his unit, the 540th Combat Engineers. It now contains hundreds of info pages, dozens and dozens of veteran’s stories, countless WWII links, over two-thousand engineer photos, and a very active forum with nearly 700 members.

I’ve been painstakingly scanning and uploading documentation provided by the National Archives
in Maryland. These precious records include S-1 through S-4 daily, weekly, monthly journals, after-action reports, maps and even a few images. The 540th records were acquired through the help of a hired research-assistant, but many others have been shared by the veterans and their families and now include other engineer units. These are just priceless!

My father, Tec5 Walter “Monday” Poniedzialek
540th Combat Engineer

The website has allowed me to meet people all over the world, including other historians, those with an avid interest in history, and veterans and their families. Within the piles of mail and email I receive, are the heartwarming letters of thanks for providing this “service” for the engineers. Amongst those are ones explaining how our site provided the means of putting them back together with foxhole buddies they haven’t seen in over sixty years. When you read these, you can’t help but get all misty-eyed. What could be more inspirational?

One of the latest and greatest additions came from the Army Curator’s Office in Washington D.C. Their curator, Renee Klish and her wonderful staff, spent countless hours photographing dozens of drawings, and making them available to me on CD. These works were by army engineers who served in the ETO, and are just fantastic. These and other images may be accessed on the site (see Photo Gallery) or directly through the link below.

http://www.6thcorpscombatengineers.com/imagevue/?p=gallery#/content/start/

Not only am I sharing these with everyone through the website, but many will also be included within the documentary. What a great gift. Thank you Renee!

Who would have every imagined all this? Not me!
One of the superb drawings in the collection

No Bridge Too Far - A documentary in progress...

What started off as a book, has now progressed into a full-blown, several-hour documentary series featuring the 36th, 39th, 540th and 1108th Engineer Regiments. My grand hope was to have “this baby” finished by spring, but as we all know, sometimes things just don’t go as planned...

As with any type of project involving outside sources, there are always complications and setbacks, and this one was no exception to the rule. While stonewalls were anticipated, I had no idea just how much work this would be. Nor did I realize the extent of red-tape and hours I would spend jumping through all the hoops.

First off I had to deal with copyright issues, and in this day and age, it’s nothing to scoff at. Can anyone spell l-a-w-y-e-r-s? Even though most of the material I am using within the production is public-domain (meaning it’s free to use and incorporate), several songs, etc., warranted contacting various companies to determine whether or not I could, let alone what costs might arise!

For instance, I originally wanted to insert two photos of Bing Crosby and “gang” from the movie White Christmas. But after contacting Universal Film Studios, I determined I didn’t need to use them THAT BAD! Ha-ha! It was going to cost $500.00 per photo, and even though they were very kind and were willing to cut a deal with me, it was still a bit too rich for my blood (well budget). However, it wasn’t all a lost cause.
The same sequence also uses a segment of the tune, White Christmas with Bing on vocals, and believe it or not, I was granted a very generous license by both the Irving Berlin Publishing Company, and Universal Music, thus making it plausible to keep this in the production. I’m delighted for it was integral to a veteran’s story from boot camp, during the Christmas of ’41.

Secondly, I was in dire need of young men to provide the voice-overs for the veterans. While several friends and family members came to my assistance, I still lacked enough volunteers and began looking elsewhere. I finally came up with a plausible solution: why not contact drama departments from local universities. It would solve my dilemma and also be a good experience for undergrad and grad students.

Well my first two attempts didn’t quite work, and I went through a set of disappointing set-backs, and was now two months further behind schedule. You can well imagine my frustration at this point, but not one to give up easily, I sent out a plea to my alma mater, Eastern Michigan University. They instantly replied with, “Let’s give it a try!”, so beginning next week, we are going to give this our best shot. I’ve heard “third time’s a charm”, so let’s hope that old adage still rings true.

In spite of all the delays, the project is turning out better than my wildest expectations, and I’ve received a lot of positive response. Just recently I was invited (along with two of “my vets”) to attend the 36th Engineer Brigade’s “Rugged” Conference at Fort Hood (the massacre took place a mere week later), all expenses paid! We spent three wonderful days participating in the conference, touring the base and attending a wonderful engineer’s ball. A grand time was had by all, and a portion of my documentary was featured in the history segment of the conference. It was quite an honor.

Because I am writing, directing and producing this myself, I am applying for grants and now seeking corporate sponsorship. This will allow me to continue my work, and give me the opportunity of submitting to PBS. Contrary to what you may believe, they will not air your production for free. After talking with several people who have gone down this road, I’ve discovered it’s quite an expensive venture! Regardless of acquiring immediate air-time, I plan on selling the several-DVD set from our website upon completion, and will be inquiring into packaging costs in the near future.

I’ve had several people ask, “Is it too late to submit material for the documentary?”, and the answer is a resounding, no! So if you’d like to share your story, or submit photos, or if you have any additional questions, don’t hesitate to contact me. I’d be thrilled to hear from you.

Also if anyone is interested, I will be more than happy to send a copy of the “work in progress”. Just send me your name and address, and $5.00 to cover the cost of the DVD’s and postage.
In Closing

For those of you who didn't realize, the 1108th (especially the 48th Battalion), had a very close working relationship throughout the war with my father's unit, the 540th Combat Engineer Regiment. You will find these points of discovery on the website, and also in the upcoming documentary.

I look forward to hearing from you, and plan to keep the history of the 1108th, alive and kicking for a very long time. I'm glad I got the chance to meet many of you in person, and hope you will remain in contact with me for years to come.

Warmly,

Marion J Chard
Proud Daughter of Walter “Monday” Poniedziałek
540th Combat Engineer – WWII

www.6thcorpscombatengineers.com
marionj@thechards.com or
mjchard@6thcorpscombatengineers.com

1460 Joy St / PO Box 147
Alger, MI 48610-0147

Cell – 989-859-8418

Marion Chard and Ray West
sharing a laugh at one of the Port Huron reunions
## TAPS
Comrade Losses Learned of Since November 2008

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edward Casto, C, 48th</th>
<th>Basil Martin, A, 48th</th>
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<td>LaPorte, IN</td>
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<td>Peggy Clapper (Wife of Carl) A, 235th</td>
<td>Robert Mitchell, B, 235th</td>
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<td>Tribes Hill, NY</td>
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<td>John Duchessi, A, 235th</td>
<td>Floyd Smith, Jr, B, 48th</td>
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<td>Amsterdam, NY</td>
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<td>Died September 17, 2008</td>
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<td>Jean Lauschner (wife of Charles) A, 48th</td>
<td>Harry Strahm, C, 48th</td>
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<td>Clovis, NM</td>
<td>St. Joseph, MO</td>
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<td>Died April 27, 2009</td>
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<td>Ed Wenzel, A, 235th</td>
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<td>Vulcan, MI</td>
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<td>Died March 10, 2009</td>
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### Edward Casto

By Marcelle Casto

Edward passed away on August 29, 2008. He was 87. He had COPD and was on oxygen for a few years. However, he never complained or griped about hauling that oxygen around. He was a real trooper. He had a military funeral and was buried in his uniform. Perhaps when you send a newsletter, you would tell all that he was one of the best men God ever created. We were married 62 years - 4 children - 10 grandchildren - 7 great-grandchildren. He lived a life of which to be proud. God had a special plan for his life or he would have been killed in the war. He was a child of God and we know he is reaping his reward in heaven. I miss him a lot but was so privileged to be his help mate for 62 years.

