



20TH COMBAT ENGINEER ASS'N



OF WORLD WAR II

The **WAVY ARROW** Bulletin

OCTOBER 1996 EDITION

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Issuance of this WAVY ARROW edition has been delayed because a decision has not yet been reached as to whether we'll be able to hold our most important 50TH REUNION ANNIVERSARY at Columbus/Ft. Benning, GA. Although still a possibility, I have decided to have this previously completed WAVY ARROW edition published without further delay, despite a lack of some positive reunion details. This way, you will be informed as to "what's happening", not only on the reunion front, but also with respect to the doings of the membership and some other Association matters. In the meantime, I will continue to try to resolve the reunion matter, while at the same time, as a back-up measure, explore possible alternate reunion sites in the event the Columbus/Ft. Benning reunion locale does not work out!

In any event, I will keep you further informed as soon as I have a final solution to the reunion matter, which I do not intend to let linger in un-certainty much longer! But no matter where ever we have our 1997 reunion, it must be remembered that the real significance of this reunion is "NOT THE REUNION SITE"!! Rather, the more important significance is that this reunion will MARK OUR 50TH YEAR OF ANNUAL ASSEMBLEAGES TO

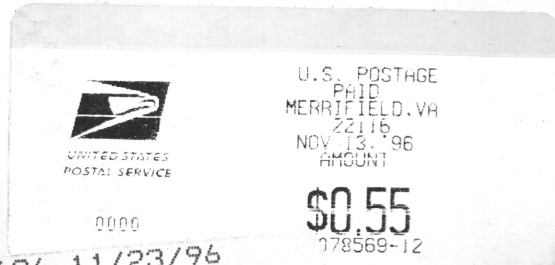
- 1) *Pay respects in honor of our wartime comrades now departed;*
- 2) *Celebrate the great record of accomplishments achieved by all of our members, living or dead, who served in our beloved wartime 20th Engineers; and*
- 3) *Keep alive the lasting comradeship and camaraderie we Association survivors have enjoyed together during each and every one of our reunions through-out the past 50 years!!*

Therefore, as many members as possible are encouraged to try to attend our GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY REUNION IN 1997, no matter where it may be held!!

So, in the meantime, play catch-up on the details of the Alexandria, LA reunion; news of the doings of the membership; the special items pertaining to General Caffey and the General Patton Memorial Library in Czechoslovakia; as well as recent books which include references about our own 20th Engineers, all of which are contained in this edition of your WAVY ARROW.

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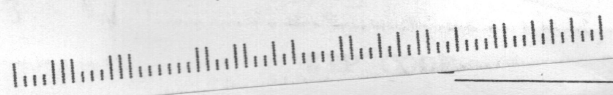
GEORGE GRIFFENHAGEN, SECRETARY
2501 DREXEL STREET
VIENNA, VA. 22180.



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FIRST CLASS PEOPLE
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49th ANNUAL REUNION -- ALEXANDRIA, LA, 16 - 18 AUGUST 1996.

Once again, the Association continued its proud record of consistently outstanding annual reunions through our 49th consecutive annual get together --- this time at Alexandria, LA. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding experience for all in attendance, highlighted by the relaxed and comfortable atmosphere prevailing at our CP and bivouac site, the attractive Holiday Inn and Convention Center. The in-house meals were deliciously fulfilling and the proximity of near-by restaurants where the famed local cuisine of "Cajun-style foods" predominated and were well received. And the large and up-scale shopping areas and restaurants of all types on the outer perimeter of the town provided the standard atmosphere expected to satisfy our "shop-a-holic" attendees. In sum, Alexandria was a most satisfying locale for our reunion and we attendees are grateful to our reunion hosts, "C.O." and Liz Magee, for making our southern sojourn at Alexandria a delightful and rewarding experience. THANKS & WELL DONE, YOU TWO!!

Now for the details of the reunion, itself! Although 82 reservations were made for the reunion, 6 cancellations reduced the total attendance to 76, as listed below:

ALABAMA (3)

Thompson, Ray (A/20) w/2 guests

ARKANSAS (2)

Jacobi, Jim (Officer) w/Ann

ARIZONA (2)

McDonnell, Bernard (Officer) w/Lil

FLORIDA (3)

Setliffe, Truman (Officer: CO/1340)

Smith, Henry (Officer) w/Lee

GEORGIA (4)

Blankenship, Charles (B/20) w/"Gen"

Tarvin, Frank (B/20) w/Ruth

ILLINOIS (5)

Hamilton, John (A/20) w/Shirley

Murphy, Tom (A/20)

Willis, Richard (B/20) w/Millie

INDIANA (1)

Markey, Carl (Officer)

LOUISIANA (5)

Magee, C.O. (Officer) w/Liz

Riser, Charles (D/20;A/1340) w/Dorothy & guest

MARYLAND (2)

Hays, Roy (Officer) w/Grace

MISSOURI (12)

Huskisson, Chris (C/20) w/Willa Lee

Vishy, Edward (Officer) w/Dorothy & 2 guests

Wasinger, Emanuel (D/20;A/1340) w/3 guests

Wharf, Don (Warrant Officer) w/Gretchen

NORTH CAROLINA (9)

Noon, Joe Ken (B/20) w/Edith

Scott, W.C. (A/20) w/Willyne

Scronce, Ben (Hq/20) w/Jean

Utley, William (E/20;B/1340) w/Ruby

Vernon, Pearl (HON MBR re: Edgar, E/20;B/1340)

NEW JERSEY (2)

Lutz, Edwin (Officer) w/Martha

NEW YORK (2)

Wolczanski, Walter (A/20) w/Doris

OKLAHOMA (2)

Welch, John (Officer) w/Bobbie

PENNSYLVANIA (6)

