



BADGER AIRBORNE NEWS

82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION • BADGER STATE CHAPTER

March 2010

Welcome

New Members:

Col. James L. Williams,
USMC
Oceanside, CA

New Life Member:

Jerome Morrow
Baraboo

BSC Jumps:

Attend the next meeting and volunteer to help plan Airborne Events!

- **Van to 82nd Convention**—Contact Frank Morris
- **Free Wounded Veterans Canes** by Wisco Woodcarvers—Contact Tom Laney
- **Airborne Raffle**—Contact Bob Shrader
- **LZLambeau Beer Concessions** – Contact Tom Laney
- **Col. Scocos Letter of Support**—BSC meeting
- **Wounded Warrior**- Contact Gerry Deimel and Frank Morris
- **Wings Pinning** on Donald Olson, Black River, TBD—Contact Howard Rennhack or Tom Laney

Calendar

- **March 27** BSC meeting
- **April 21-24** Highground work weekend
- **May 15** Camp McCoy Open House
- **May 19-23** LZLambeau
- **May 22** BSC meeting, Green Bay
- **June 17** All Airborne Stevens Point Flag Dedication and BSC meeting
- **August 18-21** 82nd Convention
- **Sept. 9-11** Madison Glider Symposium
- **Everyday**—**GO AIRBORNE!**

Millard Edgerly, heck of a Paratrooper!

“You knew when a big battle was at hand, because they would bring in the pine boxes and stack them up by Regimental Headquarters” told the Princeton Times in 1994.

Millard was a member of the 501st PIR, 101st Airborne until he transferred to the 505 PIR, 82nd Airborne in Casablanca. He fought All The Way to Berlin with the All Americans and was immensely proud of the 82nd his entire life.

“The 82nd were shock troops, extensively trained to get in and out in a hurry. The 82nd’s feat and bravery were legend in WWII”, Millard said. “We never lost ground nor a battle and we were the only Division to make four combat jumps; and, we fought in six campaigns, crossed seven rivers on two continents in 30 months of combat.”

From N. Africa, the 82nd traveled in 40&8s to planes that flew them into Italy where they jumped in to save the landing of the 5th Army. After taking Naples, Millard and the 505 went to Ireland to train for D-Day. He jumped into Normandy, remembering to drop the mortar strapped to his leg before PLFing into St. Mere Eglise cemetery. He then fought SS troops with the 3/505 liberate as they won the town.

In September he dropped into Holland with the 505 opening the Market/Garden battle. When the 82nd left Holland for some much-needed R&R in



Millard & Forscom patch.

France, Millard was there when orders cut that short and the 82nd was rushed into the Ardennes to stop the Nazis last gasp at The Battle of The Bulge.

The 82nd marched into The Bulge with other units running the other way and panicking men telling them they’d all be killed. But the 82nd’s shock troops planned to do the shocking they knew.

Millard remembered that with almost no equipment for Winter—and some Paratroopers had not yet been re-fitted with weapons for those damaged in Holland—the 505 took on the best of the SS Panzer Divisions and then successfully counter-attacked them.

Millard remembered lying in the freezing cold at night as shrapnel from incoming artillery sizzling through the piles of snow around him. He had a sleeping bag and shelter half but the temperature often went below zero and the battle for him went from two weeks before Christmas until March.

The 82nd stopped the Germans in The Bulge and then fought through the Siegfried Line and into Berlin. Millard and The Division stopped the Russians from entering Denmark and he came home on points.

One of America’s proudest Paratroopers, Millard Edgerly died Jan. 2, 2010. He was buried with his friends from VFW 10452, the BSC and family celebrating his great Airborne life. His Airborne story will follow in detail.

Thanks to the *Princeton Times* for this information!



Belgian Ranger Dominique Potier and 80th Airborne AA Ray Fary hear how it was humping an 81mm mortar through 3’ of snow at The Bulge from BSC’s Les Schwarm, 325 GIR. Always ALL THE WAY on the go Les was in Belgium and Holland 3 weeks ago for the Anniversary of The Bulge. Story next issue. (Photo by D. Potier)

Airborne Memorial

The BSC has a stirring Airborne Memorial designed by Doc Stolp, promoted by Walter Pakulski, Les Schwarm and the BSC; maintained by Tom Gaukel, Gerry Diemel, Marge and Frank Morris.

Since the Airborne fought so fiercely for bridges, the Memorial is placed at the Hwy 10 Bridge in Stevens Point.

A \$100 donation will put your name on this beautiful monument commemorating WWII Airborne Forces. The BSC needs a volunteer to lead this project.

Please contact Chairman Mike Haller if you can help at 608-356-3235.



Badger State Chapter

82nd Airborne Division Assoc.

Officers

Mike Haller, Chairman
608-356-3235

Bob Shrader, Vice-Chair
920-748-5299

Tom Laney, Secretary
715-962-4365

Reuben Clark, Treasurer
608-222-4833

Gerald Diemel, Sgt. at Arms
715-758-8365

Steve Helms, Adjutant
920-832-9090

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Bill Tobin
608-754-0497

Gordy Starck
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Frank Morris
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Chairman's Comments

Greetings to all BSC members, wives, friends and guests: Our last meeting at Marden Hall in King had 15 members in attendance. That was good but we can do better. My goal this year is to improve and encourage better attendance at our quarterly meetings.

