

20th Combat Engineer Association of World War II



May 2003

56th Reunion Set For Fayetteville, North Carolina

The 56th Reunion of the 20th Combat Engineer Association of World War II will be held Thursday, September 18th, to Sunday, September 21st, at the Radisson Prince Charles Hotel in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

The traditional "Get Re-Acquainted Reception" will commence at 7:00 p.m., Friday, September 19, with an assortment of both hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks at a cost of \$12.00 per person. There will also be a cash bar for beer, wine, and other alcoholic beverages that will remain open until 11:00 p.m. The annual business meeting of veterans will be held at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, September 20th.

The annual sit-down dinner will commence in the private dining room of the Radisson Prince Charles Hotel at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, September 20, preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a cash bar. You will have several choices for your entree: **Chicken Piccata** (with capers and mushrooms); or **London Broil** (marinated flank steak with sherry mushroom sauce). The dinner will also include a tossed salad, medley of vegetables, scalloped potatoes, rolls and butter, cheese cake, coffee or tea, all for \$20.00 per person. Make your reservations now using the enclosed Reservation Form, but remember that the deadline is August 25, 2003.

Magnificent Airborne Museum

The Reunion includes a group visit to the Airborne & Special Operations Museum located only two blocks from the hotel. Here you will see an extensive collection of weapons, uniforms, aircraft, parachutes as well as engineers' equipment such as a Clark bulldozer. The D-Day invasion comes alive while walking down a street in a war-torn French village in Normandy, and 20th Engineers will relive the night in Sicily when Allied forces shot down 23 C-47 transports in the belief that they were German bombers. Many of the exhibits, tracing the history of the 82nd Airborne Division from World War I to Desert Storm, are supplemented by real-life motion pictures on monitors with benches, and actual background sound of the action is provided. We have arranged a group visit on Friday morning, September 19, where we will be met and recognized by museum staff. Those desiring to participate in this group visit should so indicate on the Reservation Form, and meet in the lobby of the hotel at 10:00 a.m., Friday, September 18. Those who prefer to visit the museum on their own at other times, can do so since the museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, and admission is free with donations accepted. But do plan on participating in the group visit to obtain recognition of the exploits of the 20th Engineers.

Hotel Accommodations

The Radisson Prince Charles Hotel is located in the heart of Fayetteville at 450 Hay Street opposite the City Hall. All sleeping rooms will be two-room suites with refrigerator, sofa, two television sets, two telephones, and desk. Every guest room has been designed with period furniture and lighting pictures, yet modernized to offer the luxury and spaciousness that our veterans expect. The Hotel also includes a full-service restaurant, lounge, room service, and work-out facilities.

Special sleeping room rates for the 20th Engineers are \$79.00 (plus 11% tax) for a total of \$87.69 per night for single or double occupancy, including complimentary Continental breakfast. There will be an additional charge of \$10.00 for adults occupying the same room, but no charge for persons under the age of 21.

Hotel sleeping room reservations can be made in two ways. By telephone, call 1-800-333-3333 or 1-910-433-5555 using any major credit card for your room deposit. By mail to the Radisson Prince Charles Hotel, 450 Hays Street, Fayetteville, NC 28301, enclosing a check for one room night (\$88 made payable to "Radisson Prince Charles Hotel"). The deadline for making hotel reservations is August 18, 2003.

Getting To Fayetteville

Delta and U.S. Airways serve the Fayetteville Regional Airport. Complimentary transportation from the airport is available by calling the Radisson Hotel (910-433-5555) or by taxi at a cost of \$10.00 one way for up to four persons.

For those driving: **Northbound** on I-95, exit #46 onto NC87 North which becomes Martin Luther King, Jr., Freeway; exit on Hay Street (exit #104B) to 405 Hay Street. **Southbound** on I-95, exit #52-B onto NC24 (Grove Street which becomes Rowan Street), turn left on Ray Street, and then right on Hay Street where the hotel is located. Parking for guests is free.

Proud Past of Fayetteville

Fayetteville received its first settlers in 1739 from the Highlands of Scotland. In 1783, two early settlements, Campbellton and Cross Creek, merged in 1783 and were renamed Fayetteville after the Revolutionary War hero Marquis de Lafayette. It was in Fayetteville in 1789 that the North Carolina legislature ratified the U.S. Constitution, and chartered the University of North Carolina, America's oldest state university. Fayetteville citizens rebuilt the city after two separate calamities. The Great Fire of 1831 destroyed over 600 buildings, and in 1865, General Sherman's Union troops burned the North Carolina Arsenal which had been the munitions center for the Confederacy. Today, it is the home of Fort Bragg established by Congress in 1918 as an Army field artillery site. Fort Bragg's airborne tradition began in 1934, and is now the world's largest airborne facility.