Brenot, Carl (A/20) w/wife

Moulder, Harry (668 Topo/1171Gp) w/Betty

Wytiacz, Charles (B/20) w/Helen

SOUTH CAROLINA (8)

Cribb, Horace (E/20;B/1340) w/Janette & 2 guests

Davis, John Wesley (C/20)

Horton, John (B/20) w/2 guests

TEXAS (4)

Barbier, Lee (Medic/20) w/Vera

Pulliam, Doug (F/20;C/1340) w/Pat

VIRGINIA (4)

Griffenhagen, George (E/20;B/1340) w/Joan

Spivey, George (A/20) w/Alma

NOTES: 1) Regular Members Bob Pearson (B/20 - NY), Leo Stokes (D/20;A/1340 - SC) and Honorary Member Mrs David Fearn (re: husband David, B/1340) - MI) had to make last minute cancellations due to unexpected circumstances.

2) Frank Tarvin (B/20 - GA) advised at the reunion that his new address is now: 120 Coffman Dr., Ft Oglethorpe, GA. 30742. All members please note Frank's new address and change your copy of the new Assn roster accordingly.

3) During the reunion a RAY HOLLOWAY, RTE 2, BOX 295, HARTSFORT, ALABAMA. 36344, made a brief appearance and then departed before information could be collected on his wartime affiliation with the 20th Engineers (e.g. unit, period in which served, telephone no., wife's name, etc.). An attempt to telephonically contact him later at the home address given was unsuccessful. However, another attempt will be made to contact him via mail to the address given.

REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC: The usual substantial number of avid golfers who normally participate in this popular annual event were not available this year for that purpose. Nevertheless, attendees JIM & ANN JACOBI with WALT WOLCZANSKI did band together to perpetuate the Assn's golfing tradition on behalf of all the usual participants, despite the intense heat prevailing on the local course. CARL MARKEY, although present at the reunion, was unable to lead this year's golfers due to the after-effects of his recent knee surgery. Each of the participants was awarded a prize by Carl Markey during our Saturday night banquet for their valor in combatting the course heat to keep alive the Assn's golfing tradition. In addition, each participant deserves a standing "ATTA BOY & GIRL OVATION" from the membership!

FRIDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES: The traditional Friday evening informal get-together and "BS" session were held in a separate room set aside for the membership only. The usual atmosphere of warm camaraderie and fellowship prevailed throughout the evening, enhanced by available snacks and a cash bar in a large room provided for the occasion. "Catch-up" on each others activities and reminiscences of how we individually and collectively won WW II single-handedly, were the chief topics of the evening to everyone's enjoyment. As usual, the warm conviviality of this key event truly sets the spirit for the success of the reunion events that follow. In fact, in the

case of this reunion, the lesser number of attendees than normal for our reunions, somewhat enhanced the closeness and spirit of comradeship among all in attendance.

At 8:30 PM the Regular Members adjourned for a brief business meeting in a near-by room while wives and guests continued to "party" (or is that "Blab") amongst themselves pending return of the Regular Members. Meeting highlights follow:

--Ed Lutz reported that the Assn Fund remains in "good health" with an unencumbered balance in excess of \$5,000, not counting current reunion receipts still to be counted.

--Per last years announcement of Fred Miller's resignation as Assn Secretary due to health reasons and the discussion, at that time, of a successor for Fred, note was made of GEORGE GRIFFENHAGEN'S willingness to accept the vacant position. A request was then made for any other members in attendance who might be interested in volunteering to fill the Secretarial position, but there were no takers. Ed then discussed George Griffenhagen's suggestion to the Board of Directors that the position of Secretary, previously held by Fred, be combined with the position of Treasurer, currently held by Ed! Further, George had also suggested that a new position of ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT & WAVY ARROW EDITOR be created without any change to the current Board of Directors structure. After some discussion, the Griffenhagen proposals were approved, George was approved as the new Secretary/Treasurer and Ed was nominated and approved to be the new President & WAVY ARROW Editor, all of these actions by unanimous vote of the Regular members present at the reunion.

--A discussion was then held concerning the holding of next years 50th Reunion at Columbus/Ft Benning, GA. Ed advised that he had been in touch with the Columbus Convention Center authorities who manage and assist in overall reunions such as ours at both Columbus & Ft Benning, primarily because reunion billeting cannot be accommodated on Ft Benning! Ed advised that he is scheduled to visit Columbus and Ft Benning authorities en-route home from Louisiana and that at time he'd review the feasibility of holding our reunion there and provide information thereon later. In this regard, concern was expressed from the floor that if the reunion is to be held in the Ft Benning area, the reunion dates should be changed from our usual mid-August period to mid-September because the Columbus/Benning weather conditions generally are similar to those in Alexandria, LA, where we were then experiencing an intensive August heat pattern. It was also emphasized that the average age of our members makes it difficult for them in travelling to and staying within such heat prone areas during the height of mid-summer. After further discussion of this matter, a vote of the membership authorized Ed to change the reunion dates in accordance with the preceding concerns if he felt it appropriate and possible at the reunion locale finally selected.

--The foregoing concluded the business meeting and the members rejoined their wives and friends at the informal get-together and "BS" session which continued, with some attendees remaining until just before midnight!!

SATURDAY DAYTIME ACTIVITIES: --The pre-arranged bus tour of two nearby plantations, with included lunch, was enjoyed by the participants despite a slight "glitch" in getting started. The other bus trip to a casino also was enjoyed by the participants.

--Non-tour members leisurely enjoyed breakfast and then did sightseeing, shopping and lunch on their own at the many attractions surrounding Alexandria. And, of course, many of the "good 'ole boys" left the foregoing to their spouses and guests while they just "hung out" in and around the hotel lobby, telling again those stories of their personal heroic encounters in combat and/or during their infrequent periods out of combat, authorized or unauthorized!! And more of the truth of the latter seems to emerge with each passing year!!

SATURDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES: --The membership assembled for the usual cocktail hour preceding a delicious sit down dinner served in the Banquet Room arranged for that event, followed by dancing to a live band, all of which capped the reunion finale with the success usual to this highlight event. This atmosphere was

enhanced considerably by the attractive room and table decorations that were in place through the efforts of LIZ MAGEE. Some of the events occurring during the dinner/dancing period were the following:

--Prior to the start of dinner, The Pledge of Allegiance was rendered to our Flag and a moving and appropriate Invocation was rendered by Carl Markey.

--After the dinner, there followed the traditional raffle drawings, and awards event, chief among them being: The Golf awards (See earlier coverage); The 50/50 drawing of \$55.00 won by Helen Wytiaz, with the other half of \$55.00 going to the Assn Fund; The longest traveller award of \$25.00 going to Bernie McDonnell, who travelled from Arizona: The raffle drawings for the two baskets of Louisiana "goodies" were won, respectively, by George Griffenhagen and Dorothy Vishy, after which drawings were made for our usual assortment of great door prizes donated by members in attendance. These traditional activities are always a highlight of our reunion banquet period and attendee winners are always delighted, and we are always grateful for the donors of the prizes made available for these ceremonies.

--For the balance of the evening the membership then indulged themselves in relaxing and good humored conversations, table-hopping and spirited dancing to an enjoyable live band. with a delightful and talented young lady singer who captivated our entire group. And in a surprise appearance, our own reunion host, C.O. Magee, himself, took the "mike", complete with cowboy hat and guitar and rendered several good ole country western numbers, that were cheered lustily by all in attendance, especially his "pass the buttered beans" rendition. Sorry for all of you non-attendees who missed C.O.'s outstanding performance! The festivities eventually wound down and terminated about midnight when the "last shot" was fired by the "rear guard" still in the ball room.

SUNDAY WRAP-UP: In the morning, many of our attendees participated in near-by church services and/or began packing for departure. The lobby, thereafter, became a scene of regretful farewells accompanied by many vows of "see ya'all next year"! But before closing this report, the membership in attendance at this reunion collectively reiterates our thanks and appreciation to C.O and Liz Magee, our genial hosts, for the fine job they did in making it a most enjoyable experience and memory provoking episode which those in attendance will long remember and cherish!!

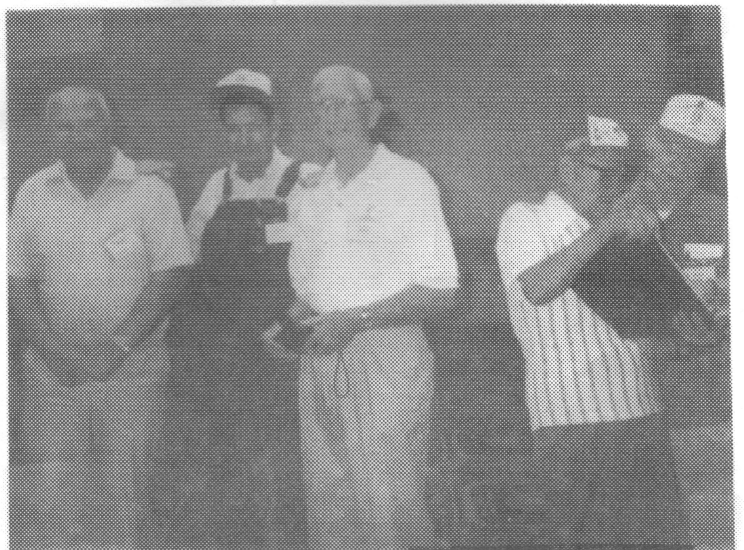
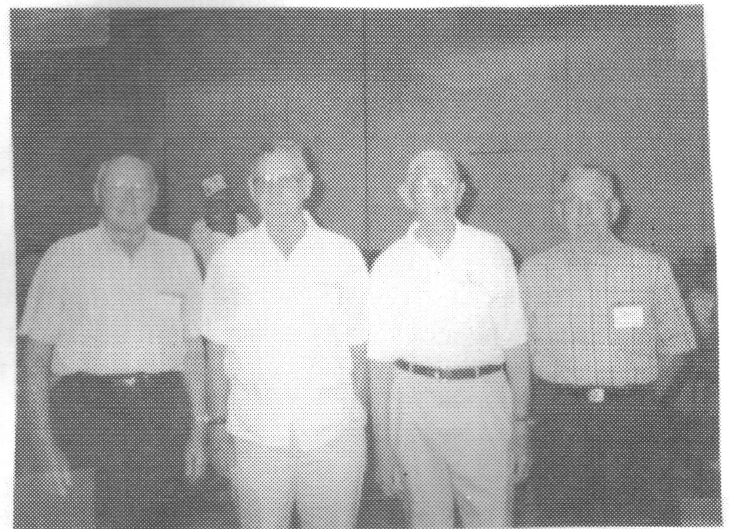
To close, we of the Board of Directors encourage ALL of our membership to make every effort possible to be an attendee at our record making 50TH annual reunion next year. In addition to having a great time at that reunion we are hopeful that it will be one of our largest and most fulfilling turn-outs, which is only fitting for such a rare occasion as our "GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY REUNION". Please try to start planning towards that end NOW!!



