

COMPANY I POOPSHEET

January 2002

SONJA HUGHES (daughter of Edward Mobley) P.O. Box 334 - Hampton, FL 32044
Phone (352) 468-1092

I am writing this on behalf of my dad, Edward E. Mobley, who finds it very difficult to write into words how he feels.

First of all I would like to extend his gratitude to you for keeping him updated on events and happenings of old friends through the years in the Company I Poopsheet. Dad is a staunch and dedicated "AMERICAN", proud to be a part of his country, and proud to be part of a unit during WWII that helped to keep our beautiful country free.

We are very proud of our dad and we feel he deserves every recognition he can get, as do all of our veterans.

You sent an article in the Poopsheet stating he could receive certain items by requesting them and at no charge. I am writing today to request that you send all of the items that pertain to my dad and his unit. We are in the process of gathering these items as a tribute to him. I would greatly appreciate your help in attaining these items. Please send them to my enclosed address as soon as possible, and note that I am a loving and appreciative daughter vowing to make her dad a little happier.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I am happy to send the requested items to Sonja, for her effort in making her dad, and our buddy, more pleasantly happy.

JOHN SANDERS JR. - 315 Gerdes Ave. - Sun Valley, NV. 89433

We have a new address listed above, please correct your mailing file. We don't want to miss any Company I mailings.

ROBERT FORER (son of Leon Forer) - 11300 W. Olympic Blvd.#605 - Los Angeles, Calif. 90064

I read your September Company I Poopsheet and found it informative and interesting. What interested me most was located on page 12. I am interested in getting the following items: Company I picture, with roster. The pre-Normandy invasion roster. Holland invasion roster. The pamphlet on how to receive your medals and awards. The cassette tape of the D-Day jump of June 6, 1944. The list of all the men who served in Company I.

Enclosed is a donation to help with expenses.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I am happy to send the requested items to Leon's son.

MRS. DANIEL (LOUISE) BURTON - 1482 Merion Way #31J - Seal Beach, CA. 90740

I have moved and have a new address listed above, - so please change my address on your file. I enjoy the Poopsheets so very much. I don't want to miss one of them. You have made a lot of people happy with your diligent work. Enclosed is a donation to help with expenses.

SUSAN ANGEL CAMPBELL (daughter of Richard Campbell) - P.O. Box 432 - Milledgeville, Ill. 61051

Greetings - This card is to inform you all of my address change, listed above. I love receiving the "Poopsheet". Thanks. Prayers to you and all.

JOE S. BRANGWIN - 341 Larkspur St. - Ridgecrest, Calif. 93555
Phone (760) 375-7500

I have a new address listed above, please make the correction on your file. Do you have a John Brumley of Company I 502, formerly of St. Louis, MO. on your files? Enclosed is a donation to help with Poopsheet expenses.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I checked all the sources I have and I cannot find a John Brumley. If anyone remembers this man, get in touch with Joe.

MRS. RALPH (PETRA) CASAS - 601 Lance Dr. - Barstow, California 92311
Phone (760) 256-1338

My friend Gloria and I went to San Antonio, Texas at the time of the 101st Reunion and we were met at the airport by Domingo and Rose Cantu who insisted that we stay with them at their home. Domingo and Ralph were close buddies. We stayed four days, and they took us to the many local sights, including the Alamo, several old Missions, and we attended the beautiful Cathedral for Sunday Mass. We ate our meals in an assortment of very nice restaurants. We went to the 101st Reunion Hotel and met some friends from the 101st Southern California Chapter. As far as I know we were the only Company I people there.

JIM and MABEL HOWELL - P.O. Box 528 - Aberdeen, Mississippi 39730
Phone (662) 369-4395

If at all possible we will be at the "Snowbird Reunion" in February. Jack Farrell spent a week-end with us recently. We spent some quiet time doing nothing, slowly. We wrote to Richard Stephens a while back, but as yet have heard nothing. I was hoping that someone would read it to him and respond. I will try to phone him soon.

The Dr. has changed my chemo medication. I am now on Taxateer and Genzar. I am supposed to get a treatment each week, but my system can't stand a weekly treatment. It usually takes from two to three weeks to build up the blood cells. Bob Molsberry calls frequently to check up on me.

I am a little disappointed in the HBO series "Band of Brothers". They sure had more than their share of screw-ups. Bradford Freeman, one of the "Band of Brothers" lives near. His neice is one of my cancer nurses in Tupelo, Miss. She does not have HBO, so I am recording the series for her.