Come to our first meeting on March 27th in King and find out the different events the executive committee is tentatively planning for membership approval. We need your help to make these events a success. Check the newsletter for details. The importance of maintaining and continuing the legacy of the Airborne spirit and ideals is what we are all about.

Go Airborne and all the way!

Mike Haller
Chairman

BSC AGENDA March 27 King, Wisconsin

I. Call to Order: 3:00 p.m. Meeting dedicated to Bud Kohls, Duane Erdman, Don Luedtke, Markus Rupaner, Millard Edgerley, Manny DeJesus

II. Pledge and Prayer

III. Approval of November 14th meeting minutes

IV. Secretary and Treasurer Report

V. Vice Chairman Comments

VI. Chairman Comments

VII. Old Business

VIII. Set up planning committee – LZ Lambeau - Flag dedication, Stevens Point - Glider Symposium - Raffles and fundraising – Advanced & future planning. Need Volunteers to continue the museum case and Stevens Point Memorial projects. Also Baraboo Airshow.

IX. Airborne Care Packages

X. Flags for Stevens Point Memorial.

XI. BREAK

XII. New Business Comments & Suggestions.

XIII. Adjourn 4:30

Eat, Drink & Airborne Cheer!

King's Table Dinner
\$16.50 includes T&T.

Drinks 4:30

Dinner 5:30

Jump Stories 6:30

Glider Stories 7:30

Still More Airborne Yarns.

Finally, Frank Morris "explains" how the 307th Injuneers are smarter than the World's Greatest Airborne Infantry!

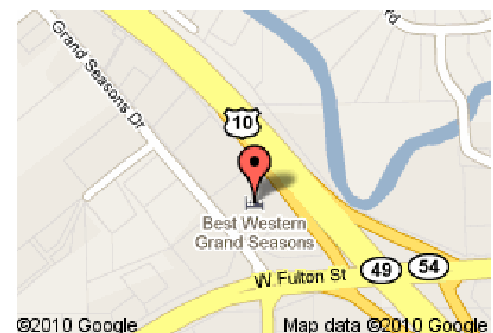
Please send a check asap to the World's Greatest Financial Paratrooper:

Reuben Clark, BSC Treas.
5318 Greenbriar Ln
Madison, WI 53714-3404

Best Western \$69 plus tax

110 Grand Seasons Drive
Waupaca, WI
54981-8219
(715) 258-9212

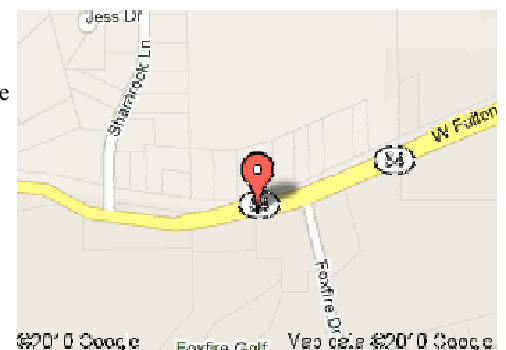
Very Veteran friendly!



Comfort Suites \$64 plus tax

199 Foxfire Drive
Waupaca, WI
54981
(715) 942-0500

Make reservations asap and mention 82nd.



BSC Executive Board Meeting Minutes, January 23, 2010, Dino's Restaurant, Portage

Chairman Mike Haller called the meeting to order at 11:00am.

Present were chair Mike Haller, Vice chair Bob Shrader and Secretary/Editor Tom Laney. Bert Schmitz was unable to attend because his wife is not feeling well.

Mike reported a call from John Givens who had talked with Gordy and Margie Starck. Gordy has lung cancer. He will try to make one more BSC meeting. Mike presented a Certificate of Appreciation drawn by John Given for Tom Gaukel which we signed. Mike presented a Princeton Time Republic article about Millard Ederley which we will cover in the March Badger Airborne News. Bob knows Millard's family and will try to get the photos which appeared in the Times-Republic. Mike presented an obituary for Bud Kohls, LaCrosse which we will run in the next BAN. We will look for an obit on Duane Erdmann, Wausau to include. Mike talked to 82nd Assoc. Secretary Santiago Tjierna regarding the special membership status of BSC spouses and was told the chapter has flexibility here.

BSC Meeting Agendas—Speeding up the Meetings

We agreed to continue publishing upcoming BSC membership Meeting agendas in BAN. The agendas will be more detailed. Issues for the agendas will be disseminated to all officers, trustees and as many members as possible in the weeks before meetings. The Secretary will do this by email and for those officers who do not have email by snail mail. We will encourage democratic discussion of the issues and reach consensus prior to the meetings. We will ask the leadership to meet before the membership meetings to order business recommendations to the membership. The Secretary will type up the recommendations and have them in the members' hands for the meeting. Motions will be made to adopt the recommendations

and the members will then discuss them and vote them up or down. This should help organize and expedite the business of the meetings. Agenda for the March 27 meeting:

1. The Airborne Display Case now in Mukwonago needs to be moved to LaCrosse. After LaCrosse it will go to Menomonie and then where? Mike suggests we move the second display case out of Tom Gaukel's garage to the WWII Museum in downtown Portage.