REUNION HOSTESS LIZ MAGEE & MARTHA LUTZ

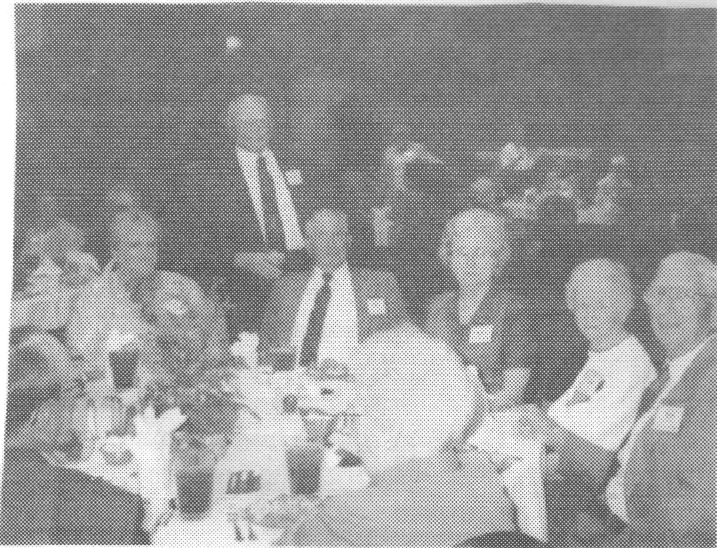
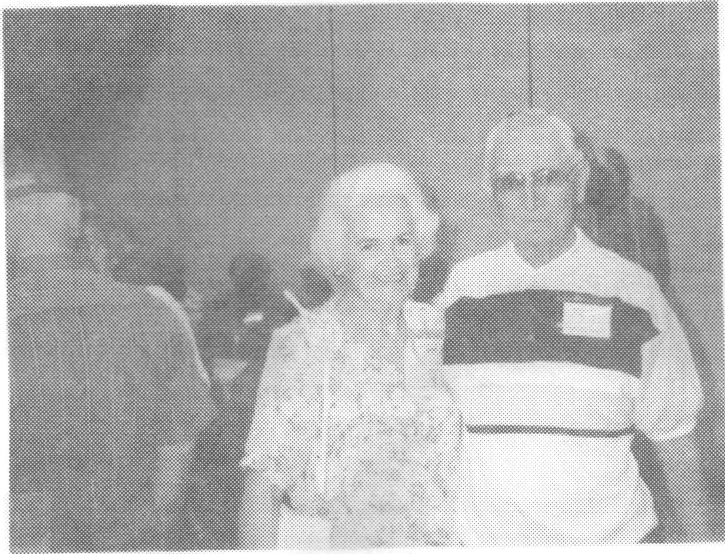
ATTENDEES AT OUR 49th REUNION IN ALEXANDRIA, LA

HOW MANY CAN YOU IDENTIFY???



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MEMBER NEWS

RIDOLFI, JIM (D/20;A/1340 - PA): In a refreshing telephone call with Jim and his lovely wife, Irma, they both vowed to try to make our 50th Reunion Anniversary next year and Jim spoke of how proud he is to display his Assn car license plate. Both of the Ridolfis' send best of regards to all, and especially to their close D/20;A/1340th friends John McAllister, Tom Kerns, Bill Hunt and Martha Hammer! And so it's done, Jim, and now we'll be looking for all of you Ridolfis', as well as all of your special friends at next year's reunion, RIGHT, YA'LL??

THOMAS, ROY (E/20;B/1340 - IL): Roys' caring wife, Agnes, advises that they bought a new home on the shores of Lake Carlyle, Illinois where their entire family enjoys duck and geese hunting as well as boating on the lake. For the info of all, their new address is :P.O. Box 241, , Keyesport, IL. 62253. (Tel: 618-749-5528). (Members, please up-date your Assn roster accordingly). Thanks, Roy, for the up-date on your doings and hopefully we'll see ya'all at our 50th Reunion Anniversary next year!

MILLER, FRED, (HO/20 - MA(Summer)-FL(Winter): Fred & Neysa send best of regards to all and advise that, inadvertently, their phone number as listed under the Massachusetts section of our just issued '96-'98 Membership Roster is incorrect! It should be corrected in your copy to read : 508-874-5606! (Members, please correct your Assn roster accordingly). So, mission accomplished, Neysa, and you both take care and try to get to next years reunion, if possible!

SCHNEIDER, MARGARET (HON MBR re:husband Bill, Medic:C/20 - GA): Marge writes proudly that she is now a GREAT GRANDMOTHER!! The new family addition, Julia Maria, arrived August 8 to the delight of parents Stacy & Robert Olsen. And, of course, the proud Grandparents Marge & Peter Olsen and Kimberly & Charles Reid were also equally delighted. Congrats to the entire family, Marge, and we appreciate your joy over your new status!

SZVETITZ, JOE (F/20;C/1340 - FL): Joes' dues arrived by mail with an added enclosure reading: "Remember the banana - when it left the bunch, it got skinned!" Joe, you'd get the "Gong" for that one if this were an old time talent show!! Anyway, just be sure you join the "bunch" of us at next years reunion or we'll "skin" you!

GRAJEWSKI, JOSEPH.(F/20;C/1340 -FL): Joes' note, included with his dues payment, says it all in a few words, i.e. "Thank you for your time and efforts and have a good day forever!" Thanks for those sentiments, Joe! You made the day!

HARVEY, ANDY (C&H&S/20 - CA): Andy could not get to the Alexandria reunion due to his persistent health problems and being on oxygen; however, he's going to try to make next year's reunion. We're hoping you can, Andy! Meanwhile, take care!

MILLER, JOSEPH (Officer - WA): Joe's always welcomed & informative letters recounted Margaret & his adventures in floating down the Skagit River in a driving rain & snow storm to observe Bald Eagles (they saw 195) and later celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary by working on re-vegetation projects as part of an Elderhostel Project. We all salute and congratulate you both on your 50th Anniversary and the active lifestyle you both enjoy. Joe says: "can you imagine any one woman putting up with an old curmudgeon like me?*" Yes we can, Joe, and her name is Margaret, God Bless her!! Joe closed by sending a big hello to all his old buddies in the Assn. And we return our regards to you both in the hopes that one day we'll see you at a reunion 'cause there are many who would be glad to see you both! Keep in touch, hear?