### John Duchessi

By Harold Ragotzkie

John M. Duchessi, SR., 85, of Amsterdam, New York, passed away peacefully on September 17, 2008 with his son by his side. He was born in Amsterdam on June 24, 1923. He attended local schools and was employed by General Electric for 25 years until he retired. He was dedicated to his country, his community, the boxing arena and to his friends.

He entered the U.S. Army on January 2, 1943, serving with Company A, 235th Combat Engineers. He received the Purple Heart after being wounded on Janu-
ary 17, 1944 in the Battle for the Abbey at Monte Casino, Italy. He returned to battle after two months of recuperation in Bizertie, Africa and served three months after the war in the Philippines, still with the 235th Engineers.

After the war he became an active member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, rising through the ranks of the organization. He served as New York State and Region Commander, then as National Commander in 1975 and 1976. He served as Chairman of the Board of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation in 1986. During his more than 50 years of service to the MOPH, his most notable occasion was his direct participation in the Department of Defense ceremony where posthumous awards of the Purple Heart Medal were presented at the entombed unknowns of WWI, WWII and Korea at Arlington National cemetery on August 7, 1976.

John gave his time and talents to many civic organizations in which he played an active role. These included the Knights of Columbus, Sons of Italy, Little League Baseball and Football, Amsterdam Football Boosters and Scouting, as well as many other veterans groups not previously mentioned.

Ever the pugilist in body and spirit, “Duke the Dropper” was an AAU Boxer before the war, posting 17 wins and one loss. In 1942, at station WRGB, he fought in one of the first televised fights.

He leaves his beloved wife of nearly 60 years, Eleanor Zappone Duchessi, two sons and their families, 4 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild, a brother and sister and other relatives.

He was buried with military honors.

Jean Lauschner

By Chuck, Sandy & Judy Lauschner

Dad, Sandy and I wanted to let you know that Mom passed away Monday, April 27th. She had been in the hospital the week before to have a kidney stone removed that was causing her pain and blocking the kidney. The doctor said the kidney was very irritated and put in a stent. She felt well and was released on Thursday.

On Friday she started to feel tired and had a loss of appetite. This continued on through Sunday, when her doctor advised her to go to the emergency room. Sunday evening, the ER doctor determined that her kidneys were shutting down, and she had also had a heart attack. The Clovis doctors felt she would need emergency dialysis, so they suggested transferring her to Lubbock. The receiving doctor at Covenant performed a more thorough exam on her heart, which showed a rupture between the two lower chambers. There was nothing they could do.

We knew she would want us to let you know.

PS by Max Jonah: Jean and I got to be buddies at the South Dakota reunion. She was a fun lady.
Harry Strahm

By Betty Strahm

Harry Strahm, 92, passed away in his home in St Joseph, MO on January 28, 2009 after about 9 years of struggle. He went peacefully.

He was born on January 18, 1917 in Sabetha, Kansas. He attended school in Bern and Morrill, Kansas.

In 1934, when he was 17, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and spent the winter building dams in Minnesota. He then worked for area farmers and later traveled to California and worked at MGM as a carpenter.

In 1942, Harry was called to serve in the army during world war II, with C Company, 48th Combat Engineers. Afterwards, he moved to St. Joseph, Missouri.

On August 24, 1947, he and I, Betty Smith, were married. We had 61 great years together. We had three sons who provided us with seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

He was buried with military honors.

Harry was a great husband and father. We all will remember the great moments we shared.

Robert Mitchell

By Max Jonah

Robert Mitchell died July 9, 2008. His wife, Janet died May 14, 2004 (reported on in August 2004 Scoop). No formal obituary notice is available.

Bob and Janet were regular and enthusiastic attendees at many of our reunions. Bob continued attending after Janet died, bringing his daughter, Connie. In fact, they teamed up to host our 2005 reunion in Dayton, Ohio. The number of people applying to attend dropped to the lowest ever. So they faced the difficulty of arranging a suitable hospitality area for a relatively small group. They resourcefully worked out a great solution with the hotel. Within the combination bar and restaurant area there was a part of the “L” shaped bar area which was cordoned off for our exclusive use. It was directly tied to the restaurant, making it practical for the waiters to serve meals right in our area so the camaraderie never stopped. The bar’s music and dance area was immediately adjacent to us, providing a festive mood to the area in the evenings. It was a really “cool” set up.

We miss you Bob.
Floyd Smith, Jr.

By Roger Smith (Floyd’s Son)

Floyd Smith, 89, Neenah, died Saturday, September 5, 2009, at Valley VNA Assisted Living. He was born October 4, 1919, in Rewey, son of Floyd Sr. and Rachel (Calder) Smith. Floyd married Anna P. Smith July 27, 1946, in Oshkosh and she preceded him in death January 31, 2003. Mr. Smith was a 1943 U.W. Oshkosh graduate with a B.S. degree. He was also a 1953 U.W. Madison graduate with a Master’s degree in School Administration. Floyd was a High School principal at Barneveld and Kendall, WI along with St. Charles, MN. He served as guidance counselor and assistant principal for 6 years at Seymour High School. Mr. Smith was also employed at the State of Wisconsin Division of Labor and Human Relations as a counselor for employment services from 1963 until his retirement in 1981.

Floyd enjoyed skiing and was a good muskie fisherman. He was a great father and grandfather who loved his family.

Floyd is survived by his 2 sons: Roger Smith, Neenah; Brett Smith, Larsen; a grandson, Mark (Katie) Smith, Redgranite; 2 great grandchildren: Korrina and Ezra Smith; 2 brothers: Dr. Nathan (Marcella) Smith, LaConners, WA; Duane Smith, Tuscon, AZ; a sister-in-law, Florence (Dennis) Holtman, Escanaba, MI; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and other relatives.

He was also preceded in death by sisters-in-law, Jean Smith, Jean Strauss and Albena Larsen.

He was a U.S. Army veteran of WWII with the Combat Engineers in North Africa, Italy France and Germany.

Funeral services were on September 10, 2009 with interment at Lake View Memorial Park, Oshkosh, Wisconsin with full military honors. A member of the Tommy Dorsey band played TAPS.