2. The framework for BSC meetings is as published in BAN. The July 17 meeting will be in Stevens Point for the dedication of the new flag poles, an All Airborne event.

3. The Airborne Care Package program will be standardized and reinstated with Bert Schmitz working through Father Foley, 82nd Chaplain from Milwaukee, now in Afghanistan with the Division.

4. Fundraising. We need to pin down a raffle. We will make an appeal for volunteer concession workers at LZLambeau. The BSC is assured volunteer spots there where we can make 10% profit for the BSC.

5. Refurbishment of Airborne merchandise stocks—jackets, T's, caps, etc. for sale. Raffles set up for LZLambeau and Glider Symposium, etc. Bob will contact Oshkosh Truck and other businesses for corporate contributions. Tom will contact MN Wire in Eau Claire for same. Both are Defense contractors.

5. Baraboo Air Show. June 27. It is dedicated to Vets this year. Major Walsh is offering two CP tents and will guarantee we get the right parts this time. Tom Laney has had his generator repaired and can bring it. Laney will get there the night before with the tents and generator and display stuff. Lester Schwarm is anxious to bring his Airborne Display again. Greg Smith will have a British SAS friend here who may enjoy this. If we agree to do the raffle and buy the T's and caps we can sell them here. We could invite the John Steele, Old Abe, Southern, 173rd Chapters and the Midwest Airborne Alliance to join us and share costs. We could honor all Wisconsin Airborne KIAs. We could bring the Flying Trees

exhibit again and also do our own Airborne Panels.

6. Name tags on the Airborne Memorial. Should we convert to a metal plate?

BSC Honor Guard.

Tom sees Howard Rennhack as the Chapter Honor Guard. He goes all over the place carrying the All American 82nd flag. Maybe we should just encourage members to call Howard and join him in parades, cemeteries, Highground etc.

BSC King Memorial

Mike suggests we continue the BSC Memorial we did at King last November. We had a rifle team, flag folders and Taps bugler in honor of the BSC members we lost as well as all of our troops. This year we will read their names before the Airborne Prayer, rifle salute and Taps.

BSC By-Laws

We discussed the objectives of the BSC 82nd Association as defined in our By-Laws. We need to be out in the public with Go Airborne. We need to encourage ideas and enthusiasm and support our most active members. We agreed that outreach and building connections and friendships with present-day 82nd Paratroopers; supporting the Wounded Warrior connection initiated by Gerry Diemel and Frank Morris, including their connections with John Steele Troopers; accepting invitations from the 101st to work together wherever we can; and building support for such events as LZLambeau and the Madison Glider Symposium, etc. are all good things to be doing and consistent with our duties as 82nd Association members. We should do everything we can to support Airborne Volunteers and Ambassadors like LesSchwarm, Frank and Gerry, Judy Durkee, Kipp Hartman, Tom Gaukel, Bert Schmitz, John Givens, Walt Pakulski, Bill Opichka, Norb Studelska and all the many good folks who are out there talking it up for the Airborne.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.

We then went to the WWII Museum in downtown Portage run by Bret Esse. Great guy who has some amazing stuff! The museum is new, very nice and Bret was very excited about getting an Airborne Display. We thought that his museum would be a good place for the open display case. Bob Shrader may get some things on loan from the Ederley family to display here. Gordon King, a 101st and 82nd Paratrooper from Merrill is bringing some of his stuff there. I will contact Gordon's nephew, Bob Breitenbach in Shawano to see when we can meet Gordon.

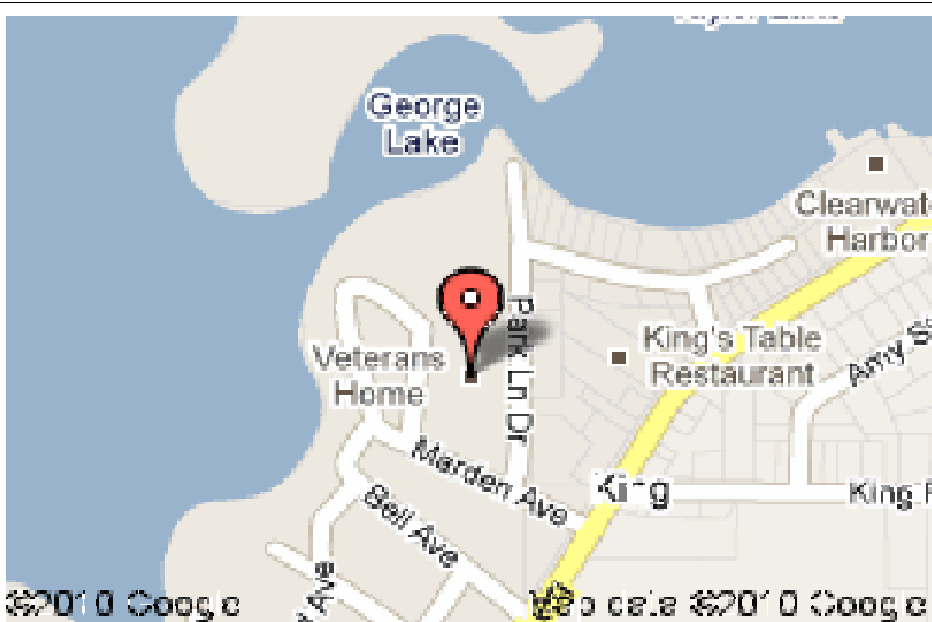
Respectfully submitted,
Tom Laney, Secretary/Editor
Badger State Chapter
82nd Airborne Association

Airborne History

We are looking for Airborne Memorabilia to place in Airborne Museum Cases. You can loan items to us for display around Wisconsin and we will assure you they will be returned upon request.