TUMINELLO, TOMMY (H&S/20 - LA): Despite his proximity to the Alexandria reunion, Tommy could not get to it because of eye surgery; nevertheless he sends best of regards to all. In return, Tommy, we hope all is OK with you now and that we'll see you and yours at our reunion next year!

LYON, FRED (Officer - NY): Fred advises that he lost his beloved life-time partner, Eileen, on May 2nd after she suffered for 7 years as the result of a broken vertebrae. We deeply regret hearing this news, Fred, and the Assn collectively extends heartfelt condolences and sympathy over your loss. God Bless! Fred hopes to be able to make the 50th Anniversary Reunion next year, and so do we, Fred! It would be truly great to see you again after all these years! Fred closed his letter by saying: "Keep the Wavy Arrow coming -- They're great!"

PEARSON, BOB (B/20 - NY): Bob missed last years reunion due to a serious auto accident in which his son was involved. Thankfully, his son is recovering well and Bob is looking forward to being at roll call at next years reunion. We'll be looking for you, hear?

PULLIAM, DOUG (F/20;C/1340 - TX): Dougs' letter of July 10th, stated: "If I remember right, we were invading Sicily on this date in 1943. Some fun, eh?? Wouldn't want to do it again. tho!" You got that last part right, Doug! He also included a picture of himself sitting on the tail of a captured German fighter plane, complete with a Swastica thereon. Also, a picture of a very young Doug in Alexandria, LA in 1946 where he was buying a couple of surplus GI trucks for his fledgling contracting business. Doug does get around, this time again returning to Alexandria for our 49th anniversary reunion this past August! It wouldn't have been the same without you if you had missed that one and it goes without saying that we'll see you again at the 50th, "nes pas, ya'all?", as we say here in South "Joisey"!

KASS, MURIEL (HON MBR re: husband Morris, Warrant Officer, - NH): Muriel writes about how much she enjoys the WAVY ARROW editions and regrets not being able to get to the reunions, but she thinks often of the good times she and Morris had each time they attended their many reunions. We, too, have many such remeberences of you two at past reunions. Muriel also reports that she is well and kept busy! God Bless!, and keep it that way, hear? Thanks for writing!

CIPRA, BEN (F/20;C/1340 - KS): In sending in his dues, Ben wrote that he's "signing up for another Hitch with the 20th Engineer Association" and adds that he hopes to be able to "hang in there" for many years yet to come! Spoken with the true 20thth Engineer spirit, Ben! Ben missed our last reunion due to attendance at his 60th high school graduation in Minnesota --that's great, Ben, and I'm sure your planning to be at the 100th, too! RIGHT? Ben also bragged justifiably of his best round of gulf in recent years in which, if he hadn't missed a 12 ft putt on the 18th hole, he'd have shot his age! He allows as how he'll never get near that again, but he vows to keep trying. In line with your earlier comment, Ben, "Hang in there!"

KACZMARSKI, ANGELINA (HON MBR re: husband John, F/20;C/1340 - MA): Angelina sent in dues in remembrance of her husband, John. We're glad you are continuing your interest in the doings of our Association and Johns' many buddies still in our ranks by receiving our periodic WAVY ARROW newsletter thru your continuing Honorary membership! Take care and God Bless!

WILLIAMS, JACK (E/20;B/1340 - AR): Jack reports that he and Ruby have been ill of late but that they still look forward to receiving the WAVY ARROW and learning of Association doings and our membership. Hope you and Ruby are now over your illnesses and that you'll keep it that way. Jack reports a new address for them, as follows: 1005, Hwy 34, Walnut Ridge, AR. 72476. All members please note and correct your copy of the Assn roster accordingly!

BEATTY, MARGARET (HON MBR re: husband Tom, Officer, - NC): Margaret sends regards to all and hopes all are doing well. She is in hopes that our next reunion will be closer to her than Alexandria was so she can make it. She adds that she is doing just fine but still misses Beatty. We also miss Tom, Margaret, so we understand your feelings. And we'll continue thinking of you, so take care and keep well!

THOMAS, WILLIAM (H&S/20 - NC): Bill states that medical problems precluded his reunion attendance this year but that he is going to make an "x-tra" effort to make roll call at next years reunion. We'll be looking for you, Bill.

GUDALEWSKI, ANDREW ("Halftrack") (B/20 - MD) Andys' caring wife, Libby, writes that he is better health-wise than he has been throughout his past illness but is not yet as well as she'd like to see him. We're all pulling for Andy's full restoration to good health, and like you said, we too share your "hopes and dreams that you'll both make our 50th reunion anniversary in 1997"!

PESSIA, DOMENIC (C/20 - PA): Dom's charming wife, Sue, advises that his back problems kept them from the Alexandria reunion but that "if God is willing, we hope to see everyone next year at the 50th". Sue adds that she and Dom send regards and love to everyone. We've missed you guys, so do try to make it in '97.

ORBAN, JIM (Officer -WI): Jim is enjoying his retirement years with his loving wife, Evelyn, and golfs as often as possible. He closed his letter by saying he "hopes to finally make the 1997 reunion". Finally, indeed, Jim! After all these years of not seeing you and yours, myself and many others of your old buddies would really be delighted to see you again. So try to be there, hear?

TWITTY, W. C. (C/20 - GA&FL): W.C. and Bell regretted missing last years reunion but advise that they are making plans for attendance next year for the 50th. We'll be looking forward to seeing you both then!