Ed Wenzel

By Josephine Wenzel

Josephine reported at Christmas time that Ed at 93 years of age was still in a nursing home where he had been for several months. He was mentally alert, watching all the ball games and seeing lots of visitors. He continued doing OK up until February but he suffered a fall. On March 10th he died and is now at rest.
Paul Bossis, B 235th: Paul and Elizabeth loved being at the reunion in Washington, DC last September. They were joined by their son George who drove them there. Elizabeth wrote, “We received your 2008 Roster and the Scoop. Paul and I enjoyed reading every word and reminiscing about the wonderful 4 days. Our only regret was that we missed and did not know about all the past reunions. Everyone at the reunion, veterans and their families, were lively, cordial and terrific, making us feel wonderful. Our 17 year old grandson is looking forward to joining us with his father, George, and mother on the next reunion at Fort Leonard Wood. May God keep us all in good health.” Unfortunately Paul called to say Elizabeth’s health would prevent their trip to Fort Leonard Wood.

Frank & Maelaine Bottini and two of their kids, A & Hq 235th: Their remarks at the conclusion of the Fort Leonard Wood gathering are expressed in the main articles describing the reunion.

Vernon Champlin (Grandson of Vernon Snodgrass) B 48th: Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bottini, I am writing in response to your invitation to attend the 110th Reunion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri this coming October. I appreciate the invitation; unfortunately, I will be unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. For years I encouraged my Grandfather to attend a reunion but could never convince him to go. He started at Ft. Walthers, TX and was later wounded with the 110th near San Pietro, Italy (prior to the attack on Mt. Porchia) and never returned to the Group, finishing out the war with the 337th Quartermasters after a hospital recovery. I would like to request that when you attend the reunion this year, to let the attendees know that I would love to communicate with anyone who remembers my Grandfather. If anyone has pictures of my grandfather or stories of him, please have them contact me. Thank you again for your service to the 110th and to our Country.

Pat, Scott and Dawn Currier, A 48th: Pat’s health worsened after the September reunion in Washington, D.C. Pat has moved in with Scot & Dawn. They reported that the new situation has made it impossible to do the arrangements for the Fort Leonard Wood meeting and it would preclude their attendance, also. [Note above that Maelaine Bottini took over the planning and making the arrangements for the meeting at Fort Leonard Wood from October 15th to 18th. Pat, Scott and Dawn emailed their best wishes to the attendees during the meeting.]

Walt Ciaglo, Hq 235th: Max, thanks for all the memories and unselfish time that you have devoted to us all for these many years. How sad for these great reunions of ours to come to a final end. God willing so be it.

Marion Chard (Friend of Al Kinser) B 48th: Marion authors web pages of interest to us. She has sent several e-mail messages to the Editor. See the article in this issue dealing with the web pages and a book she is authoring.

Bertha (wife of Edward) Douglas, 1108th: Wishing the members of the combat engineer’s family all the best.

Louis (Lum) Edwards, B 48th: Sends holiday greetings.

Louis & Vivian Ehritz, C 235th: Said they would be at the Fort Leonard Wood reunion and indeed they were.

Hubert Fosbinder, C 48th: Hubert’s brother confirms he has hit the 100 years milestone. He is our oldest member. He sent a Christmas card. Heard from Helen West recently that she is ill. Hope he is now OK.

Ethel (wife of Shirley) Frazer, Hq 48th: Wrote to Frank & Maelaine Bottini thanking them for the invitation to the Fort Leonard Wood gathering and hoping for a good turnout. She and Shirley so enjoyed attending before his passing on March 23, 1996. She wanted the Bottini’s to say hello for her to all who made it. (Mae did so, Ethel.)

Leon (Lenny) & Dorothy Genis, Hq 235th: Lenny telephones on occasion to chat and provide updates on Ted Post’s activities. Sends a Christmas card. He is waiting for the report on the Fort Leonard Wood meeting.

Art & Ella Hoover, B 235th: Thanks for the newsletter about our Reunion in Washington, D.C. and the proposed one for next year at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. We had a good trip, all our flights were on time and the wheel chairs provided really made it easier to get Art from Point A to B. He isn’t much on the walking anymore. Art had a new Pace Maker installed Oct. 10. He has had one since Dec. 2000. The new one has given him a little more pep and he does not get pooped out so quickly. I hope your son is recovering from his surgery and doing well. Hope this finds you and Helen doing well—enjoy the winter in your warm haven—I hate winter—wish I was in Florida or Arizona.
Edward Jackson, B 48th: Ed sent a letter to Max Jonah at Christmas time in 2008 as well as one to Frank & Maeline Bottini in response to their announcement of the Fort Leonard Wood reunion. He had a light stroke last year and also fell and hurt his back. He had to wear a brace for sometime and use a walker. Like the WWII song said, "I Don't Get Around Much Anymore." In his letter to Frank and Maeline Bottini prior to the Fort Leonard wood reunion, Ed had included a paper he had composed in 2006 about the service of himself and his brothers. Maeline read it at the reunion. It is inserted below.

The Jackson Brothers In World War II
Five Jackson brothers served in World War II. Their names, starting with the eldest, were James, David, Edward, Lester and Helmer.

James went into the service in September of 1944. His over seas's duty was with Company H of the 3214 Division of the 8th Army stationed in Northern Japan. Later he served with 110th Headquarters and Headquarters Company in Yokohama, Japan. James was a cook and retained an interest in cooking today.

David entered the service in March of 1942. His over seas's duty was with the 8th Air Force in Liverpool, England. He worked in the supply depot.

I (Edward) entered the service in September of 1942. I was a truck driver with company B of the 48th Engineers. My over seas duty included a tour in North Africa for a short while, then I was in Italy with the 5th Army from October, 1943 until August of 1944. In August of 1944 the 48th Engineers joined the 7th Army in Southern France. From there we went to Belgium and Luxembourg. I was in South Germany at the end of the War.

Lester entered the service in early 1943. He served with the 739th tank battalion. He was with the 1st Armored over seas and served in Holland, Northern Belgium and North Germany. Lester was injured in Magdeburg, Germany in April of 1945. He was in a hospital in Oklahoma for seven or eight months after his return to the United States.

Helmer entered the service in the spring of 1944. He served with Company L, 358th Infantry Regiment of the 90th Division of the 35th Army over seas. He was killed on March 16th, 1945, his first day of combat. He was killed near Dijon, Belgium and was the only fatality in Company L that day. He was only nineteen years old. He is buried in the American Cemetery and Memorial in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg.

I am thankful for memories of most of the officers and men of Company B. I am especially grateful to Max Jonah for keeping up with the history and news of our group. A special thank you to Al Kincer, Fie and Capt. Martin were the first two officers I talked to when I joined the 48th Engineers in November of 1943 at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. Al signed my driver's license. He was the Motor Officer and later became Company Commander. We became good friends. Thank you again Al for the memories.

One of my best memories occurred in June of 1945. I received a ten-day furlough in London, England. While there, I found out that my brother, David, was stationed in Liverpool, England. I first talked to him by telephone then went to visit him for a few days. We had not seen each other in more than three years. We had a great time while we were together.

