

Our first letter comes from George Fisanich:

Hey Guys...

Here is some possible good news! The 82nd Airborne Division Association head man Bill Eberle attended the Central Pennsylvania Picnic last Saturday and we spent about an hour discussing this and that...

Bill went out of his way to suggest that the 325 GIR could easily have a reunion at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, with all the arrangements completed by him... including getting us a hotel (probably his favorite) arranging a conference room, arranging a hospitality room with a lot of food, arranging two or three sight-seeing trips by bus to local places of interest.... arranging transportation to and from the airport in Savannah, GA, a banquet on either Friday or Saturday evening, maybe a guest speaker... all of this for about \$70 or \$75 a person.... All we would have to do is give him our choice of dates, and the number of persons coming, and probably our choice of meat at the banquet.

Bill seemed eager to do this for us and told me that he has already done this for other groups. Hilton Head is far enough south that we could probably do it as late as Thanksgiving.

With a new TOW LINE coming out shortly, maybe we could poll the members to see if there is any interest in such an endeavor... Comments? George
gfishanich@comcast.net



This next note comes from Don Hatfield:

Hi –

Am I in good standing with the 325th Glider Inf. Assn? If not please advise. I do not want to lose contact with my Regt. I'm enclosing a check just in case. Wesley Ko was my company commander after Capt. Slaughter got hit during the Holland operation also in the "Battle of the Bulge." We generally keep in touch at Christmas time. I was in Hdq Co, 2nd Bn. Please let me know –
Don

Editor's Note: Don, although I'm certain George Fisanich has already contacted you, I assure you that you are indeed in good standing. If any of our readers served with Don, I'm sure he would like to hear from you. Write to him at:

Donald Hatfield
Rockin' R Ranch
109 Glenside
Ponca City, Oklahoma 74601
Or call him at 580-762-5691

After our update on our friend 'Shutters' in the last issue, your editor was saddened to receive the following (this was before I received the obituary in the most recent 'Paraglide.'

Dear Richard,

I am Margaret Petrick, Shutters' daughter. I was surprised when I looked at the summer edition of the Towline & saw the letter I had written for Dad in the newsletter. It brought a smile to my face & a tear to my eye. I have to inform you that Dad passed away shortly after that letter was sent out to all his friends & relatives. He passed away on January 9, 2011. He was active up to the end and had been to Burger King that morning talking about the Spartans loss the night before. He was an awesome man & we were blessed to have had him with us for so many years.

The glider museum that he had been active in helping to raise funds for opened on July 17th here in Iron Mountain. It is a museum that honors all WWII veterans with a special interest on the gliders as the Ford plant in the neighboring town of Kingsford produced the majority of the gliders produced in the USA. There is a fully restored glider in the museum. Dad had really wanted to be here for the dedication & opening but I'm sure he was here in spirit. I was able to meet Mr Lester Schram from the 325th as he and another four members of the 325th were here for the opening. Mr Schram happened to be right in front of me & I knew he & Dad were friends so I introduced myself. We had a nice little visit.

I thank you for all the work you do in keeping the vets informed & in touch with each other. If anyone is every in the Upper Peninsula they should try to stop & check out the museum, I think they would be pleasantly surprised.

Thank you again. As Dad would say, 'Airborne, all the way.'

Sincerely,

Margaret Petrick

Editor's Note: Margaret and her husband are now living in her Dad's home. If you would like to send condolences, the address is:

Margaret Petrick
1300 Michigan, Lot 80
Iron Mountain, MI 49801-3664

Hi Rick,

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Adam Berry and I am a UK based Historian focusing specifically on the Combat actions of US and British Airborne Divisions in WWII. I live in the Leicestershire area and therefore have a specific interest in the 82nd Airborne Division as many of the towns where the Division was billeted are just a short drive from where I reside. One thing that has come to my attention in recent years is the lack of a memorial in the village of Scraptoft where the 325th GIR were camped. The same also applies to the 504th PIR at Evington, and the 507th PIR at Tollerton Hall. Both the 505th PIR and 508th PIR have memorials at Quorn and Wollaton Hall respectively and although these memorials are indeed very much deserved I am of the opinion that the 325th, 504th and 507th are all as deserving of a memorial. Therefore I am hoping to embark on a mission to ensure that memorials for these Regiments get put in place.

Obviously, I do not wish to, and cannot, proceed without support of the Regiment in some way, shape or form and although many years ago I was aware of an association for the 325th I have since been unable to find it. I obtained your E-mail address from Ellen Peters who is a member of the 505th PIR Association but has many contacts within the Division. I call to you in hope of your support in successfully memorializing the 325th PIR in the town of Scraptoft.

I have contacted Scraptoft's local Council in recent weeks and we have been talks about the possibility of getting a memorial placed and where it would go. Beeby Lane where the camp was actually located is private land and may prove difficult. However, it's been suggested that the local church yard might be a good place to point the memorial as it will be well looked after and may avoid any form of vandalism.

