



Geronimo!



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 2014

Rhone American Military Cemetery, Draguignan, France 16 August 2014



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Headline & By Line	1
New 509 PIA Board	2
Reunion Pictures	3
Operation Dragoon	4/5
Operation Dragoon	6
509 PIA Minutes	7
Membership App.	8

SEND E-MAIL ADDRESS TO

Philip.Handscomb@msn.com

**AND WE WILL
SEND YOU A
COPY OF THE
NEWSLETTER**

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION DRAGOON, ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE 509 PIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SOUTHERN FRANCE, AUG 8 THRU AUG 17. Representing the 509 PIA were Tryggvy Larum, Matt Holtzmann, Matt Anderson, and Philip Handscomb, and their wives. We were honored and feted by the French, and had an amazing time. (photos pgs. 4,5,6)

509 PIA REUNION 9/3-9/6

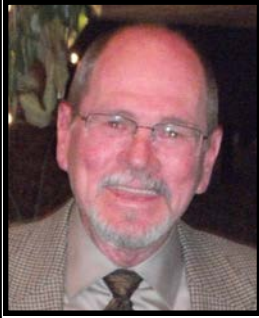
The 509 PIA Reunion was held in Harrisburg, PA, Sept. 3 thru 7. Housman and associates did an amazing job, as they always do. Thank you again, June, John, and Ernie. We spent a moving and inspiring day at Gettysburg which included: a tour of the museum with the panorama of the battle, a coach tour of the Gettysburg Battle site with a Guide, and lunch at a Historic Restaurant. The banquet on Saturday included pictures from Southern France, poetry, dinner, and dancing. The membership has elected a new Executive Committee for 2014-2015 (see pgs. 2 & 3)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **70TH ANNIVERSARY OPERATION DRAGOON/RUGBY**
- **509 REUNION HARRISBURG, PA**
- **MEMBERSHIP APP**
- **MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**
- **2014 REUNION NEWS**
- **NEW 509 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
- **509TH WEBSITE LINK**

<http://509thgeronimo.org/>

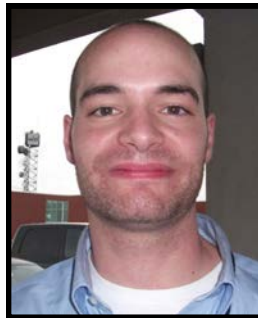
MEET OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD



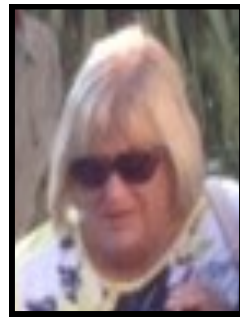
Hal Persun,
President



Joe Mancini,
Vice-President



Heath Stanley,
Treasurer 3rd 509



Margot Handscomb,
Secretary



Mark Jernigan,
Membership
Secretary

A Sincere Thank You to the Executive Board Members Who are Retiring

Barry Simpson, Past President, Vice President, and Treasurer; Tryggvy Larum, Vice President; and Matt Holtzmann, Secretary, are leaving the Executive Board after years of service to the 509 PIA. Barry Simpson and Tryggvy Larum will continue to serve doing Special Projects for the Association.

TRUSTEES



Dave Bush, Past
President 509 PIA



Philip Handscomb



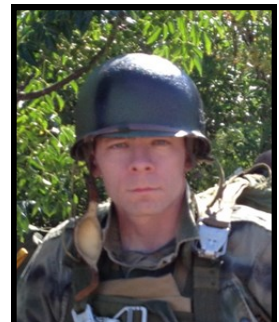
John Devanie, Past
President 509 PIA



Mark Tsvigas,
Entrepreneur



Lee Barber, 3rd. 509th



Matt Anderson, 509
PIA Website

Harrisburg 2014



70th ANNIVERSARY OPERATION DRAGON

Pathfinders mis-dropped here and in the water near the shore and was helped out by fishermen



Chateau just outside Tanneron to the southeast

509th Pathfinders miss-dropped, Belluny, France 10 August 2014



Looking up from the ravine toward the Castle headquarters for the German 5th Company, 28th Jaeger Battalion, objective for C Company, 509th PIB

509th PIB Attack on Chateau Agecroft (The Castle), Napoule, France 10 August 2014



At 0421 on 15 Aug 1944, 45 planes drop paratroopers from Headquarters and A Company 509th PIB, Headquarters and A Battery 463rd PFAB, and 1st Plt, 596th AEC on Drop Zone C south of Le Muy, France

Drop Zone C, 509th PIB, 463rd PFAB, 1st Plt 596th AEC, South of Le Muy, France 11 August 2014



Drop Zone Near Le Muy & WWII ADT and French Airborne Command pose for photos waiting for winds to clam down.

Preparations for Jump, Southern France 13 August 2014

70th ANNIVERSARY OPERATION DRAGOON



**1st Airborne Task Force Monument Ceremony,
La Mitan, France
14 August 2014**



**Ceremony for the 1st Airborne Task Force,
La Mitan, France
14 August 2014**



Although the building has been renovated it is the same as in the next photo.

Town lodge that was used as the 1st ABTF Medical Aid Station.

