

591st Engineer Boat Regiment Reunion Association

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WORLD WAR TWO 1942-7946



Box 71, Sublette, Kansas 67877
Phone 316 675-8261

9th REUNION
JULY 8th thru 11th, 1976
"San Antonio Seventy Six"

Dear Comrades:

Suggest all newcomers read the Heading two or three times. You're in it somewhere. All you old Hands just read it, then YOU ALL circle the dates, make marks on the wall or whatever it is you do to remember important dates.

1975, Springfield, Missouri, 591st Reunion, that is a date that will be remembered as perhaps our largest meeting and included many first timers and more companies represented than ever before.

Certainly was a Great Group with lots of good old 591st down to earth Bull Sessions. Lots of Front Stool information was given out, most of it thirty some years too late to have any material value, but none the less you leave with a clear and distinct feeling of "How in the Hell did the Americans ever win the War?"

No kidding, this 591st had the greatest bunch of fellows that ever straddled a slit trench. (explain that to your grand kids).

Speaking of kids, the 591st is the God Father of a child, 1 year old, Laura Machelie Wilson, Host of the 75 Reunion, with the help of Mom and Dad. Is there a younger offspring of the 591st?

Thank you Willis and Ruby for caring for our well being while we were in Springfield, we all love you, and are sure you are equally grateful to the 591st for spoiling your child. We did the best we knew how.

Robert Bohm, Secretary-Treasurer of the 591st EBRRA, 712 Haskell Street, Burlington, Iowa 52601, still has a few membership cards left, so all you Old Boys that don't have one hurry and send Bob a \$5.00 bill while the supply lasts. This is a nice large card about two by three (inches) with the Regimental Shield and your name in Ink on it. This card is a nice current reminder that the Outfit you served with in the Big One wasn't just a nightmare. Also the money could help me support the US Postal Service.

Do we have a photo developer in the outfit? I am the recipient of about 25 pounds of WW II negatives (most of them classified at the time) of various 591st operations and they need to be finished. This film was sent to me by Comrade William C. Theofilis shortly before his death October 2nd, 1975.

Comrade Ole Olsen is recovering from a near fatal accident which happened on his farm in Minnesota. Ole appreciates all cards and letters, Yah, and the address is Mr. Arnold E. Olsen, Box 158, Rte. 2, Lake Benton, Minnesota 56149.

Personal note: I lost a blue note book, the type used for pictures. I used it for letters and it contained some of the most recent ones from Buddies of the 591st. If any one finds it among their possessions, I would certainly appreciate the return of it. Thank you.

I think it would be interesting to have a display of WW II souvenirs at the next reunion. No Jeeps or Six by Sixes, please. I had a small part in collecting one of those once!.

I want to inject a few thoughts right here and now, especially to you fellows that have never attended a Reunion. Have you ever thought of your WW II Buddies? Have you ever thought, "Would I recognize my old Buddies?" Have you ever thought back to those thirty some years ago about any particular incident in possibly Camp Bowie, Camp Bullis, Fort Leonard E. Wood, Camp Edwards, Mass., Camps in Ireland, England, Wales, Africa, Italy, Sicily, Corsica, Sardinia, Alsace Lorraine, France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, or how about Brownwood, San Antonio, Waco, Waynesville, Lebanon, Hyannis, Cape Cod, Marthas Vineyard, Buzzards Bay, Boston, New York, Halifax, Belfast, Glasgow, Liverpool, London, Mers El Kebir, Oran, Arzew, Bizerta, Constantine, Grimby, Ferryville, St. Leu, Algeria, Bousseville, Cagliari, Ajaccio, Bastia, Pozzouli, Naples, Civitavecchia, Leghorn, Anzio, Foggia, Rome, Tunisia, Arno, French Morroco, Marseille, Baccarat, Insmingon, or how about Erstroff, Teting, Carling, Alteville, Longeville, Pirmasen, Furth, Michelstadt, Miltenberg, Eibelstadt, Bad-Mergenthiem, Ellwangen, Hochstadt, Landsberg, Kapenberg, Salon, and there were many more? Have you ever thought about going to a Reunion? Well Old Buddy, now is your chance to make those dreams come true.