Also, Millar Ederley was written up in *The 82nd Airborne Division* by Steven J. Mrozek. This book is out of print and is very valuable. If you have a copy or know where there is one, please let me know.

Please let me know asap of any Wisconsin Glider Rider pictures, and other info I may not have so I can include them in the Glider pamphlet for the Sept. Madison Glider Symposium!!! (Tom Laney, 651-492-9309, 715-962-4365 or tlaney1776@gmail.com)



Road to King, N2665 County Road Qq, King, WI - (715) 258-5586. From the junction of Hwys. 10, 49 & 54, find Cty. Rd. Qq, just West of that intersect and follow it west until you see Marden turn right and park at the Marden Center. Meeting inside.

Invite a Trooper Manifest

Hang out with some Airborne Characters as the great Ben Rous called us! Here's a list of all our Chapter members and their hometowns. Call them up and demand to buy them a beer or coffee. Share some Airborne stories. Come to a meeting together, make a parade with Howard, join us in pinning some Combat Wings on Don Olson.

Anderson, Carl H.	Beloit
Anderson, Mark R.	Green Bay
Arvanitis, Andrew	U K
Bankert, Les	Waukesha
Barden, Daniel W.	Pardeeville
Baumann, Gary W.	Oneida
Beaudette, Sean U.	Sparta
Belsha, Louis	Milwaukee
Belsha, Joseph	Nekoosa
Berendt, Roman R.	Greendale
Brehmer, Todd	Potter
Briggs, Reginald H.	Baraboo
Brown, Ronald D.	Black River Falls
Ceman, Scott A.	Oshkosh
Chier, Ronald A.	Berlin
Clampitt, Sr. Robert E.	Cross Plains
Clark, Reuben	Madison
Clark, Richard	Centuria
Clifford, Ralph M.	Mesa, AZ
Comeau, Rodney L.	Tomahawk
Conklin, Raymond C.	Cottage Grove
Dahlen, Lee	Oshkosh
Darr, Sr., Timothy A.	Plymouth
Dawley, Christopher A.	Salem
Deneen, Jerome	Deerfield
Detroit, William J.	Schofield
Dielmel, Gerald	Bonduel
Dogans, Acie	Racine
Dragan, Anton	Sheboygan
Faber, Wayne W.	Lomira
Falkenrath, Marlin	Crivitz
Fitzpatrick, William D.	Milwaukee
Gardner, James	Eagle River
Gaukel, Thomas J.	Baraboo
Genz, Leon H.	Oshkosh
Givens, John H.	LaCrosse
Graham, Chester	Walnut Creek, CA
Green, David	New Richmond
Griswold, Eugene K.	Brookfield
Grotefend, Michael L.	Wis. Rapids
Grzeszkowiak, Ronald	Sheldon
Haller, Michael	Baraboo
Hannigan, William J.	St. Paul, MN
Hapke, Milton G.	Watertown
Hartman, Kipp D.	Edgerton
Hauri, Harry	Janesville
Helms, Eric R.	Menasha
Helms, Steve	Appleton
Hemes, George	Neenah
Hendrickson, James V.	Hollandale
Heuer, Robert F.	Wis. Rapids

Holcomb, Gilbert E.	Weston
Hoyt, Steven A.	Victoria, MN
Huebschen, Herbert	Beloit
Hurlburt, Perry J.	Durand
Jeziarski, Daniel J.	Duluth, MN
Johnson, Harvey	Soldotna, AK
Kelley, James E.	Milwaukee
Kemp, David A.	Eau Claire
Kloss, William D.	Wausau
Koelsch, Karl	Oshkosh
Kuhnke, William H.	Bonduel
Land, Edward	Powers, MI
Laney, Tom	Colfax
Langaard, Donald	Viroqua
Larson, Bernard "Buzz"	Hollandale
Leasum, Charles R. III	Adell
Lepak, Marlin	Marathon
Lepkowski, Myron	Oak Creek
Lewandowski, Donald	Sheboygan
Lichtfuss, Jeff	Janesville
Lisowski, Kevin P.	Blair
Lodzinski, Ronald E.	Green Bay
Loster, Theodore	Twin Lakes
Loy, Charles F.	Marathon
Lucksted, Donald W.	Melrose
Lucksted, Robert	Franksville
Lucksted, Ted	Onalaska
Ludas, Michael B.	Salem
Lundquist, Ronald	Ashland
Malnar, Edward C.	Racine
Mankiewicz, C.C.	New Berlin
McGinnis, Clifford W.	Ft. Atkinson
McKeown, William G.	Plover
Meise, Wilbert (Bill)	Spring Green
Melland, Chris	Waupaca
Millard, Richard	Kenosha
Miller, James J.	Milwaukee
Miller, Matthew D.	Wautoma
Mingus, Robert	Taylor
Moe, Norris B.	Beloit
Mohr, Tom O.	Oregon
Montalto, Michael L.	Verona
Morris, James	Mosinee
Morris, Francis D.	Mosinee
Morrow, Jerome J.	Baraboo
Mountin, Mike W.	Plover
Mountin, William C.	Pepin
Mueller Jr., Bruno	Nekoosa
Musser, Terry M.	Black River Falls
Murphy, Robert D.	Sun Prairie
Nelson, Michael D.	Oregon
Niebur, Martin H.	McGregor, IA
Olejniczak, Mike	Greenleaf
Opichka, Michael	Wausau
Ouellette, William C.	Sparta
Pakulski, Jr., Walter R.	Plover
Pallan, Jack	Waterford
Phillips, Robert	Tomah
Pratt, Floyd E., Sr.	Black River Falls
Rady, Zenon S.	Almond
Rasmussen, Douglas	Phillips
Reineking, Walter G.	Sheboygan
Rennhack, Howard H.	Humbird
Rennhack, Roy	Reeseville
Rindall, Darryl K.	Milwaukee
Rodriquez, David	Milwaukee