WEBER, LOU (H&S/1171 - FL): Frances, Lous' "secretary & treasurer, among many, many other things" dutifully sent in dues on his behalf and, in her capacity as "nurse", advises that Lou has not been well for some time. We're dismayed to hear that, Fran, and Lou, we're all pulling for you to overcome your health problems as soon as possible. Do hope that will happen so that ya'll will be enabled to make next years reunion! We truly hope so!

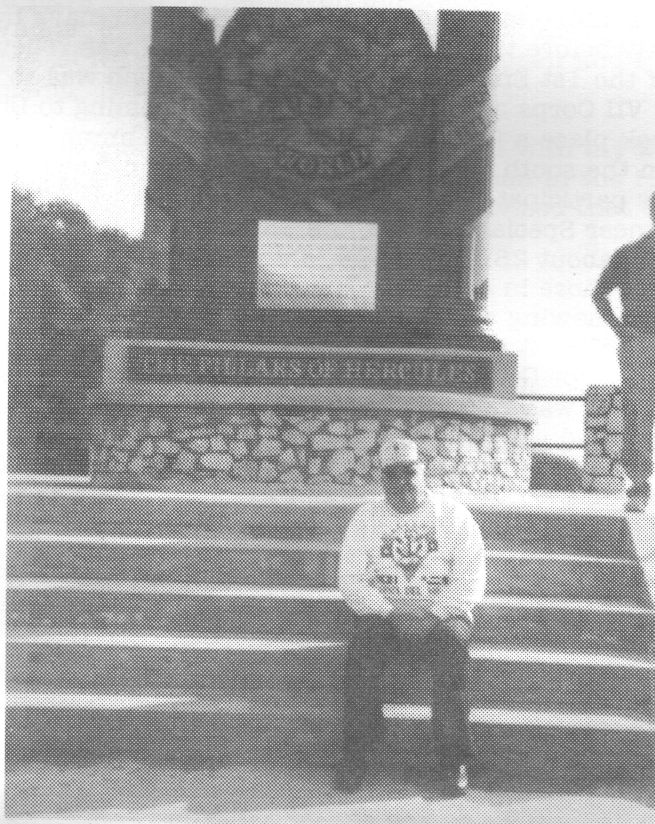
DIGUGLIELMO, JIM (B/20 - DE): A surprise and welcomed telephone call was received from Jim recently. His vision is seriously impaired and he has been out of touch with the Assn for several years. However, he was brought up to date via the phone call on our Association doings and on the status of his many friends still in the Assn, all of whom will be glad to learn that he is now back again on our rolls as a dues paid member. And hopefully, he and his caring wife, Rose, and other members of his family, may be able to join with him in making next years reunion! Try, gang, hear?

ALLEN, GEORGE (F/20;1171 GP - MD): George reports that this past year has been a "downer" for him due to serious heart problems which began with an attack which caused his air evacuation to the Washington (DC) Hospital Center for stabilization. However, his condition deteriorated during the night and urgent coronary bypass surgery was required. This resulted in 4 days of intensive cardiac care during which he was given the last rites of the church. George writes that the last rites must have led to his re-stabilization and improvement and, in his words, "confirmed my long suspicions that likely heaven didn't want me, and hell was afraid I might take over"!! Thank God, George, that your great sense of humor has not been damaged by all of your ordeals in this matter! We all are glad that you are now well on the road to full recovery and hope that continued improvement might permit you to attend our 1997 reunion. As a wrap up on Georges' letter he also provided a copy of a letter written by General Caffey concerning his involvement in the tragic sinking of several amphibious landing ships with attendant heavy loss of life via German E-Boat attacks in the English Channel during practice assault landings of elements of the 4th Inf Div & the 1st Special Amphibious Engineer Brigade on Slapton Sands prior to D-Day. In addition to the ship losses, over 700 soldiers were lost in that attack. Buried at the time in secrecy to deny the enemy information on the results of their attack, it only recently has been made public and probably many of you have read about this tragic affair thru recent news releases. If time and space allows, I'll try to include, in this edition, the Caffey letter concerning his exoneration of any responsibility for this unfortunate affair, based upon facts presented in a book by General Bradley. Thanks, George, for sending us this interesting item!

LIBBY, CHARLES (H&S/20-Band -- ME): Charlie always provides lengthy & enjoyable letters concerning many interesting things. For instance, he reminisced about the stray "friendly fire" 105 rounds that dropped in on H&S Co in the Huertgen Forrest and which sent his helmet flying. When he recovered it later it had a hole in it but, nevertheless, he continued to wear it anyway, and even brought it home where it is still on display. However, his nearby buddy, GEORGE SCHUTT of Mt Vernon, NY wasn't as lucky, since he lost part of his foot in that same "friendly fire" episode. (Note: Our records have nothing concerning George Schutts' current whereabouts or status). He also recounted the visit of a Luxembourg veterans group to his area to join in a 5th Armored Division reunion since they acknowledge the 5th as one of their wartime liberators. Charlie also attended that reunion, wearing his wartime "Ike" jacket (the one that won't button) and when the Luxembourgers saw his 1st Army shoulder patch, they exclaimed "Ah, First Army" in acknowledgment that we, too, were among their liberators! They were most interested in obtaining items of US units that served in Luxembourg and Charlie provided them some of the historical 20th items he had, especially because of the intense gratitude they have for their US liberators. Later he received a very nice pewter plate from the Mayor of Steinfort in Luxembourg in appreciation for the items he provided. Still later, he received a copy of Luxembourg's 3d largest newspaper, "Letzenburger Sinndesbad", which contained a section headed "THE ROARING 20TH" based on the items provided by Charlie, which even included reference to the fact that our outfit had also fought in Africa & Sicily! Sure glad you shared all this with us, Charlie, since it is particularly meaningful to all of us to know that our trials & tribulations in the war are so appreciated by the Luxembourgers! The report on our Assn tour of Europe in 1992, which appeared in a Wavy Arrow of that time, also recounted the warm & friendly welcome accorded to us during our stay in Luxembourg. Thanks again for the foregoing information and best regards to you and Margaret and our hopes that we may get the opportunity to see ya'all at our 50th anniversary next year!