Thank you to ever one that contributed to these great memories.
Edward Jackson June 14, 2006

Allen and Mary Jants, B 48th: Sent seasons greetings

Eleanor (wife of Mike) Jergovich, C 235th: Sent Christmas card.

Max Jonah, B&C 48th: I have included my "Personal" item in my "Message Extension" on page 31.

Robert & Mary Jorgenson, B 48th: Sent Christmas card.

Art Kalish & Lynn, C 48th: Sent Christmas card. Looking forward to next year.

Charlie & Jean Lauschner, A 48th: Dear Max and Helen: Just a few lines to wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a blessed and Happy New Year. We hope you are both okay. Charlie and I are still managing but it is getting harder. Old age does take its toll! We are both very unsteady on our feet, need a walker or a cane to get around. Charlie had a cataract removed from his left eye this summer so we see fairly well again now. We sure will miss the "Scoop from Group", but realize that your printer could not handle it forever. Also so many have passed on. There aren't many of the old "gang" left to keep track of any more. Ah for the "good old days!" Take care now, may God bless you both and keep you safe!

Francis & Marjorie Mack, B 48th: Sent Christmas card.

Ginny (wife of John) Mailey, B 48th: Sent Christmas card with thanks for all the work on the "Scoop". Love to you and Helen.

Tony Marzo, A 235th: Enjoyed meeting you and your wonderful wife. The last "Scoop" was really great. Nancy and Bruce are fine.


Orville O. Munson, Hq & A 48th: Pretty much housebound lately. No more email. Still answering queries about things concerning the 48th, however. Still want to get the newsletter until the last issue.

Baxter and Donna Nash, C, 235th: CHRISTMAS 2008: There's nothing to brag about (except our new great-granddaughter, born December, 2007). Our little "world" continues to shrink, but we are continuing to look out for ourselves and each other. Don't travel much and really can't enjoy being out of our "routine" for much more than 2 or 3 days. We think we were down to Becky's and family twice - to Camilla, Ga., and about the same
to Buddy’s and family near Charlotte, NC. They are so busy, as all young families are these days. We haven’t developed any more ailments than we had — it’s just that they bother us more. Donna continues to have her speech hesitancy and I continue to talk when I should be listening. We do praise God for what we have and pray for our world and our society that somehow it will survive the huge changes that are rapidly approaching. May the Christ Child, who continues to love us and give us hope, invade our hearts anew and bring us joy, which we surely need. We trust that you will have a joyous Christmas and that all will be well with you and yours. With much love, Donna and Baxter. [Note: The Baxters recently changed their address. See the update in the roster part of this issue.]

Joe & Kathryn Pessa, Hq 48th: Sent Holiday greetings.

Ted & Thelma Post, Hq 235th: Sent Holiday greetings.

Harold & Marion Quern, Hq 48th: Sent Christmas card with thanks for the “Scoop iron Group”.

Harold & Thelma Ragotzkie, A 235th: Sent holiday greetings.

Bill & Marge Rate, Hq 235th: Called for info about the planned Fort Leonard Wood meeting but ended up not being able to make it.

Wilson & Kathleen Reeves, B 48th: Said in their Christmas card, “Max, maybe the next time the old folks get together, Kathleen & I will do the best we can.” However, it turned out the trip was going to be too much.

Gregory & Eleanor Richards, Hq 48th: “The (encampment) reunion at Fort Leonard Wood seems such a great event, especially because I got my basic and diesel engine training there. But I find that every time I return to a place that has played a part in my past, most everything has been remodeled or torn down to the point of little concern to me. Time marches on and I’m afraid I’d be disappointed. Although, I liked the Piney River and the Ozarks to the point of geographic Eden.” Greg asked who was the Headquarters company commander after Hoffman left around Christmas 1943. He also asked about the possibility of getting another “We the 48th” book. I sent his requests to Bill Munson who tried to help him. (May be someone else who was in Headquarters company could call him.) Greg also thought it, “...a beautiful gesture, giving to the Engineer Museum our old banner displayed at the reunions with signatures from so many participants (mine included) to be displayed somewhere in that location.” See comment on this in the article about the visit to the museum.

Sandy (Wife of Jim) Riter, Hq 235th: Sadly the cost will rule out my attendance at the “last” reunion. I miss them dearly as did Jim when he ould no longer travel. Hope all is well with you and the family. Warm regards to Helen

Edward Schramm, Hq 235th: “One of my sons took training at Fort Leonard Wood. I will try to be there, visiting another son in Kansas City on the way.” (Ed ended up bringing that son with him to the reunion.)

Floyd Smith, B 48th: (Died. See Taps) Gee - another year. Started off with a nice Spring - although I decided NO Garden. But Robin (handy man) did plant a number of things (which I failed to care for) but did end up with a few tomatoes. Mid August saw me in for foot surgery and three and a half months of recovery. Just got home the day before “Turkey Day”. Am now waiting for special foot wear and brace. Visits from relatives and friends made the recovery tolerable. According to the prognosis I should be able to navigate. No 25 mile hikes. No downhill skiing. But that’s OK at age 89 who needs these activities. Thanks, Max, for holding the unit together.

Marjorie (Wife of Wilford) Stagner, C 48th: I hope you two are doing OK. I am just fine, but I won’t be able to go to Fort Leonard Wood. I want to thank you for doing such a great job on the “Scoop”. When you put out the last one you promised for November, please correct my phone number. It is 972-956-8510. I still keep in touch with quite a few of the guys & gals. Take care & God bless.

John & Dorothy Thorpe, 235th: Thanks for keeping The reunions going and for the beautiful christmas card. Very thoughtful of you. I will be 95 on December 23rd. [Sorry you never got to the reunions and belted out those tunes you did in Ted Post’s production of “Bypass To Berlin”]

Mary (Wife of Virgil) Treloar, C 48th: My oldest son, Jim, and I took a trip to Europe in May. I was happy to have the many letters received from men of the 48th who wrote as to where the unit had been located during the war. I went back and read them all again. We were able to see these places which meant a lot to me after hearing Virg talk about them. We also visited some other European cities and saw all the highlights. I was happy at my age to see it all and able to keep up with the pace. I keep active, attending water exercisers M.W.F mornings which I enjoy. I still play bridge and lunch Tuesdays & Thursdays. Attend a monthly luncheon with a group of ladies who started together as newly marrieds and still enjoy being together.
[Mary described in detail her family gatherings at Thanksgiving and Christmas.] My son, Bill, still lives with me. If he wasn’t, I would be in a condo as I would be unable to do yard work. Hope all is well with you.

**Art & Teresa Walker, C 48th:** Sent Christmas Card saying they were still kicking.

**Morty & Anita Walzer, A 235th:** Sent Christmas card.


**Bill & Fran Yeager, B 48th:** Sent Happy Holiday greetings with the advice to stay well and enjoy life.

**Leslie & Pearl Youngmeyer, B 48th:** Pearl writes: “Dear family and friends, Merry Christmas and a happy new year again. It's time to keep in touch. The years pass one day at a time but they do roll around. Les was still working at Great Dane but he didn’t feel well the whole month of September. A month of tests later and three surgeries. He now has plastic ureters and feeling pretty well and very blessed. I have been very well this past year, keep your fingers crossed, and help at the senior center every week. I hope to be in Colorado for Christmas. Jim and Deb are at their same jobs. Mathew, Kristina, and little Christian will be at the California grandparents for Christmas. Kevin will be home. Jason is in his second year of college. Dianne & Jon's Jennifer & Amad had their second girl in July. They are very busy. Jon is retired, but Dianne still works three days a week for a doctor in Greeley, and Shawn works for Target in Greeley. Paul & Gail are well. The two girls live in Colorado. They have two step grandchildren, one grandchild, and son Chris was married to Megan in June. His first job assignment was to Anchorage Alaska. I don’t think he is too happy there. We hope this finds you all well and happy in your area of the world, as we look forward to 2009 and hopefully the Lord’s blessings on our country.” Les adds: “Thanks for the latest “Scoop”. How do you find the time and energy to do all of that? I am slowly getting better. I can’t sit still very long, so it’s back to work before long. I am lost if I am not doing something. Wishing you a blessed Christmas.”

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**Editor's Final Message Extended**

As I got closer to wrapping up the compilation of this final newsletter, I kept thinking of more things I felt should be said or at least what I wanted to say. I realized this would be imposing my personal thoughts into a newsletter supposedly reporting on the events of the final reunion. But then I remembered the newsletter contained a “PERSONALS” section within which members could say what they wanted. Hey, I’m a member. So I decided to join others in the personals section and record my thoughts. Well OK, but how do I package my comments? After some trial and error thinking, I concluded I would review my perception of the 48th and 235th battalions and its evolution over the years (most particularly including the changes prompted by the final gathering at Fort Leonard Wood). This, I thought, would be the best way to convey the things I wished to say and hopefully spur some comparable thinking on the part of other veterans of these units and their families.

At the time I entered then Camp (it became a Fort much later) Leonard Wood in 1942 (yes, I did my basic training there) my perception of the U.S. Military as a whole was that it appeared to be way behind the Armed Forces of both our enemies and our allies. My training and indoctrination soon altered this somewhat but I remained fearful that we had a difficult future ahead.

In May 1943 I reported to the 48th then on maneuvers in Louisiana. Three new lieutenants (including me) after a long and dusty ride to the bivouac arriving in total darkness encountered Major Goodpaster, the battalion commander. In his dimly lit tent, he made a lasting impression with his stern discussion of his concept of “official loyalty” and its application up and down the chain of command within the battalion. I grew up a lot that night. The 48th was going to be a serious outfit. This was reinforced by the rest of the maneuvers and our return to Camp Gruber to prepare to meet all the requirements for overseas movement.

At Camp Gruber there were a lot of German POW’s, all captured in North Africa. Observing them singing (and shirtless) marching smartly to do road work prompted my concerns about our anticipated meeting with their fellow soldiers on the battlefield. Would we measure up? We trained hard and soon embarked from New York. The ship I was on arrived at Mers El Kebir (near Oran). When we disembarked, we found waiting to load practically as soon as we got off large formations of Italian POW’s. They looked far more formidable and soldierly than what we had heard about them.

During our North African stay, we got introduced to the Bailey bridge and mine warfare by the British. Their years of fighting the Germans and Italians across North Africa led us all to look up to them as the hardened and smart veterans they were. Soon we were on our way to Italy, following those Americans who invaded at Salerno and took
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Naples and much of the remainder of the Campania plane. After a brief period at Caserta doing some mine clearing (our first casualties) and other projects, we worked our way up the Via Casalina (Highway 6), did some bridging of the Volturino River, built a major bridge at Colli and reached the Mignano area. We were near the German’s main defense line through Cassino. We were stuck there for about eight months before the breakout leading to the capture of Rome. This period included our infantry duty at Mt. Porchia and our attachment to the New Zealand 2nd Corps for most of the fighting to take Monte Cassino.

But I’m straying from my intent to discuss my evolving perception of my battalion, the 48th. During late 1943 and early 1944, I became aware that the II Corps Engineer was visiting the battalion often and picking it for important missions. This and other factors increased my awareness that we indeed were a great outfit. My earlier worries that we might not measure up had been eliminated. At the day-to-day level of operations in B Company I marveled, as one example, at the intensity of motor pool people in keeping all vehicles and equipment serviceable. During road trips I took doing my duties I frequently met and was impressed by the sight of our motor Sergeant Green with helpers stripping parts off disabled and abandoned trucks (particularly radiators which were frequent victims of flying shrapnel). I was so proud of those guys.

We suffered casualties from artillery, accidents and illness. We got replacements very infrequently. My heart went out to the men as I watched the resultant shortages of manpower causing, for example, the use of four men to carry the 600 pound Bailey bridge panels instead of the normal six men. We started using ex-Italian soldiers (looking for food) to fill out our depleted squads. But we had to feed them, stretching our rations a bit. But the 1108th Group staff arranged through the Army’s military government people to place these Italians on a payroll and, more importantly, made it possible for us to draw rations for them. I was so proud of our resourcefulness in this and many other ways. I came to love and respect my outfit.

During all our activities, we were not living in a vacuum. We read the “Stars and Stripes”. We listened to the British news broadcasts. We discussed the war progress. We all knew “our side” was going to win and that we soldiers in the field as well as all in our whole country were totally behind the war effort. I believe this was important to our morale.

Now let’s get back to the current reality of 2009. During the visit to the Corps of Engineers museum, we realized that our country is not so unanimously sure about our current war objectives. (Thank God the people are at least in support of our troops whether or not they believe in the justification of their deployments in Iraq or Afghanistan.) Those representing the museum made it clear that the Army’s eagerness to provide such impressive museums and to schedule visits of today’s professional soldiers to view the historical displays (including the attractive plaques of the field units such as those of the 48th and 235th battalions) is to instill in them the sense of historical connection to earlier generations of engineer soldiers. It is all important that today’s professional soldier be dedicated to his or her military organization and to the missions assigned to that organization. Thus, the veterans of the 48th and 235th battalions can be proud that their great performance in the past, as signified by the plaques we have provided, are in some way contributing to the effectiveness of current engineer soldiers (men and women) and will continue to do so for future generations. In this way we continue to serve.

**A Few Parting Comments**

1. ROSTER: In the 2008 roster a remark “[NO RESPONSE – OCT ’08 Ltr]” was included with many names in the total listing. The intent was to warn the reader that the listing was being included but with the caveat that the person listed had not responded to a general survey letter sent to all on the data base. Thus any listing with the remark may not be accurate. In the past year, some of those with the “No Response” remark have been heard from in some way. In those cases the remark has been removed. Again be aware those listings still with the remark may not be reliable.