Roesler, Thomas L.	Baraboo
SanFillippo, Salvatore	D. Madison
Sathre, William O.	Janesville
Saxton, SSgt. Anthony R	Elgin, NC
Saxton, Robert D.	Marinette
Schmidt, William G.	Oshkosh
Schmitz, Bert	Winneconne
Schmitz, James S.	Milwaukee
Schwarm, Lester W.	Wausau
Schoettler, Tom	Mauston
Schug, Anthony V.	Abrams
Schust, Ernest L.	Racine
Scocos, Col. John A.	Madison
Sell, Clarence P.	Mayville
Shapiro, William R.	Milwaukee
Shier, Leonard L.	Chetek
Shrader, Robert J.	Ripon
Smith, Gregory	Oregon
Sponem, Phillip A.	Jefferson
Starck, Gordon	Franklin
Statezny, Bruce J.	Franksville
Steffen, Arthur H.	Danbury
Stoikes, Carl J.	Prairie du Sac
Stolp, Dr. N.J.	Appleton
Strauss, Gerald J.	Fond du Lac
Strutzenberg, Eugene G	Brodhead
Studelska, Norbert	Grafton
Sys, Joel	Racine
Teriaca, Raymond	Beaver Dam
Thomas, Stanton E.	Stevens Point
Tobin, William R.	Janesville
Totsky, Sr., Michael J.	New Berlin
Traynor, Roy T.	Elcho
Truchan, Robert A.	Milwaukee
Tyler, James E.	Tomah
Uhlig, Alan A.	Abbotsford
Uvaas, John R.	Larsen
Van Kirk, Steven	Sturgeon Bay
Voller, Steven P.	Eau Claire
Wapp, Sr., Louis F.	Las Vegas, NV
Welch, Ervin H.	Elkhorn
Whalen, Jr., Richard V.	Mukwonago
White, John D.	Sussex
Wichman, Vernon C.	Appleton
Williams, Glen D.	Brodhead
Williams, Col. James L.	Oceanside, CA
Williamson, Robert R.	Delavan
Wojahn, Jack	Oshkosh
Zenk, Fredrick (Fritz)	Sheboygan
Zink, Jr., Lawrence A.	North Freedom
Zurman, Rudolph J.	Cudahy

Honorary Members

Durkee, Judith	Rhineland
Hanson, Kert	Holmen
Kallas, Phil	Stevens Point
Megellas, James "Maggie"	Colleyville, TX

BSC Airborne Friends and Spouses

Eggum, Leif	Big Bend
Klinkiewicz, Mrs. Betty	Milwaukee
Pratt, Dorothy	Franklin
Rinehart, Marie	New Glarus
Rous, Agnes	Nekoosa
Selak, Mrs. Martin	Sheboygan
Verga, Irene	Tomahawk

LZ Lambeau Weekend May 20-23.

<http://lzlambeau.org/index.cfm>

Vietnam Veterans, their families, and the public are invited to a special Welcome Home celebration at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. It's a weekend of free activities including a special ticketed event on Saturday night. Free events include several days of concerts, reunions, military vehicle and aircraft displays, and exhibits including The Moving Wall™.

LZLambeau Accommodations

(May 20-22.)

LZLambeau is going to be BIG! Make reservations early! The BSC meeting is May 22. Details in next BAN but get your rooms now! BSC Vice Chair Bob Shrader has 10 rooms on hold at AmericaInn 2628 Manitowoc Road, Green Bay, WI. 54311 Phone # (920) 964-0177. The rooms are available for May 20th at \$69.90 and May 21st & 22nd at \$89.90 plus tax. The rooms can be reserved for one, two or all three days. The cutoff date for reserving the rooms is 4-20-10. When reserving room just mention 82nd Airborne, Badger State Chapter. Thank you Bob !



Dan Dart, Judy Durkee's Son-In-Law, patrols the 82nd Fort in Rhinelander. (Photo by Judy Durkee)

The Colors fly above and below the All American Flag on the Rhinelander snow fort built by Glenn Ward's great-grandchildren.

"Support the Troops" is ordered on the sign in front of the kids' fort.