CARINI, DOMENIC (B/1340 - CT): Domenic advises that his telephone number, as listed in the current Assn Roster, has been changed to the following: 860-571-8946. Thanks for advising us, Dom, and all members please correct your roster accordingly.

UPTON, JAMES (A/1340 - OH): Although Jim experienced some health problems of late, he has been able to enjoy some travelling and has kept us informed via periodic letters. Recently he included a photo that just has to be shown to ya'all. That photo, below, shows Jim sitting regally, like Hercules himself, on the steps of "THE PILLARS OF HERCULES" monument on Gibraltar's great rock, wearing proudly his 20 Engineer Cap of Pride, among other decorative items. Looking great, Jim, and thanks for sending that photo! And keep well, hear??



THE CAFFEY LETTER

The following is a copy of Colonel Caffey's letter to The Adjutant General Of The Army, dated 19 July 1951, as provided by George Allen and discussed in the Member News section of this edition. But, before reading this letter, please note that subsequent to this 1951 letter Colonel Caffey was promoted progressively, from 1953 thru 1955, to the grades of Brigadier and Major General, the latter to the position of The Judge Advocate General Of The Army!

During that period, I was serving on The Army General Staff at the Pentagon and then General Caffey frequently had me summoned to his Pentagon office where he always told his secretary to cancel all calls! Then, as she closed his door, he'd turn to me with a wry smile and say: "NOW, LET'S TALK 20TH ENGINEERS"!, and I never did leave any of those enjoyable sessions in less than an hour --in fact, several times they were prolonged to the end that I missed my evening car-pool group for the ride home and had to call for Martha to come & pick-me up! And so I recite all this to confirm and advise you all of General Caffey's deep personal feelings about our great wartime unit and all of us who served therein with him. And I assure you that his recollections of incidents and varied personalities of all ranks serving during his tenure as our commander, was outstanding and a further confirmation of his intense feelings for our 20th Combat Engineers!

201-Caffey, Eugene M. (O)

EMC/lt
19 July 1951

SUBJECT: Clarification of Record

TO: The Adjutant General
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D.C.

1. This letter is inspired by some statements which I saw a few days ago in "A Soldier's Story" by General of the Army Omar N. Bradley.

2. As it appears in my 201 file, my record in World War II is good. However, there was an occurrence which I am sure has caused a lot of uncharitable talk and has placed a question mark by my name: Shortly before the invasion of Normandy I was relieved from command of the 1st Engineer Special Brigade which was to land and support the VII Corps and the follow-up troops coming to Utah Beach. My relief took place a few days after a full dress amphibious rehearsal on the south coast of England at Slapton Sands. The exercise was participated in by the 4th Infantry Division, elements of the 1st Engineer Special Brigade, the Navy, and the Air Corps. The exercise, held about 28 April 1944, did not come off at all well. I supposed that those in authority knew the major reason for the disappointing showing and that they knew that it had nothing to do with me. Therefore it was a crushing surprise when my Corps Commander, Major General J. Lawton Collins, informed me a few days later that I was relieved from command of my brigade. He did not say why. I did not ask why. He permitted me to continue on with the brigade as deputy commander. The new brigade commander empowered me to run the brigade as I had been doing so I continued to attend to its operations just as I always had.

3. I went on to Utah Beach with the brigade on 6 June 1944. The record shows that then and thereafter I did well. However, I have always felt shamed and discredited because it is a fact that at a crucial time I was relieved from command of an organization destined to play an important part in one of the great undertakings of all warfare. To make the disgrace more unbearable, if such a thing could be, there was a complete unawareness on my part of anything I had done or failed to do to deserve it.

4. Concerning the exercise at Slapton Sands, the book referred to in Paragraph 1, above, has this to say toward the bottom of page 248:

"While motoring back to Dartmouth following the rehearsal I checked my findings with ____, ____, ____, and ____. Like me, they were disturbed on two counts. The beach engineer organization had broken down....

". . . I suggested to Collins that he assign a new commander to the Utah Beach engineer brigade.

"Not until four years after the war did I learn that these engineer troubles during the Utah rehearsal had not been caused by a breakdown in command but rather by the S-boat (sic) attack. For what I had been led to believe was a minor brush with the enemy was revealed to have been one of the major tragedies of the European War. Two LST's were sunk in that attack with a loss of more than 700 men. Yet for some unexplained reason the report had been withheld from me . . ."

5. Thus, after seven years, the blot on my good name seems to have been erased. I understand now why I was relieved. It is ironic that I was relieved for a reason which it is stated did not exist. I would have been spared seven miserable years had the facts been known and evaluated then instead of later. However, in the hurry and pressures of a big war odd things happen and I have no complaint.