**Ceremony for the 1st Airborne Task Force,
La Mitan, France
14 August 2014**



**45 Planes miss-dropped B and C Companies 509th PIB
and B and C Batteries 463rd PFAB,
San Tropez, France
15 August 2014**

70th ANNIVERSARY OPERATION DRAGOON



**45 Planes miss-dropped B and C Companies 509th PIB
and B and C Batteries 463rd PFAB,
San Tropez, France
15 August 2014**



**Rhone American Military Cemetery,
Draguignan, France
16 August 2014**



**Rhone American Military Cemetery,
Draguignan, France
16 August 2014**



**Drop Zone A, 551st PIB and 550th GIR,
Valbourges Estate, France
16 August 2014**

General Membership Meeting



Minutes September 6, 2014

Agenda topics:

The membership was informed that there is a new bank account set up at Wells Fargo Bank for the 509 PIA. Both the Secretary and the President of the 509th PIA will be signatories on the account. Barry Simpson, Treasurer said there was \$18,305.35 in the account, and said he would send a full financial report to the Executive committee as soon as he had all the figures from the reunion and merchandise sales. Barry also reported that he was up to date on the Membership Cards, and that one of the goals of the Association this year needed to focus on membership. It was mentioned by Tryggvi that we have around 2,500 members on our 509 Facebook page, but not all are paying members of the 509th PIA. He would like to try and sign up 1000 of them as members.

Philip Handscomb had purchased get well cards for John Eaves and Nick DeGaeta, and everyone was asked to sign. Hal Persun talked about his good contacts and relations with the 3rd Battalion in Fort Richardson and Philip Handscomb's contacts and good relations with the 1st Battalion in Fort Polk. He also talked about the 509th PIA representation at 509 events. Hal, Dave Bush, John Devanie, June Housman, John Eaves, and the "Brit" attended Joint Operations of the 1st and 3rd Battalions in April; Barry Simpson and the "Brit" were at the All Airborne Awards in April, where Ernie won "Man of the Year." Hal Persun was at Fort Polk for the Change of Command. He stressed the importance of attending these activities to support the 509th, and mentioned the 3rd Battalion is having a Winter Ball on October 8 and a Change of Command in November. While attending these events we should spread the word about membership in the 509 PIA.

There were no minutes read from the last meeting in Fayetteville/Ft. Bragg in 2013. Matt Holtzmann was not in attendance in Harrisburg, and had not sent the minutes.

There was a group discussion of Fund Raising for the 509 PIA to give us the funds to do more. Lee Barber brought up the subject of Crowd Funding and will send details to Barry. There was also a discussion of looking for Corporate Funding. The 509 PIA needs to "kick start" fundraising. We have 501C19 tax exempt status. Tom talked about wounded warrior's project to put on newsletter. Tryggvi filled us in on selling merchandise on-line, and emphasized the need to do Pay Pal and "make it personal." In PA Joe's contact for making shirts and hats, etc.

Changes to the 509 PIA By Laws submitted 60 days or more prior to meeting: Change to ARTICLE II - Membership, Section 1 – Charter Members. The following addition was submitted by Patrick Murphy and unanimously approved: **Charter members shall also be life members, no dues being necessary to continue their membership in the Association.** Change to ARTICLE V – Officers, Section 1 – Number. The following addition was made and unanimously passed: **a Membership Secretary. Added: Section 9 – Membership Secretary a. The Membership Secretary shall maintain a roster of active members and the official roster for Association mailings. He shall be responsible for membership cards for all members and transmitting those cards and one Association decal for each member. At the General Membership meeting he shall be responsible for insuring that only paying members are allowed to vote.**

Question from the floor on "Stand in the Door" books. The Association would like to do a 3rd Edition, and are working on price, interest, etc. There was a suggestion of E-Books. Barry suggested putting the Military Market Store on our Website, which would not compete with 509 products, since he sells for the 82nd. There was continued discussion of Corporate Sponsorship with the suggestion that John Devanie's picture and WWII story could be a big draw.

Tryggvi Larum gave the group a briefing on the Association's participation in Southern France for Operation Dragoon. He gave 40 Association coins to the French Reenactment team, and asked for the Association's approval to send our new decals to France for their trucks.

The following names for 2015 Man of the Year were submitted: Charlie Audet, Hal Persun, Matt Anderson, and Dave Bush. Any other names can be submitted to Barry Simpson.

Barry Simpson and Tryggvi Larum are stepping down from their positions on the Executive Board to do special projects for the 509 PIA. One of the projects Barry is working on is getting a 509 stone at Military Museums.

Several cities were nominated for next year's reunion. The top three: Florida, Hawaii, and Tacoma, WA were voted on and Tacoma, WA got the most votes for the 2015 reunion. June Housman will check hotel availability and keep us informed. Tacoma is near the Lewis/McCord Joint Air Force/Army base.

The last order of business was the Election of Officers and Trustees for the Executive Committee. Nominations and Seconds having been received, there was voting for all positions, and the results are as follows: President, Hal Persun; Vice President, Joe Mancini; Treasurer, Stanley Heath; Secretary, Margot Handscomb; Membership Secretary, Mark Jernigan. Trustees: Matt Anderson, Lee Barber, Dave Bush, Philip Handscomb, and Tom Tsivgas. Special Projects: Barry Simpson and Tryggvi Larum.

Organization Dues Statement

January 1-December 31

Annual 509th PIA Membership

- CHARTER WORLD WAR II VETERAN LIFETIME MEMBER
- LEGACY IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF VETERAN \$20.00 per year
- REGULAR POST WORLD WAR II 509TH VETERAN \$25.00 per year
- ASSOCIATE NON 509TH VETERAN \$25.00 per year

Please make check payable to:

509th PIA

and send to:

509th Parachute Infantry Association
 47 Washington Ave.
 Box 310
 Wheeling, WV 26003

We Need Your Support

Name: _____

Address: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Phone No.: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Occupation: _____

509TH SERVICE:

Unit: _____ Time Period: _____

Combat Tour: _____ Time Period: _____

OTHER COMBAT UNIT:

Combat Tour: _____ Time Period: _____

If you do not want your name and information listed in a member directory please check the box