Across the street 508th PIR Hero Glenn Ward, KIA while battling for his WWII 82nd friends is remembered on the County's Heroes plaque.

"It all started with those air-guns that shoot marshmallows. The kids were shooting them all over the house so we told them to take it outside," laughed Judy Durkee in the pages of the local *Star Journal*. Glenn's daughter, Judy Durkee, devotes a big part of her life to Glenn's memory and all the Troopers like him in the 82nd, and all our Troops everywhere. And she has a lot of fun doing it. "Needless to say, the fort drew lots of on-lookers and drive-bys," Judy says. And, who knows? Maybe caused a kid to **GO AIRBORNE!**

The BSC's job is to remember the Troopers who came before and encourage each generation to **GO AIRBORNE!** We all need to get the Airborne word out. I thought we could do a picture each issue of members doing something where they live to push the Airborne.—Tom



Apache Smoke

Secretary/Editor Report

BSC Trustee & 505 PIR Medic Gordy Starck jumped into combat four times during WWII and saved many of the lives of his 82nd Brothers. He came home and became a skilled tradesman and a leader in UAW Local 10 and Mayor of Franklin. Citizen/Paratrooper/Guardian Angel, Gordy is one of those Heroes who made America a great country. It is truly an honor to know him. Gordy has lung cancer and is undergoing treatment. Cards can be sent to: 6666 Parkedge Circle, Franklin, WI 53132-1280 Ph: 414-425-3908.

Thanks to Vice-Chair Bob Shrader for making early arrangements for LZLambeau. They expect 75-100,000 people for this event! BSC members can volunteer for beer sales as a BSC fundraiser. I will have all the details at the meeting.

We are doing our best to focus and speed up the BSC meetings and limit them to 1.5 hours. We should have a lot more time to socialize after the business meetings.

Sometimes we forget our heroic Glidermen. This Fall we are going to fix the memory of these great Wisconsin Airborne men. The Madison Glider Symposium Sept. 9-11 is shaping up well under the human organizing dynamo Sara Witter Connor and Communicator/Computer Wizard/ Old Abe Chair Jim Romlein. You can view the draft program here: <http://www.2ndwwglidersymposium.org/home> If you don't have a computer I will have flyers at the March meeting. Let me know if you'd like one by mail. Latest news from Commander Bob Blecke, is that the 401st GIR Re-enactors from Madison will be there in WWII uniforms to display Airborne weapons and talk some Glider Rider history. They'll be meeting the real Heroes. It will be great! We are checking to see if 82nd Association President Bill Eberle and Executive Secretary Santiago Tijerina can make it. Please help us pass the word on this important event.

I am writing a pamphlet on Wisconsin Glider Riders for the Symposium. I have info on Walt Pakulski, Les Schwarm, Bruno Mueller and Herb Huebschen and a few others. I need anything there is to add to their stories and need names and stories of other Wisconsin Glidermen to include. Let me know where they are.

The 82nd Assoc. sends along this site to access your DD214:

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>

We've been invited to dinner and/or drinks with the 101st Airborne Old Abe Chapter at LZLambeau; and, to a picnic with the 82nd John Steele Chapter. Details at the next meeting.

Maggie received the Texas DAR Medal of Honor March 12. I have heard from Packer President Mark Murphy that Maggie may be honored by the Packer next season and hope to have more info at King.

We will have a letter of support for Wisco Vets Secretary Col. John Scocos for your approval at the next meeting. We should let the Governor know that we protest the firing of a Paratrooper for "lack of accountability" when he was deployed two out of the last three years. Welcome to the BSC to my Semper Fi cousin USMC Col. James Laney Williams, (RET), a Force Recon Paratrooper, holder of two Silver Stars, two Purple Hearts. Jim was also a Parachute Tester!!! and Quantico Skydiver President for the Marines!

All The Way thanks to outgoing officers Sean Beaudette, Tom Gaukel and John Givens for all your *ALL THE WAY* Airborne work!

I apologize for the space limitations in this edition. We are limited to 8 pages and some stories had to be continued. I am working on an electronic Airborne newsletter in honor of Maggie and all Wisco Airborne. It will carry a lot of pictures and stuff we don't have room for in BAN. Send me your email if you'd like to receive it. Or, let me know if you want me to mail it to you and I'll see how many I can afford.

Geronimo!

Tom Laney, Secretary/Editor

Badger State Chapter Meeting Minutes (Updated minutes - changes from original) Saturday, November 14, 2009 Marden Hall, King Veterans Home, King, WI.

Chairman Mike Haller called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Gerald Diemel, the Sgt.-at-Arms, confirmed that a quorum was present. Mike Haller announced that the meeting was being dedicated to the wounded and fallen soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas. Chairman Mike Haller led the Pledge of Allegiance, Treasurer Reuben Clark, the prayer. Secretary's Minutes from the Sept. 26, 2009 meeting: Motion by Frank Morris, 2nd by Bill Tobin that the minutes be approved as printed in the newsletter, motion carried.