Hostesses Needed for Reunion

Since we will not have the traditional hosts for this Reunion who usually take care of hospitality, we encourage members, spouses, and family members to consider donating door prizes and to offer assistance in staffing the registration desk starting Thursday morning, September 18. Please send your generous offers of contributions plus the days and times of your availability for staffing the Registration Desk to: Secretary-treasurer George Griffenhagen, 2501 Drexel Street, Vienna, VA 22180, or by telephone at 703-560-2413, or by e-mail at <ggriffenhagen@aphanet.org>

Wavy Arrow Contributions

Many thanks to the following for having made a contribution during the past several months so that we can continue to send the *Wavy Arrow* on a regular basis.

Anonymous*	\$20.25
Joseph W. Miller (Officer)	\$50.00
Betty J. Powell (Widow)	\$25.00
Robert J. Rudd (H&S/1340th)	\$25.00
John O. Webster (Officer)	\$50.00

* =The contributor wanted to top the earlier \$20.00 contributions made by Ben A. Cipra (C/1340th) and Joseph J. Szvetitz (C/1340th). The anonymous contributor also reports that Sidney T. Cousans (C/1340th) and John Griffin (C/1340th) will probably top these earlier contributions.

Obituaries

We reported on the death of **Hubbard Lee Dodd (A/20th)** in the last issue of the *Wavy Arrow*. Now, his son, **Lee Dodd, Jr.**, sends us a copy of the obituary reporting that his father died on September 2, 2002 with the following comments: "My father was very proud of his service with the 20th Combat Engineers, and he wanted to make sure that his obituary was published in the *Wavy Arrow*." In addition to noting that Hubbard Lee Dodd was "a U.S. Army veteran of World War II serving four years with the 20th Engineer Combat Battalion," the obituary explains that our colleague was "a retired director of the First Virginia Bank, a retired hardware merchant and co-owner of Dodd Brothers Farm Supply and a license agent for the Department of Motor Vehicles in Madison Heights, Virginia."

Lucille Fearn (Widow of David Fearn, B/1340th) died February 28, 2003, according to her son, **Jack Van Dyke**, and her daughter-in-law, **Phyllis Van Dyke**. The final resting place is Sunrise Memorial Gardens in Muskegon, Michigan.

George Daniel Shortt (C/20th) died March 6, 2003. His daughter, **Phyllis Pickle (5812 Post Corners Trail, Apt. A, Centerville, VA 20120)** writes: "He would have celebrated his 83rd birthday on March 17th. His funeral was held in a large chapel that was so full that many had to leave, and was laid to rest at a very impressive military service. Dad was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather, respected by everyone who knew him."

News About Our Veterans

Joseph W. Miller (Officer) writes: "Please make Patrick Evans an honorary member. He is son of my friend and colleague, Owen H. Evans (Hq/20th). Pat adopted me as an honorary "papa" after Owen died in 1997. The only thing I have been able to do for his many favors is to assist his two boys in their history term papers -- one on the Engineers' role in the Omaha landings, and the other on the Huertgen debacle. He and his boys are WWII buffs, so the *Wavy Arrow* will be appreciated. I am rapidly losing my vision to old age, but I can still beat out a letter on my ancient Smith-Corona, even if I can't see to make corrections."

John O. Webster (Officer) has rejoined the Association. His mailing address is 266 Chestnut Ridge Road, Queensbury, NY 12804, and he has written (in part): "I used to send my dues and extra donations, but somewhere along the line my name was dropped from the mailing list for non-payment of dues. Since then, my only contact has been through John Urkevitch who served in Company A of the 20th in my platoon. He is now deceased, but his widow, Irene, keeps in touch with me. I joined the 20th in Bizerte, Tunisia, as a replacement officer and was assigned to the 1st Platoon of Company A, 20th Engineers. I then landed at Licata, Sicily, and then sailed to Scotland and landed D-Day on Omaha Beach where I was injured, but not bad enough to be evacuated. I was wounded again during the Huertgen Forest, after which I was given command of Company C, 20th, because Captain (Walter) Mahhaley was badly wounded in that action. I commanded C Company during the Battle of the Bulge, crossing the Rhine, and on to Czechoslovakia and the end of World War II. Then when Captain Ed Lutz was promoted to Battalion headquarters, I was briefly given command of Company B, 20th. So, you see, I served with all three line companies of the 20th and got to know a few of the gang. I am interested in the possible attendance at the next Reunion. Although 83 has crept up on me, it is still doable, I think."

Betty J. Powell, (widow of Robert Powell, B/20th) writes: "I do enjoy receiving the *Wavy Arrow*. Some of the veterans I recognize, but many I do not. My Bob really enjoyed the Reunions, and I attended some of them with him. He did not miss many."

Sergeant David Hansen (grandson of the late Wilbur M. Hansen, B/20th) writes: "I just wanted to thank all the veterans. I know my grandfather would be proud to see that I have carried on our family military tradition. In fact, I wear his dog tag along with mine. I am currently deployed as a mortuary affairs specialist in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom at Fort Lee, Virginia. I recover the remains of our fallen at the Pentagon. Thank you for all you did for us. I'd proud to say that I am a soldier in the U.S. Army."

Send items for inclusion in future issues of the *Wavy Arrow* to editor George Griffenhagen, 2501 Drexel Street, Vienna, VA 22180. Photographs are especially welcome if you can identify the people in the picture, approximate date and location when the photo was taken.