2. DATA BASE: While both the reunions and the newsletter have come to an end, it is my intent to keep the data base intact on my computer for a few years. Thus, I should be able to answer questions any of you might have for a while or prepare some sort of report we may wish to publish some day. I request that you continue to advise me of updates to your address, telephone number and email address. Please check your listing and those of people you know well and advise me of any corrections. If you have an email address, please be sure I have it.

3. TAPS: I suspect that I am not getting notified of all deaths of our people. Please check if any deaths you may be aware of are on the listings accompanying the roster. If not, please advise me of the facts. Also, ask your family to advise me of your death.

4. SUPPORT OUR TROOPS: I belong to my local chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. For sometime we have had a project for sending packages to troop units in Iraq and Afghanistan which many individuals and organizations all over the United States have joined by using our web site. It is appealing because our people have established and maintained contact with field units (away from the bases with their well stocked post exchanges). They have developed lists of what to send, etc. which have proven helpful. Please try our Military Officers Association of Sarasota web page and explore all the developed links.

Support Our Troops!

www.SupportOurTroopsMOAS.com
Combined Roster of Regular Members and Friends and Family

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518/765-2571 [NO RESPONSE - OCT '08 Ltr]

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Oak 212/840 7600

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706/860-7019

Frances (Wife of Arthur) Peternel
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618/723-2128 [NO RESPONSE - OCT '08 Ltr]

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310/826-4245 FAX: 310/826-6361

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Helen
[NO RESPONSE - OCT '08 Ltr]

Norma
[NO RESPONSE - OCT '08 Ltr]

Bernice
[NO RESPONSE - OCT '08 Ltr]

Thelma

Marian

Thelma

On the page, there are names and addresses of various individuals, with some noting that there was no response in October 2008. The page appears to be a list of contacts, possibly for a military or administrative context.
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920-725-3126
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235th Hdq

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301/598-3294 Catherine Seibolt Fletcher (daughter)
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Teresa

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Helen

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Y

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Frances

Leslie Youngmeyer
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Z

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516/764-9665

[NO RESPONSE - OCT '08 Ltr]

48th Co. C

48th Co. A

235th Co. A

235th Co. C

235th Co. B
Deceased Members

We have learned of these losses since the 1978 Reunion in Dayton:

Raymond Agee - Sep 16, 1985
William J. Alesi - Jan 21, 1999
John (Ted) Anderson - Oct 1993
Col. K. S. Anderson
Arthur Attleson - Feb 7, 2003
Stewart R. Baker - May 15, 1999
Leland O. Banker - Dec 25, 1999
Vernon Bauck - 1987
Harry Bayes - Jan 14, 1989
Carson Beatty - Aug 6, 1989
Arthur V. Becker
Robert Beitz - Oct 6, 1996
O. O. Bennett - Oct 21, 1992
Earl A. Berg
Emest C. Besper - Sep 2, 1989
Fred C. Beyer
Robert A. Bice - Apr 16, 1987
Randall H. Biles - 1995
John Bill - Jun 24, 2000
Howard Boehne - Apr 4, 1999
Frank Bonanno - Jan 17, 2004
Emest Boschi
Arthur Bouchard - Apr 2, 2008
Peter S. Bourous - May 1996
Harold Bowsher
Tony Boyd - Sep 13, 1995
Charles M. Boye - Feb 1976
Emest Breiner
Gordon L. Brocker - Dec 10, 1992
Carl Buesking - Jul 11, 2004
Kenneth Frank Bullard - Oct 5, 1978
William Butler - May 1, 2005
Earl (Pat) Busch -Mar 10, 2006
Ted L. Byler - Sep 29, 1997
Saverio Campesi - Apr 1997
James Caniano - Jul 2002
Julian S. Carr - Feb 2, 2001
Clifton Carter - May 4, 2003
John D Castelloe - Dec 19, 2000
Edward Casto - Aug 29, 2008
J. E. Cavanaugh
Earnest Caynor - May 30, 2008
Joseph Chiarella - Dec 12, 1992
Ralph J. Ciske - Feb 12, 2003
Carl Clapper - Apr 13, 1999
Thomas H. Collins - Jul 31, 1999
Robert C. Conklin - Jun 1988
Sal Consacco - Aug 1985
Sylvester M. Cooney
Charles Corbett - Feb 25, 1998
Emest Coviello - May 16, 1997
Elmer R. Crabtree - 1970
Joe Cullom - Mar 22, 1991
Harold Dailey - Jan 18, 2003
Vernon (Buckie) Dart - Sep 29, 1990
Walter H. Davis -
Russell DeBoer - Oct 7, 1999
C. E. DeSimonee - Dec 05, 2005
Roscoe Deubner - Jan 23, 2001
Pat T. Difolco - Mar 6, 1991
Savino DiLonardo - Oct 1988
Wesley Dober - Jun 2, 2006
William G. Dodds - 1986
John Drinkwater - Sep 16, 2003
John Duchessi - Sep 17, 2006
J.C. Dudley - Jul 1, 2002
John Douglas - 2005
Everett Dutton - 1970's
Joseph Dvorak - Apr 7, 1984
Stephen Dye - 1976
Ray Dzialo -
Charley Eakins - Jul 30, 1986
Charlie C. Elliott - Jun 9, 1995
Frank B. Ellison - 1987
Tom Emerson
Carl Epley
Elder (Bob) Erlanson - Nov 7, 2002
Roy Fagg - July 2, 1977
Warren R. Fekeith - Mar 1995
Russell M. Finnegan - 1989
George Fischer - Jul 24, 2000
John M. Flynn
Chew Hing Fong - May 5, 1988
Joseph Foley - Apr 1, 2007
Bob Forster
Shirley Fraizer - Mar 23, 1996
Bernard L. Freagon - Mar 31, 1999
Walter Fritz - Nov 2004
Harry Froom - 1986
Thomas K. Fullerton
Leonard Galassi - Nov 1996
Leonard Gallagher
Cecil Gartner
Robert Germain - May 27, 2006
John Gianunzio - Oct 12, 1996
Eugene M. Gilleo - Jun 2, 1997
Walter Givin - Jun 10, 1990
Bob Glaser
Johnny Glorioso
Fabian Godell - Feb 5, 2001
Manuel Gomez - June 4, 2004
Carl Gomoll - May 28, 2001
Bill Goodman - Jan 31, 1998
Andrew J. Goodpaster - May 16, 2005
Thomas Googoo - Nov. 25, 1988
Albert Graafisma - Jan 14, 2001
William G. Grawe - 1960
Adrin Grozinger - 1986
John H. Gulart - Aug. 22, 2000
John O. Gustafson
Harold Hahn - Feb 3, 2003
Richard E. Haines
Charles Haley
William Halsted - Oct. 22, 1999
Percy Hamm
I. V. Hansen - May 1981
Charles W. Hanus - July 12, 1993
Al Hathaway
Leo Hauser - Jan. 10, 2002
Jack Head - 1979
Andrew P. Hedges - May 4, 1996
Deane H. Helgeson - Nov. 14, 1997
Richard (Eddie) Henizer - 1981
Charles Hinzman
John Hogan
Roy W. Holmes - June 15, 1998
James Hopper - Jan. 9, 1998
Frank Hubbard Jr. - 1979
Peter J. Hustler - Jan. 2, 1992
Basil Martin - Feb 22, 2005
Marvin J. Illi -
Michael Jacobac - Dec. 1996
Edward Jakowski - mid '90s
Harry G. Janssen - Dec. 15, 1991
Mark E. Jenkins - Jan. 28, 1996
Robert Jenkins - June 10, 2002
Mike Jergovich - March 9, 2002
Harry Jirak - Jan 7, 2003
Bernhardt Joehnk - July 1994
William P. Jones Jr. - July 12, 1998
Leslie Josi - July 3, 1990
Bernard Keith - March 25, 1999
Edward Kempka - 1976
Al Kinser - Aug 22, 2007
Paul C. Knick - Jan 20, 1991
Jess Knott - 1984
Frank J. Kratch - 1988
Clarence krava-Jul 24, 2005
Bernard Kreuzer - Aug. 17, 1993
Carl Lammote - Sep 1988
George Landman
Weston Laughlin - Nov. 28, 1987
Glen Lear
Elma LeFevre
Charles Letholt
Urban Liewer - Jun 11, 1992
Michael Lipay
Zigmund Luckshis - Jul 14, 1988
Henry McDaniels - 1987
Mathew Mack - Apr 4, 2000
John Mailey - Jul 7, 1998
John Maki
William Malon
Paul Manning
Sam Marante - Feb 4, 2005
Silvio Martinez - Jul 22, 1997
Frank Maruskin - Mar 16, 1997
Nicholas Masselle
John Maxin
John R. Maze - 1972
Thomas McGurin -
Olen McKnight - Feb 4, 2006
Roland L. Mead - May 3, 1985
Hector Mercadante
Richard F. Meyer - 1999
William Miersch - Approx 2000
Dr. Charles Miller - 2003
Jacob Moore - Feb 27, 1987
James Morrissey - Feb 23, 2004
Anthony Mourous - Dec 5, 2007
W. H. Moyer - May 7, 1995
Arnold Muller - Jul 23, 1983
Dr. Harry Muller
C.D. Murrel - Sep 20, 2002
Raymond D. Murphy
S.L. Murphy - Jan 15, 2000
Sam Natole
Frank Nauzbaum - Dec 1993
LaVerne Needham - May 27, 2005
Harvey Nelson - May 10, 2006
George Nedrich - May 12, 1999
Franklin Nicholson - Jul 14, 2005
Claude C. Nipper
Helge O. Norby - 1975
Jerome F. Norgren - Dec 14, 1998
Bernard G. Olsen - Mar 9, 1996
Robert Ordoyne
Nick Oresk - Nov 7, 1995
William Ostrowski
Richard N. Otto - Sep 2, 1985
Clarence Owens
Mike Pagano - Apr 1997
Wiford Paggen - Feb 2, 2002
Anthony Petito - 1982
Clyde R. Paisley
Domenic Papa Sr. - May 29, 2002
Henry Paquin
Arthur F. Petemel - Sep 1992
Emrie Petitti - Sep 1999
Albert Pezzenti - Oct 9, 1999
Cass "Tack" Petty - Jul 1989
Carl J. Phelan - May 25, 1999
Andrew L. Phillips - Sep 21, 1991
Evan S. Pickett - May 26, 1996
Joseph Plesic - Mar 9, 1993
Frank Polish
Curtiss Ponder - Nov 1985
Arthur H. Porter - Aug 5, 1985
Curtis J. Price
Melvin Pritchett
William A. Purdy - Aug 22, 2001
Len Rattiner - Apr 13, 2005
Bernard S. Rachuba - Aug 24, 1992
Mark Reardon - Dec 22, 1994
George Reed
Fred Reichers - Jun 1994
Thomas W. Rhoden - Oct 23, 1999
Piney Ricottelli - Feb 11, 2004
Henry Riggina - Feb 1986
Dean Riney
James Riter - Apr 12, 2006
Gerald Robinson - Jan 10, 2001
Milford Rostkowski - Nov 21, 1989
Raymond Rowland - Jul 18, 1997
Merton L. Roy - Sep 15, 1999
David Sackman - Nov 1973
Roy Sarf - Jun 10, 2008
Anthony G. Scavone - Jun 1986
James Scherger
Phillip Schmit - Mar 29, 2002
Kenneth A. Schowalter - Nov 1, 1997
Harold E. Schrab - Jun 12, 1998
Florian Schreiener - Sep 28, 1990
Harold Seideman - Mar 10, 1982
Philip D. Shores - 1994
Martin Sprouse - Feb 1999
Waldon Slick - 1980
James H. Smathers
Gerald Smithers - April 5, 2007
Gene Snodgrass - 1969
Venon Snodgrass - Mar 15, 2008
William Snyder - Feb 26, 2002
Walker B. Sorrell - Sep 1988
William Spears - May 8, 2004
Bob Spielman
Mel Sporlender - May 29, 1985
Robert W. Spruce - Feb 26, 1990
Harry Straehm - Jan 28, 2009
John H. Squires - 1980
Raymond St. Armand - Nov 16, 2006
Wilford Stagner - Dec 19, 1998
John Stempke - Oct 1989
James St. Julian
Paul H. Straube - Feb 23, 1998
Dean E. Swift - 1945
Robert Sykes
Linwood Tanner
Raymond L. Taylor - Nov 1987
Robert Taylor - Dec 1998
David A. Teele - Dec 19, 1997
Dale Teeters - Mar 19, 1998
Harry M. Thames - Jun 1999
Ivy Thibodeaux
William Thomas, Jr.
Elmer (Tommy) Thompson - May, 2000
Lester C. Tinnin - Jun 2, 2000
Geo R. Torgiian - Oct 1, 2000
Virgil Treolar - Sep 26, 2003
Alden Tucker - 1979
John Updegraff - Mar, 1991
Archie V. Visnaw - Mar 27, 1990
Orville H. Vogel - Sep 19, 1989
Donald W. Vratil - Jul 11, 1985
Ernest E. Walters - Apr 23, 1995
J. Louis Waugaman - Jun 30, 1995
Stan Waychunas
Leroy R. Weil - Nov 7, 2000
Harry Wendel - Jan 12, 1988
Ed Wenzel - March, 1909
Dale Wernig - Feb 23, 1999
Vernon W. Westermann
Will Williams
Joseph R. Williams - Jan 9, 1990
Winston Wilson - Oct 14, 1996
Henry Winger - Nov 7, 1997
Jack Witt
Edwin C. Woessner - Jan 14, 2001
Clem Wolf - Aug 28, 2008[[
Reginald E. Wolfe - 1998
James D. Womble - Jan 4, 1993
George Wyckle - Nov 4, 1982
John Zimmerman - Nov 23, 2006
Tom M. Zonnevile - 1994
Fred W. Zoss - Aug 2, 1996
Stephen Zuccaro
Lost in Mail Members

Harold P. Baker - NV
Norman Bakken - WI
Julius J. Banks - WV
Raymond J. Barker - KY
Peter J. Bidey - PA
Robert Boniphant - OH
William E. Brayton - WA
Victor H. Brill - MO
George Brounce - PA
Bruce M. Carswell - CA
Frank J. Cascio - FL
Thomas Cassidy - IL
Ernest K. Clifton - KA
Frank Colamino - CT
Frank Colistra - NY
John O. Colonna - TX
Claude Costephens - MO
Melvin D. Dietzel - MI
John J. Dorchinez - CO
Daniel Duffy - MA
Guy Edlin - IL
Benjamin Finn - MA
Lawrence J. Gaisser - VT
Steve Gaydos - WI
Eldo Grimm - TX
Charles Hayes - IL
Robert Henry - WI
Robert Hill - VA
Edward J. Jankowski - OH
Arnold Johnson - PA
E. J. Johnson - MI
Frank J. Jones - TN
Robert A. Kellum - TX
Lloyd Lingle - CO
Joseph Marcon - MN
G. P. McCarthy - TN
Hjalmer Makela - MN
Howard R. Mardin - CA
Geo. R. Mattson - MI
Walter N. Maus - MN
Rev. J. B. Murray - PA
Leo O'Neill - IL
Henry Ochsendorf - OR
Walter Pade - FL
Isadore L. Pikula - MN
Gordan Pope - Puerto Rico
Jack V. Price - CA
Delbert R. Quinn - VA
Ralph Rashid - IL
Harvard Reynolds - SD
Robert Reynolds - NY
Lewis Rockford - MO
Tony Rotonda - NY
Henry W. Schroeder - NY
Moms B. Sprott - CO
A. Strosnider - PA
M. J. Toshner - WI
William Wallace - TN
Howard Webb - NC
Fred Wright - KY
Ted Zangara - IL

Dropped From Roll By Request

Anthony Acure - 48th Co A
Melvin Baker - 48th Co C
Robert Costley - 48th Co B
Francis Cunningham - 48th Co C
Charles Danner - 235th Co C
Ronald Hudic - 48th Co B
Don James - 235th Co A
Zigmont Karwoski - 48th Co A
Edward J. Labate
Arno Lamb - 48th Co C
Alban Leiker - 48th Co B
Edwin C. Lindly - 48th Co B
Renaldo R. Meza - 48th Co A
Marvin Michelke - 235th
Jerry Pribil - 48th Co A
William Rosensteel - 48th Co C
Otto Scheerer - 235th Co A
Samuel A. Scofo - 235th
Dwight Smith - 235th Hq
Vernon Sorensen - 48th Co A
Ernest Tenario - 48th Co B
Glover White - 235th Hq
History of our Reunions

Peoria, Ill., contributed about 25 men to the 48th Engineers. Fourteen of these went overseas, 11 in “B” Company and 3 in “C” Company. With these numbers, it was likely that reunions would begin in Peoria and indeed they did.

Wilford Stagner attended all reunions up to his death in 1998. His wife, Marjorie, has continued since to remain the only person to have attended all the full reunions.

Ken Selz handled the mass mailings for all the hosts up to 1996. Max Jonah has provided the membership data base services since.

1959 - Peoria, Illinois Hosts & for Peoria Reunions
1960 - Peoria, Illinois Everett Dutton, Will Tully, Walt Fritz,
1962 - Peoria, Illinois
1963 - Rockton, Illinois Local gathering. No details
1964 - Peoria, Illinois
1965 - Rochelle, Illinois Local gathering. No details
1966 - Chicago, Illinois 235th joined 48th in 1966
1968 - Chicago, Illinois Chuck and Florence Hanus were the prime movers for the next five reunions (dressy affairs), helped by others. The move to Chicago made the reunions more accessible to the expanding roster.
1975 - Washington, DC Mark Reardon promoted gathering Gen. Goodpaster’s retirement to honor our illustrious WWII as NATO Forces Commander 48th Battalion Commander.
1976 - St. Louis, MO Wilford Stagner, Vern Westermann
1978 - Dayton, Ohio Ken Selz, John Mailey, R. Deubner
1980 - St. Louis, MO Wilford Stagner, Vern Westermann
1982 - San Antonio, TX Al Kincer, Jim Morrissey, John Miller, Manuel Gomez.
1984 - Bloomington, MN Harry Jirak & Clarence Krava
1986 - Hot Springs, AR Dallas Lynch, Olen McKnight, O.O. Munson, Bill Snyder
1987 - St. Louis, MO Al Kincer & Others started mini 48th gatherings in odd numbered years.
1988 - Alexandria, VA Joe Pessa, Max Jonah, Joe Foley, Mark Reardon
1989 - Nashville, TN Bill Snyder, O. O. Munson, Robert Sykes and wife, Mika. (Mika provided hot sausage breakfasts.) Bill Snyder made major effort to reach men not on roster. Brought 46 Company A men to their first reunion. This started other “recruiting” drives to reach people not on the roster. Roscoe Deubner.
1989 Ft. Myers FL (235th mini)
1990 - Lake Tahoe, NV Ted Byler & O. E. Bennett. (Ted had been proposing Lake Tahoe at several reunions to get closer to the West Coast people.)
1991 - Dayton, Ohio (48th mini) Ken Selz
1991 - Ft. Myers, FL (235th mini) Roscoe Deubner
1992 - Nashville, TN Bill Snyder, Fred Blake
1993 - Chicago, IL (48th mini) Joe Foley
1994 - Tulsa, OK Bill Munson, Dallas Lynch and others. This was a bigger than usual reunion with many tours and events.
1995 - Dayton, Ohio (48th mini) Ken Selz
1996 - Lake Tahoe, NV Ted Byler and family. At this reunion it was decided to run the full reunions every year rather than every even numbered year.
1997 - Sarasota, FL Max and Helen Jonah. (This was the 1st reunion on the beach.)
1998 - Springfield, MO Used a commercial reunion organization to run the reunion.
1999 - Florence, KY Bill Spears and his extended family.
2000 - Florence, KY Bill Spears and his extended family.
2001 - Sioux Falls, SD Eugene Pearson & his Family
2002 - Florence, KY Bill Spears and his extended family.
2003 - Florence, KY Bill Spears and his extended family
2004 - Portage, WI Frank & Maelaine Bottino and family
2005 - Dayton, Ohio Bob Mitchell And daughter Connie plus Ken Selz and Bob Cole
Voted Final reunion for 2006

THE FOUR PART FINAL REUNION

2008 - Washington, DC Ray West (son of Frank & Helen West) and the Curriers. Attendees voted to go to Home of Engineers at Ft Leonard Wood, MO to leave reunion banner at museum. Frank & Maelane Bottino & daughters Karen and Cathy. Left banner with ceremonies. All agreed this is the last meeting.