Enclosed is a donation to the Poopsheet in memory of our old Comrades Lou Morong and Leroy Gravelle. Give Marie a big hug for Mabel and I.

BOB HARTZELL - 313 Wentz St. - Tiffin, Ohio 44883
Phone (419) 447-0448

At the stage my wife Marie is now in with Alzheimer and Parkinson, she cannot talk or walk or chew her food and she sleeps a lot. All of her food is pureed, and is spoon fed to her. I still visit her every day, and our daughters feed her the evening meal. The nurses put her in a wheel chair for me and I push her around the halls of the nursing home, and we frequently visit with other residents in their rooms, and Marie seems to enjoy that. Please continue to keep her in your prayers. God is not yet finished with her.

I have been receiving requests to put other family members and friends on our Poopsheet mailing list. Our policy has been, one Poopsheet mailed to each Company I family. However, please feel free to make copies of your Poopsheet to give to your family members and friends.

In a phone call from Earl Kelly he is planning to visit John and Lydia Altomare soon. He is also making plans to attend the "Snowbird Reunion". Kelly also says he runs 5 miles and does push-ups every day.

I am also making my plans to attend the "Snowbird Reunion" in February.

ALPHONSE FELDERHOFF - P.O. Box 400 - Muenster, TX 76252
Phone (940) 759-2841

I am still staying busy and as far as I know, or can tell, I am still in fairly good health. I still do some walking for exercise. Enclosed is a donation to help defray expenses of the Poopsheet, which I think is great.

May the Christ Child bless you and our extended Company I family.

MRS. ROSE HUBNER (sister of George Larish) - P.O. Box 465 - Vintondale, PA
Phone (814) 749-8475 15961

How is your wife doing? I often think of her and the families of George's buddies in my prayers.

7

A LATER LETTER FROM JIM AND MABEL HOWELL: I have said that I wasn't able to write, but we heard from so many friends, I thought I would try. I am writing this with a heavy heart. Jim has had a bad time with shortness of breath for over a month now. He was hospitalized in November for seven days. They run lots of tests to see what was causing the problem, the doctors kept telling us that it was not the cancer. One month later we went back to have another Bronchoscope done and they took a biopsy of the right lung and on Friday told us that the cancer had invaded the right lung also. Needless to say we were devastated over the news. It is very hard for him to walk just around the house and it takes all of his breath to move about. The cancer doctor wants to try another type of treatment on the 27th of December, but we need to build up the blood platelets some more. Right now he is scheduled for a procrit shot again next Wednesday and then another ct scan then we will be able to start Chemo again.

At this point, we are not planning on attending the Snowbird, if things change, we will be there. We will miss you all so much, Jim would so enjoy seeing you all again. We are really trying to keep the faith and be strong, but right now my heart is breaking and we can only hope and pray for longer time together.

Our love and best wishes to you all, please keep in touch and remember us in your prayers. Our phone number is (662) 369-4395. Our EMail- kmhowell@ebicom.net.

MRS. ANGELO (LOVES) YZQUIERDO - 51 Bonner Ave. - Schenectady, NY 12304
Phone (518) 377-7016

All my love and prayers for you and Marie and all our Company I people, and all our GIS.

HARRY and JOANIE NIVENS - 1130 Monroe Ave. - Saint Cloud, FL 34769
Phone (407) 957-6739

We are looking forward to seeing you and all our Company I buddies at the "Snowbird Reunion" in February.

JOE and JUNE HENNESSEY - 32 Ave. B - Beacon Falls, CT 06403
Phone (203) 729-8803

We have made our reservations for the "Snowbird Reunion" in February. Hope to see many of our Company I people there. We will leave here for Florida January 2nd. Enclosed is a donation for the Poopsheet.

JOHN and LYDIA ALTOMARE - 1814 Palo Circle - Baltimore, MD 21227
Phone (301) 242-9649

We had an enjoyable day yesterday with Earl and Virginia Kelly. They are really good friends. John suffers with congestive heart failure, which means lots of medication. He is relieved with Nitro pills about 3 times a day - other than that, his biggest complaint is difficulty walking - he doesn't "get out of breath" - his legs get tired and he has pain in his calves - so he's limited as far as walking. He dozes off during the day - he has difficulty sleeping at night. We were unable to spend summer at our cabin - couldn't garden, and didn't even attempt hunting. Our youngest son and nephew built him a hunting shed - windows on 3 sides with small stove - he got to visit it one time riding in a tractor. Having people visit and going out to meetings with Kelly and his retirement meeting monthly makes him happy I'm keeping Marie on our prayer roll. Thank you for all you do for Company I.