Buddies, that's the key word. I know there are a few of you who receive these Reunion notices, read them (we hope) and then deposit them in file thirteen, shrug your shoulders, and probably think, "Buddies, what the Hell did my Buddies do for me?" Well Friend, let's get one thing "Perfectly Clear", if it hadn't been for Buddies, you and I would of been up the Old Creek without a paddle. Some of you don't care to get involved in sharing some of the past with your Buddies (you think) but I'll guarantee you if you tried it once, your thoughts would definitely change.

We realize that some cannot possibly attend for reasons that are completely understandable, but you all have access to pencil and paper and the facilities to get a card or letter mailed to the reunion chairman or Host. Those letters will serve several purposes. They will be a link confirming your address, acknowledging to your comrades that you are still with us and will possibly result in a personal meeting with some of your Buddies. Of course this cannot happen unless you take this one small step. We know of many cases where the results are worth millions. My address file shows instances where there are as many as a dozen ex-591st men living in the same city, each unaware of who the others are. I know of two who live on the same street and not very far apart.

Well, so much for the commercial, now for the good stuff. Do you remember T.L. Allen? No? How about Thomas L. Allen? a few? Well how about Colonel Thomas L. Allen, Commanding Officer, 591st Engineer Boat Regiment, sometimes called the Old Man? (among other names).

If you will remember, he was the Big Guy always standing out in front. (at Regimental formations) (does that sound right?) Well anyway, he is the one that had the voice that carried for two miles and throwed rocks for two more.

It was because of this man that a couple of comrades and I followed the outfit across Europe (about a week behind) stealing tires, gasoline, and playing nurse maid to a Limousine that was "Moonlight Requisitioned" off a barge. All of this so that He and Ole could ride in style. We pushed and pulled the thing farther trying to catch the company than it was driven after we delivered it.

All is forgiven now, Colonel. Incidentally, if you who accompanied me on that winter time maneuver would care to discuss it, I will be at the Reunion.

Tom Allen has attended many of our reunions and is a great believer in them. Last year he and his lovely wife, Gladys, asked that the 591st let them Host the 1976 Reunion at the Tropicana Motor Motel in San Antonio, Texas, at 110 Lexington Avenue, zip 78205. All this will take place beginning July 8th, and continuing thru July 11th, 1976.

Now the Old Man told me, he wants all his "Boys" to make this formation. So let's do our best, men. I realize that back in the Army Daze we all tried to specialize in the art of Missing Formations. But do make this one by all means. The Colonel promises no extra duty, just plain good comradeship.

Tom and Gladys have gotten the maneuver plans all firmed up and ready to exercise come "D DAY" and the General Orders read something like this: Registration Fee, \$17.50 includes use of the Monterrey Room as a Hospitality room, drinks and dips, Banquet Saturday night and the Dance following. (non-drinkers deduct \$5.00)

Several options have been arranged for, namely noon meal at the Tower of America on Friday, July 9th, cost \$3.50 to \$5.00, River Boat Dinner Friday at Seven and cost \$7.00.

The dance orchestra is one that plays for the Texas Pioneers and several other clubs, and specializing in Waltzes, One Steps, Fox Trots, and tunes that were popular in the Forties, the Hey Dey of the "Fearless Fightin Five Nine One."

Local tours of the Missions and other interesting points in San Antonio are available for those who would like to do sight seeing.

That do sound like fun don't it, so you all come to the Lone Star State Where the Stars at Night are Big and Bright.

Texas is the only State in the Union which was once an independent Republic. The word Texas comes from the word Tejas, the name of a Confederation or League of Indian Tribes. The word probably means Friends or Allies.

Well Old Buddies the next move is ours. Now don't forget your Buddies will be there, and they came to see you and if you ain't there, you've shot their day and the Lord knows we don't need any more shot days.

We suggest you make reservations early in order that we may be grouped. Also this lets your Host and Hostess build up their resistance.

So now is the time to start planning, sponging off relatives and neighbors, saving coupons, etc.

God Bless you all, see you in San Antonio come July '76. Thanks for the use of the eyeballs.

P.S. - State Reps.

I'm mailing to your people. If you want extra copies of letter, let me know.

ESM

Sincerely,

Everett S. Mills

Box 71

Sublette, Kansas 67877