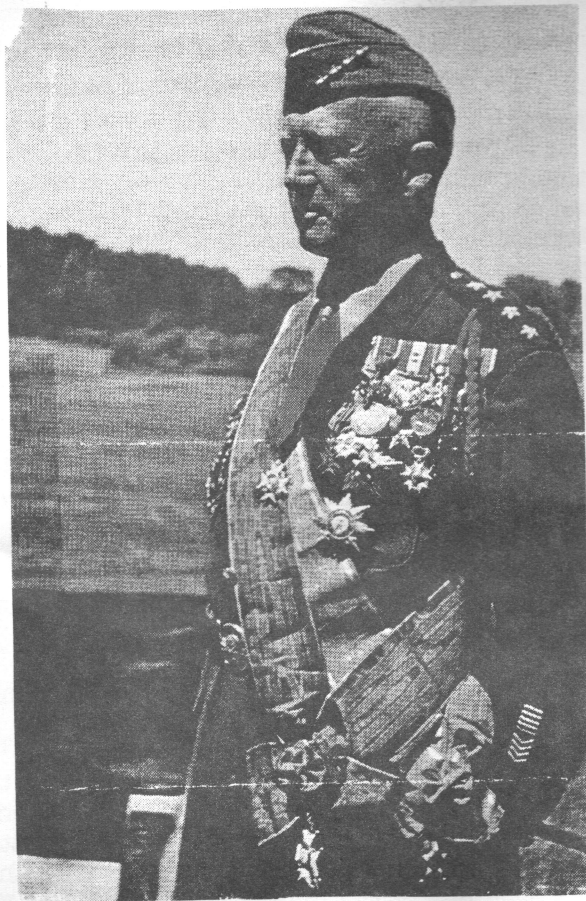
6. I request that this letter be placed with my 201 file so that it may be considered should there be occasion in the future to review my record. I further request that I be advised that the letter has been so filed.

EUGENE M. CAFFEY
Colonel, J.A.G.C.



SPECIAL NEWS

THE GEORGE S. PATTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY IN PILSEN, CZECH.:



George S. Patton
GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON, 1885 - 1945

George Griffenhagen of our Assn learned of the Patton Memorial Library project during a recent visit to Czechoslovakia and contact with the project founder, Roger Burke. Mr Burke, a US citizen, served in the US Army in Europe and later, as a civilian, taught English in Czech schools during the latter part of the Communist regime. During that period he learned of the Czech's great admiration and gratitude for their WW II liberation by US Forces under the command of General Patton. As a consequence, Mr Burke initiated a project to honor General Patton and his exploits in Czechoslovakia, as well as those of his troops, by creation of a Memorial Library in his name in Czechoslovakia. Mr Burke's purpose is to have the Library become "a place of learning and inspiration for young Czechs to learn how to stay free". His efforts appear to be near fruition since the Library is now projected for opening in Pilsen in May, 1997. We of the 20th Engineers were, of course, part of the Czech liberation while with the 1st Infantry Division and, earlier, as a part of Patton's other exploits during the campaigns in Africa & Sicily. To assist in finalizing the opening of the Patton Memorial Library, Mr Burke is seeking additional donations of books to round-out the more than 2,000 books already donated for his project. And he would also welcome any financial contributions that can be offered in order to insure the stabilization and continuance of the Library after its opening. Mr Burke is confident that the Library will become self-sustaining eventually. In sum, any members who would like to send any books suitable for the Patton Memorial Library, and/or a cash donation that you'd like to make to this project, send them c/o Mr Roger Burke, Project Pilsen, 3404 S. Auburn, Kennewick, WA. 99037. Or if you have any questions about this project, call Mr Burke @509-582-3953. In any case, be sure to advise Mr Burke that you are a member of the 20TH COMBAT ENGINEER ASSOCIATION.

BOOKS OF INTEREST TO 20TH ENGINEERS

"BREACHING FORTRESS EUROPE" The story of US Engineers in Normandy on D-Day. (Author: Sid Berger). A comprehensive, detailed and fact-filled narrative on Army Engineer operations on D-Day, and which includes several references to the 20th Engineers as well as a picture of our unit plaque on Omaha Beach. Also includes pictures and excellent maps. Additionally, the book includes a copy of the Caffey letter previously discussed in this WAVY ARROW edition, due to a copy gratefully made available by George Allen of our Assn (See "Member News" section). This book can be purchased for \$19.95 + \$3.50 S&H from Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co., 4050 Westmark Dr., PO Box 1840, Dubuque, IA. 52004-1840. Our thanks also go to Harry Moulder of our Assn for providing the foregoing address!

"AGAINST THE PANZERS" US Infantry vs German tanks, 1944-1945 (A history of 8 battles told thru diaries, unit histories and interviews). (Authors: Allyn R. Vannoy & J. Karamales). Describes battles in the Ardennes from August 1944 thru January 1945, to include our commitment in the Hurtgen Forest at Schmidt/Vossenack. The book contains photos, maps, bibliography & index. In a personal letter to the Assn, co-author Vannoy stated: "I would greatly appreciate it if you would let the members of the 20th Engineers know that there is a new book that includes the action at Schmidt, Germany in 1944. Also, I would like to thank the veterans of the 20th Engineers who helped make this book possible". This book is available for \$42.50 + \$3.00 S&H from McFarland & Co., Inc., Publishers Box 611, Jefferson, NC. 28640. Orders ONLY may be made cost free by dialing 1-800-253-2187.

YOUR DUES STATUS & WHERE TO SEND DUES PAYMENTS

RED DOT: ● Your dues expired on July 31, 1996! In accordance with Assn By Laws, this will be the LAST WAVY ARROW EDITION you'll receive until dues are paid

GREEN DOT: _____ Your dues are paid thru: _____

*Please remember that GEORGE GRIFFENHAGEN is our new Secretary/Treasurer and dues payments should be forwarded to him at the address shown below. Further, since ED LUTZ is now serving as Assn President & WAVY ARROW Editor, send news items to him! **IN SHORT:***

DUES TO GEORGE

GEORGE GRIFFENHAGEN
2501 Drexel Street
Vienna, VA. 22180
Tel: 703-650-2413

NEWS TO ED

EDWIN M. LUTZ
37 Hummingbird Lane
Willingboro, NJ. 08046-1773
Tel: 609-877-6099



3 FIRST WAVE ASSAULT LANDINGS &
8 COMBAT CAMPAIGNS FROM
NO. AFRICA TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA