

File - *WATP Gorsun*
591st Engineer Boat Regiment
Bohm, Robert
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591st ENGINEER BOAT REGIMENT

Headquarters & Headquarters Company

Component Companies Thereof

Sixth Reunion Notice

1973

Dear Comrade:

Guess what, it's propaganda time again in preparation of the 1973 Reunion of the "Fearless Fightin Five Nine One."

Again I will warn you that should you be the fellow who has no feeling of respect or closeness for the fellows who did your K.P., cooked - looked after your affairs, furnished your transportation, signed you in when you extended your pass; helped you navigate when the elements were against you, shared laundry ladies, socks, vino, packages from home, and Raleigh cigarettes, after all of this and more, you still have the feeling they let you down, then Suggestion No. 1 is, write a nice long letter to the Reunion Host, to be read at the Reunion. Now if by the time you have done this (I'm sure you will be feeling much better) your cold, cold heart hasn't thawed just a bit, then Suggestion No. 2 is, "GET THE LEAD OUT AND COME TO THE REUNION" and the rest of you bear with me please.

We all owe Thanks to our 1972 Hosts, who so diligently made this Reunion One of the Greatest. Where else could you find a Host, who is a Principal of schools, can serve as Chaplain, and will purchase liquor by the gallons for his buddies, even though he doesn't use a drop? Thank you, Robert and Jeanne and Christi Bohm. You're GREAT!

If it weren't for all of our wonderful Hosts, I'm afraid Reunions would be i.o. the Tent Areas in Africa, or Italy, or France, or Germany, or Sicily, etc.

At our Business Meeting in Burlington, it was agreed that provisions be made to continue these Reunions in the event I could no longer do whatever it is I have been doing, and to continue in a more business like vein, with this objective being an organization capable of continuing on its own. To get this idea to start taking form the following work was done.

Executive Directors: Chairman, Everett Mills; Secretary-Treasurer, Robert Bohm, his Alternate, Jeanne Bohm; Honorary Directors: General Weiler, Colonel Allen and Colonel Smith; Board of Directors are all former Hosts. They are, Orval North, T. W. Roberts, Delta Carter, Robert Driscoll, and Robert Bohm.

And to make up the propaganda sheets and keep you confused, the following were mentioned in the capacity of editors: Arthru B. Robinson, Harvey Harms and Everett Mills.

In order to ease and expedite the task of addressing envelopes and mailing, and licking stamps, the following persons volunteered their services: Staff Representatives - for Iowa and Minnesota, Clinton Smostead; for Texas, Morris Vaden; for Ohio, George Witham; for Missouri, Leonard Simpson; for Kansas, T. W. Roberts; for the Carolinas, Capt. Young; and for the State of Mississippi, Col. El Smith. I will take care of the others.

I might mention that I have about 600 names. Of these, I have 360 that are receiving the mail. This year we are mailing 400 copies of this sheet. Of this amount, possibly 100 will either attend the Reunion or write. The remaining names we are still trying to find an address for.

Because of these figures, it was suggested by T. G. (G for George) Estrada that we Incorporate the 591st and call it the 591st Engineer Boat Regiment Reunion Association. Col's. Allen and Smith are checking into this through their compatriot, Mr. (Capt.) Robert G. Fraser, the "Legal Beagle" of the Dog faces, and will report at the next meeting.

We have had concern in this group, that possibly the widows of our Departed Buddies, might or might not want to be included in our reunions. This is somewhat of a delicate situation, but to our rescue came the Guy who helped get us in this situation Thirty Years ago, Col. Tom Allen. He persuaded Jean Nordhaus to attend our 1972 Reunion. Mrs. Nordhaus is the widow of Major Alex Nordhaus. Jean has consented to the duty of corresponding with the widows of the Ex 591st men. She was a Red Cross worker in Africa during W.W. II, and who many of us remember. She is the mother of three sons, a warm and lovely person. Ladies, you will be hearing from Jean, to extend our condolence and welcome.

The final business of the 1972 meeting was to permanently install the "Honorable Shotgun Driscoll" as M.C.

In the near future Col. Allen will begin writing his "Memoirs" and asks that each one of us send to him our most memorable or outstanding incident during our tour of duty in the 591st. "Please do this without fail." Send it to Mr. Thomas L. Allen, Col. USA Ret., Box 13212, San Antonio, Texas 78231. Include your name, address and any other bit of items you would care to.

In 1974 we will meet East of the Mississippi at C, O. Our Hosts will be G & C, W!!

Where is the 1973 Reunion? I thought you would never ask.

We are going to Brookings, South Dakota, which is where Interstate 29 and US 14 cross. The Bivouac Area will be the Stauroelite Inn, at 2515 6th Street, Zip 57006, Phone 605-692-9421, and there to shake your hand will be the Ex-French speaking "Swede", Your Buddy and Mine, "Ole" Olsen and his lovely wife, Lorraine. They have a great weekend planned for us. Yah, we who know Ole and Lorraine know that after the "Good Lord" made them He threw away the mold. You'll Love em! Thank you Ole and Lorraine for inviting us to Brookings.

By now you are wondering why is Ole hosting us in South Dakota? when he lives at Lake Benton, Minnesota? Friends, Ole is doing what I expect many of our former Hosts wish they had done. Why destroy your image in the community where you live?! No, really, Ole is a farmer, and this is the nearest facility capable of handling a meeting of this size.

Well, "Old Buddy," (as one of our former CO's used to say), shortly after the Fourth of July, you all head out for Brookings. The Reunion is on the 6 - 7 - 8, but suggest that you plan to arrive on the 5th in order to get an even start with your Buddies in the BS Department, and will have more time to spread it thicker. Of course we will have a "Get Together" room with bar, hard liquor, mixes, etc., a business meeting Saturday morning, then in the evening the Banquet, with Stuffed Pork Chops, "Ole Olsen" style, and then for Dessert, we will get the Highs and the Lows of events past and present as seen through the eyes of, and relayed as he alone can do, The "Spiro" of the 591st, Our Own "Shotgun" Driscoll.

I expect the manager will want money for food and services rendered. So, in order to satisfy his demand, we ask that you bring \$7.50 ahead for those who just eat, and \$15.00 for those who eat and drink. So start now by NOT doing what you generally do, and plan on being in Brookings for your Greatest Weekend since you received your Induction Notice.

By mailing time, I hope to have reports from Robinson and Harms to include.

Had we all attended the same meetings, here are some of the 591st Engineers of the "Big War" that you could have had the pleasure of meeting after all these years:

Orval North	Ted Raymond	Henry Lemaster
T. W. Roberts	Dave Stone	Leonard Simpson
Delta Carter	Paul Thorpe	Robert Noonweiler
Jay W. Davis	Hy Wisotsky	C. B. Rolling
Spurgeon Piland	Marvin Waters	Carroll Bamford
Robert Driscoll	George Witham	Trinidad Estrada
Robert Bohm	Col. Allen	Harvey Harms
Virgil Sells	Floyd Ramsey	Col. El W. Smith
Alfonso Cortest	Morris Vaden	Roy Hitchens
Walt Schroeder	Jack Babgy	Randall Diver
Cleve Hildreth	Jim O'Bannon	Bob Witherall
Earl Gustafson	K.C. Griffin	Peter Hass
Joe Boyle	Clinton Smestead	Bob George
Arnold Olsen	Gen. Weiler	Jean Nordhaus
Robert Colliflower	Al Hume	Lee Stoffer
Steve Zatik	Lyle William	Adam Nowakowski
Gayle Yahnc	Arthur Gross	Carl Fountain
Fred Mahler	Milton Goepfert	Jim Keith
Gene Maness	Harris Harty	Capt. Earl Long
Don McCandless	Pete Petrazek	Buster Hodge
Elgin Hahn	Bud Nace	LeRoy Buster
John Keener	Art Fangmeir	Eric Duncan
Delbert Ryno	Frank Sutton	Steve Spodaryk
Lester Barnes	Arthur Robinson	Harley Earts
Jack Flor	Jimmie Bozarth	Andy Ferguson
Foster Kretz	Don Dickie	Ray Howard
Aloy Steinlage	Harold Hyland	Orison Kranball
Harold Smith	Gene Donnely	Leamon King
O. D. Bush	Joe Mercuri	Henry Rudloff
Charles Ripa	Earl Barwick	L. R. Smith
Raymond Kacymarek	George Levens	Newt Short
Pete Warren	Clarence Schmidt	Sinia Valoes

This will give you an idea who does go to Reunions. True, there are those who cannot get time off, others cannot afford the trip, etc., the latter being one of the reasons for forming a Reunion Association, whereby you would receive a "Card" making you a member for a small yearly fee. If you didn't care to become a member, then these bird cage drop sheets would cease. The dues sent in could in part be used to help a Buddy to attend, etc. And like the man says, "You ain't saw nothin" unless you see Old Buddies meet after all these years. Follows, it gets you a way down deep.

So start now savin and scrapin and makin plans. Think just a bit, if you please, about some of your Old Buddies and the "Good Times" you had. After all, if it hadn't of been for our "Buddies" we would have probably all wound up in Section Eight, or Fort Leavenworth. See you all in Brookings? O.K!

Thank you for your time
and the use of the cyeballs.

Respectfully,
Your Comrade



Everett Mills

Box 71

Sublette, Kansas 67877

"ARZEW LETTER"

Several of the fellows have asked for a copy of the "Arzew Letter" which was read at The Burlington Reunion. Please keep in mind this letter was received written in a conglomeration of Arabic, French, Spanish, and what have you. (Probably a friend of Schuyler Van Schmuck's). God Bless Him! By not having exercised my "ability" to use the above languages for some years, I had to ask the services of an interpreter. So here are the results, for which you read at your own risk.

The man who ran the place across the Hiway from the company area would like for you fellows who promised to pay later for your drinks, to please keep your promise (he sent some names).

The Laundry Lady north of the camp has just run out of GI soap; wants to know if any of you would send her a new batch? Also, she sends a list of laundry marks, initials, etc. from clothing left at her place.

Arzew had a population explosion, following the arrival of the 591st troops. They think it may have been caused by troops staying in the Old French Barricks, say the troops staying in tents seemed like real nice fellows (Hdq. & Hdq's Co.). They add that, while recently doing some digging at the site of the Officers Club at The Fountain of Gazzelles, they uncovered 12 jerry cans of medical alcohol. Some had initials inscribed on them, one set of initials still legible were E.O.Y. C.O. 591st Hdq & Hdq's Co.

Reports the owner of a French truck, used by Hdq & Hdq's Co. is still getting what seems to be vibrations that are shocking.

They say they have not had a garbage pickup since Comrade "Jimmie" left.

Also, still gathering up canteen covers in area northwest of Arzew (canteen cover cartons and cigarette cartons sure did feel alike in the dark didn't they?)

One disturbing item is the mention of the discontinuance of bath house at the jail, featuring back washing as "one" of the "special services."

Still visible on Foreign Legion Hill, is trail left from H & H Co Mtr Sgt driving jeeps off side. "(Remember your ride "Moose"?)

On the beaches, the natives are still drowning from sink holes left where Tank Lighter Co. backed boats away from shore. (I know a GI who almost did.)

They still haven't gotten rail road tracks straightened from Engr's hooking winch lines to them to pull 6 x 6's loaded with sandbags from beach.

Claim that 6 x 6 truck loaded with log chains and frame bent to the ground is still setting on the dock.

The port of Arzew believes it is about to solve the mystery of the disappearing 200 ton floating crane. (Any comment?)

Seems to include a bit of news from Oran, a woman in Oran, (name is completely illegible as is part of her nickname) although part of her nickname appears to have been "Big" something or other. (Apparently she is unemployed). She doesn't know whether to apply for unemployment compensation from the French or Americans. Report it is evident that she has enjoyed American Social Security.

Arab farmers are breaking plow handles trying to plow old motor pool area. (I never thought about them wanting to plow there when we buried those landing mats).

A spicy bit of news. Remember all those slit trenches and latrines? Well, due to recent heavy rains those have caved in, and the natives are using them for public Bar-B-Que pits, and they testify that food cooked over them has flavor and aroma that is "superb" to the natives standard of taste and smell (Burp!)

Some grandfathers of Oran children would like name of G.I. who rode as tail gunner on truck returning their daughters to Oran from Arzew dances believe he was a camouflage expert (to say the least).

Regretfully,

His Honor: Iben Con Fused
Mayor of Arzew