Secretary's Report: John Givens reported he had sent letters to ten widows who are still on the mailing list for the newsletter to see if they wished to continue receiving it. Four of the ten replied asking to remain on the mailing list. Two of the four sent donations to the chapter. The letters that were sent out requested a reply deadline date. If they were not heard from, their names would be removed from the mailing list. John contacted Big Ed's son to find out about the Flags he had for the Stevens Point Airborne Memorial. His son called and said he had taken the balance of 6 to 8 flags to the Stevens Point Park Commission. John received an email from Tom Laney about Tom Hacker having surgery for stomach cancer. John then sent a get-well card to Tom Hacker from the BSC. The last email received from Tom's H. wife announced that Tom was up and walking, and hopes to get out of the hospital soon. Best of luck to Tom from all the members of the BSC. Anyone who wants to make a contribution to the Operation Xmas Stocking, contact John Givens or Bert Schmitz for the address to send the \$10.00. John announced that this was his last meeting as secretary of the BSC. He needs to spend more time at his place of business with these tough economic times. It has been a pleasure working with all of the officers, trustees, and members during my time as an officer for 8 of the last 9 years. Chairman Haller then presented John with a certificate of appreciation and a plaque. Thank You all very much.

Treasurer's Report: Reuben Clark handed out copies of the current balance sheet. Reuben then read the four response letters from the widows who want to continue to receive the newsletter. Dorothy Pratt donated \$50.00, Mrs. Martin Selak donated \$25.00. Thank you both. The other two letters were from Betty Klinkiewicz and Agnes Rous. Tom Gaukel was not in attendance but had sent a prepared spread sheet of the budget indicating how the accounts could be adjusted to provide for paying for the flagpoles. Copies were handed out to the members in attendance. Bert Schmitz questioned why he was not contacted about the possibility of removing \$150.00 from the Care Package Acct. that he handles. John mentioned that this was just one

of the accounts that money may be transferred from, and the members would vote for the suggested changes. Motion by Frank Morris, 2nd by Gerald Diemel that the Balance Sheet be accepted as printed, motion carried.

Vice Chairman's Report: Sean Beaudette not present.

Chairman's Comments: Mike Haller reported that due to Sean Beaudette's military schedule, he will no longer fill the position of Vice-Chairman. Mike mentioned that the positions of Vice-Chair, Secretary, the 1 year fill-in for Tom Gaukel's Trustee term, and the 3 year term held by Frank Morris would be voted on later in the meeting. The subject of the revised budget was again discussed. Tom Gaukel's recommendation was to transfer the following funds into a new account to pay for the flag poles;

\$150.00 from the Care Package Account
\$400.00 from the Display Cases Account
\$423.88 from the Appreciation Dinner Account (Balance is \$ not used)
\$298.41 from the King Gift Account (Balance is \$ not used)

\$1272.29 Total Motion by Tom Laney, 2nd by Reuben Clark to transfer these funds from the accounts listed above to establish a Flagpole account, motion carried.

Honorary Members - Since it was not clearly established at the last meeting as to who can be an Honorary Member, (particularly as it pertains to wives and widows) it will be checked with the National Office in Fayetteville and reported on at the next meeting. It was tabled for now. Mike had two Honorary Member Certificates for the two gentlemen voted on at the last meeting: Kert Hanson - nominated by Tom Gaukel, and Phil Kallas - nominated by Tom Laney. Since neither were present, Kert's certificate will be taken to him by John Givens, and Phil's will be mailed to him. Mike introduced Robert Schrader. Bob has been a member for some time, but this is the first meeting that he has attended.

Project Reports: Frank Morris and Gerald Diemel reported on their checking into the cost of the flagpoles, tax, and installation. Jerry had gotten several quotes and the best one was two 20' 3" aluminum poles, for a total cost of \$1019.13. The decision needed to be made to go ahead with these and pay for them before the end of the year, because the price would go up after the first of January. They would be installed in the spring. Frank Morris has already received permission from the City of Stevens Point for this installation. Motion by Bert Schmitz, 2nd by Tom Laney to approve the purchase and installation of the two flagpoles, motion carried. Reuben Clark, Treasurer, then requested permission from the members to cash in the \$1400.00 Convention CD to cover the cost. It is due 4-11-2010 so there will be a slight charge for cashing it in early. Motion by Bill Tobin, 2nd by Tom Laney to liquidate the CD for cash, motion carried. Bert Schmitz questioned what flags would be hung on these poles and the matter was tabled until a later meeting.

Election of Officers: Mike Haller conducted the election of officers;
Sgt.-at-Arms - Motion by Frank Morris, 2nd by

Tom Laney to elect Gerald Diemel, motion carried.

Secretary - Motion by Reuben Clark, 2nd by Bert Schmitz to elect Tom Laney, motion carried.

Treasurer - Motion by Milt Hapke and 2nd, to elect Reuben Clark, motion carried.

Vice-Chairman - Motion by Frank Morris, 2nd by Tom Laney to elect Bob Schrader, motion carried.

Chairman - Motion by Frank Morris, 2nd by Tom Laney to elect Mike Haller, motion carried.

Trustee - Balance of 1 year to replace Tom Gaukel. Motion by Tom Gaukel, 2nd by Tom Laney, to elect Bill Tobin, motion carried.

Trustee - Motion by Reuben Clark, 2nd by Bill Tobin, to elect Frank Morris to a 3 year term, motion carried.

Mike Haller then conducted the swearing in of the new Officer's and Trustee's.