As for how this memorial will be funded, I am hoping to tackle this myself, and will raise the funds required where necessary. The village of Scraptoft itself has also suggested the possibility of donating towards the memorial but this cannot be guaranteed.

I hope you are in support of this mission and I hope to get the Regiments support. I apologize if you're unable to act on this E-mail but perhaps you might be able to point me in the direction of someone who can.

Kinds regards, Adam

Editor's Note: I already replied and offered my full support, but I am certain Adam would appreciate hearing from our officers – his contact information is:

Adam Berry
Home Farm House
School Lane
Normanton Le Heath
Leicestershire
LE67 2TH
England, UK
aberry@initsys.co.uk

The following letters are courtesy of George Fisanich:

Dear George,

Hope this note finds you doing well. Please find enclosed my 2011 dues so I can continue receiving the wonderful newsletters from the 325th Glider Infantry. I always enjoy reading them, which helps to stay in touch with all of you. The photos and stories are invaluable. These things keep the history alive. I've saved them all and intend to pass them down through my family so they can understand just how my father served his country.

Please stay in touch and take care.

Best wishes,
Donna Pauson



Hello, George –

We were sorry to have missed the „final 325 reunion“ and I don't know whether I will ever attend one again. I and very few other older guys are in better shape physically than I, can manage to travel wherever you young guys might want to meet in future years. We all should be able to see the writing on the wall that becomes clearer with every passing day. But we should be hopeful that we might!

It dawned on me that I have not sent you money for dues. This is necessary to the continuance of the Tow Line as long as Dave and Rick will be willing to write it. They have been doing a great job! Let's hope they will.

I have been pretty useless because of cancer that I hope am free from now on. Hope you had a very kind winter, but I doubt it.

Take care!
Martin Stahel

Dear George,

I am enclosing my dues for 2011. Sorry to be late, but I have been having some medical troubles, but I am still alive at almost 92 years. I can still enjoy reading the “Glider Tow Line” so please do not cut me off.

I see that there are not too many of us still alive. I am glad to see you, Tony Vallos, Jesse, Wesley, and Jack C. among those I know best, still growing strong.

Best regards to all,
Lew Strandburg
lasarn@comcast.net



Editor’s Note: George also sent short notes of appreciation from Mrs. Ruth Johnson (Robert’s widow) and Richard Weese (B Co) who is looking for a copy of the video of the Wobbelin death camp. I would like to thank all of you for the very kind words of praise for the Tow Line and assure Martin that I will keep editing it as long as the 325th wants me. George sent one more letter – this one is from him to all of our readers:

Donation Graciously Accepted

As you will recall at the September 2010 Reunion in Charlotte, NC it was proposed and accepted that the Association donate \$1,000 to the 82nd Airborne Division War Memorial Museum in Fort Bragg, NC. It was also accepted that the check presentation be conducted with decorum in order that this action reflect the generosity of the Glidermen of our Association.

I took the opportunity to make this presentation while participating in the All American Week activities at Fort Bragg in May. Long before the event, I proposed to the 82nd Airborne Division Association Executive Director, Santiago Tijerina, Jr., that this action be made before or after the usual memorial service conducted adjacent to the museum in order to take advantage of having a large crowd witness our generosity. This request was at once denied “because it would ruin the protocol of the day’s events.” No explanation why??

The presentation would maybe have taken about one half minute of my time and another half minute for the acceptance by museum curator John Aarsen. The actual presentation was later conducted near the front door of the museum and only five or so persons witnessed the action. The accompanying photo shows the very pleased Mr. Aarsen accepting the check:

Subsequently, the Curator has communicated his and the Museum’s thanks to Chairman Jesse Oxendine for our action.
George Fisanich

And just as George said, Jesse did indeed receive a letter of appreciation from the 82nd Airborne Division Historical Society:

Dear Mr. Oxendine:

On behalf of the 82d Airborne Division Historical Society, Inc. I would like to thank you, and your organization, for your generous gift of \$1,000.00 to the 82nd Airborne Division Historical Society, Inc. Your commitment to helping the 82d Airborne Division Historical Society, Inc. is sincerely appreciated.

On a continuing basis the 82d Airborne Division Historical Society, Inc. supports the 82d Airborne Division War Memorial Museum in its efforts to Hone the Past and Preserve the Future History of the 82d Airborne Division, AMERICAS GUARD OF HONOR

The goal of the 82d Airborne Division Historical Society, Inc. is to continue our support of the 82d Airborne Division War Memorial Museum. With the help of donations from supporters such as you we will continue to see improvements to the 82d Airborne Division War Memorial Museum.

Thanks again for your generous support of our efforts.

Best wishes & AIRBORNE,
Joseph W. Tolley
President
82d Abn Div Historical Society, Inc.