Comments and Suggestions: Tom Laney reminded the members of the two events coming up in 2010; Lz Lambeau on May 21-23 to honor Viet Nam Veterans, and The Silent Wings Glider Symposium in Madison September 9-11. Les Schwarm will be telling his story at this symposium. Mike Haller questioned what Tom Laney meant by "help organize and promote" - would there be any financial responsibility on the part of the BSC? The answer was "NO", he is just encouraging attendance and support. (Note) A motion was made and passed at the Sept. 26,2009 meeting to hold the meeting in Green Bay during that time. Mike then questioned whether the Chapter wants to be involved with the Baraboo Air Show again next year. It will take place on June 25,26, &27, 2010. Mike pointed out that we were not well prepared this past year and if we get involved again, there would have to be a committee to organize it. It is felt that there should be some kind of raffle, etc. to stimulate activity. Frank Morris and Gerald Diemel said that the National Convention is also an excellent place for a raffle to make money for the chapter and perhaps the Wounded Warrior Program. Mike Haller requested that Tom Laney put out a short newsletter in early January, since there won't be a meeting until the 3rd Saturday in March. It was also suggested that a membership list be printed in that newsletter.

Adjournment: At 5:40 PM - A motion was made by Reuben Clark, 2nd by Bill Tobin that the meeting be adjourned, motion carried.

John Givens, Secretary, and assisted by Liz Clark. Thank You Liz.

Tom Hacker

You'll be happy to know that thanks to St. Michael the Patron of Paratroopers, Tom Hacker is home and recovering quickly judging by the tons of crap he's sending me on President Obama. That's what I get I guess for letting him know who I voted for, not that I'm too happy about it now myself. Can't keep this great Paratrooper Hacker down!

Bravo!

- Tom Laney

Badger Airborne News
82nd Airborne Division Assoc.
E6304 866th Ave.
Colfax, WI 54730



Paratrooper Gene Strutzenberg
504 Parachute Infantry Regiment
82nd Airborne Division All Americans

82nd Gallows Humor was always a good time—even when you're blown up!

Last issue we left Sgt. Strutzenberg last as he was being blown up by a friendly—but short-artillery shell. “The men behind me thought I had taken a direct hit and was dead and when coming up on my body I could hear them going, ‘I’ll take his boots, I’ll take his watch.’ I rolled over and touched my .45 saying, ‘Not this time fellows.’”

They continued on patrol.

On Dec. 21, 1944, the 504 made a final, all-out, hand-to-hand assault and drove the Germans across the Ambleve River capturing the bridge. They then marched 20 miles through knee-deep snow to St. Vith encountering 20 tanks. Removing the sentry they each eliminated the tanks with grenades. “We called this ‘closing time’”, Gene says. “That’s what the 82nd was doing while the 101st was taking it easy in Bastogne.”

He froze his face in The Bulge and had to stay away from any heat. They linked to the 505 and continued the anti-tank patrols and supported the 3rd Armored Division, becoming the favorites of Gen. Patton.

They won The Bulge and moved on through 3 feet of snow to the Siegfried Line where Gene won the Silver Star for crossing a minefield and single-handedly talking out a pillbox. His action saved his entire platoon. His CO said he was putting him in for the MOH but then was KIA. An engineer asked how he was

able to cross a field that was mined to the square inch! Gene thought it was because he was protected by the heavy snow.

“When something like that happens it makes you think God performed a miracle.”

After taking the Siegfried Line the Division moved to Sissone, France where they got a month of much-needed rest. They then moved to Cologen and ran patrols on the Rhine. The Rhine’s fast current ripped around sunken ships and debris and the patrols paddled shaky little 16’ boats commanded by a very shaky Lt. Gene took charge after the Lt. Did his best to drown the patrol, twice.

“I pulled my .45 and leveled it at the Lt. And directed him to paddle as I told him or he will never make it.”

The Lt. agreed but said Gene would be court-martialed. When the court-martial came up, when the officers heard Gene’s story they transferred the Lt.

The Division moved North and crossed the Elbe taking thousands of prisoners while quickly advancing to 40 miles from Berlin where they were ordered to stop. “We wondered about this because even the German POWs were urging us on to Berlin. After a week of waiting, the Russians finally met us. We could have encompassed the whole city of Berlin in that time!”

“We celebrated VE Day by being totally

inebriated for three days because we had Berlin in our grasp and could not take it.” It was given to the Russians and then divided. “Such an agreement should never have been made,” says Gene.

Gene made his 19th jump into Templehoff Air Field where the wind dragged him across the entire DZ. He fared better with the free ride than a friend he watched who was unable to turn his chute and was killed. The Division assembled for review and Gene was awarded the Silver and Bronze Stars. The 82nd became the Berlin Honor Guard—America’s Guard of Honor. Gene went home and was discharged Nov. 26, 1945. He thought American greed had taken over where thanks and love should be.

“America has to win these battles at home too otherwise we who served and gave, gave in vain.

“We in the 82nd, had all given ourselves to each other, we served unflinchingly. Many of my friends gave us their all—their lives. As every Soldier knows, you are your Brother’s Keeper, responsible for his life as well as your own. God bless America.”

- Gene Strutzenberg: Great Man

(Ed. Note: This is from a narrative put together by Gene’s family which will appear in it’s entirety soon.)