PAT and TERESA CALLERY - 629 Park Ave. - West Hempstead, NY 11552
Phone (516) 486-7439

We will see you, and hopefully many of our Company I buddies at the "Snowbird Reunion" in February.

MRS. GLENN (LILLIAN) MOE - 83 S. Martin Rd. - Toppenish, Wash. 98948
Phone (509) 865-5709



A Young Glenn Moe

My husband, Glenn A. Moe, of Company I 502nd Parachute Reg., died July 16, 2001 at a local Care Center, due to throat blockage and fluid buildup in his lungs.

Glenn was in the U.S. Army during WWII from January 1942 until October 1945, serving as a Paratrooper in Company I, 502nd Parachute Regiment. He participated in the D-Day



An Older Glenn Moe

Invasion of Normandy, the Holland Invasion, Battle of the Bulge, and Berchtesgaden. Glenn was wounded twice and received the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Purple Heart Medal.

In civilian life Glenn was a Fur Trapper and Gold Miner and worked as a Sheet Metal Journeyman. He belonged to the 101st Airborne Division Ass'n., Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, The Bethlehem Lutheran Church and the Laborers for Christ.

Glenn loved to fish, hunt, golf and garden. He was an inveterate tinkerer who fix almost anything. After his retirement he helped "Laborers for Christ" and worked on three churches in Texas and Montana. Glenn told great stories about growing up in Montana during the great depression, and surviving the battles in WWII. Although Glenn was a decorated war hero, he was a modest and quiet man. He was patient, with a kind and gentle spirit. Glenn loved his family and friends and will be sorely missed by those who loved him.

At Glenn's funeral, after the minister did the service, his grandchildren and friends spoke of their best memories with Glenn.

I want to thank you for your caring telephone call. People don't always know how much that helps.

ABEL ARAIZA - 10234 Dugas - San Antonio, Texas 78245

I want tell you about one of your Company I 502 men, Mr. Domingo Cantu, who is a "Charter Member of the Detachment." This Detachment has buried over 10,500 of our comrades at Fort Sam Houston since 1990. He is approaching 80 years of age; however, for the last 10 years he has devoted his Tuesdays as an Honor Guard member and marches in formation to the funeral site. Although Mr. Cantu is not physically able to fire the carbine because his left arm is weak and cannot reload, he goes through the motions of firing the three volleys. He and I have reminisced about his war experiences, and I truly treasure these moments. He made two Combat Jumps, one on June 5, 1944, that he vividly remembers. The Robert G. Cole High School is adjacent to Fort Sam, and he is justifiably proud to have served with Colonel Cole. He is my personal hero, a patriotic representative of the greatest generation and a committed American soldier. Mr. Cantu has allowed me to read your Company I Poopsheet which I find immensely interesting. Enclosed is a donation to help defray expenses of this newsletter. With every good wish to you and Company I.

MRS. LOUIS (PAULINE) STRANZL - 434 E. 11th St. - Northampton, PA 18067
Phone (215) 262-4354

I want to thank you for sending me the Company I Poopsheet. It means so much to me. I miss my husband Louis Stranzl, who died 14 years ago. It is sometimes very hard for me. I have good friends who live nearby. I am doing very fine healthwise. May God bless all of you, Louis's buddies and friends. Enclosed is a donation to help with Poopsheet expenses.

MRS. NELSON (LONNY) STEPHENS - 23 Bayberry Lane - Kingston, MA 02364
Phone (781) 582-8275

This card is to let you know I have a new address, listed above. I should be here for awhile as I bought the place. That was quite a Christmas Pooopsheet you just sent. Very interesting. It was nice to see Nelson's picture on the picture page.

THE SILENT WINGS WWII AIRBORNE GLIDER MUSEUM that was located for many years in Terrell, Texas (about 30 miles east of Dallas) is no longer in operation. It was closed out in January, 2001, with all artifacts and materials shipped out to Lubbock, Texas. This was done by the board of directors who have made arrangements with the City of Lubbock and Texas Tech University for another museum there. At present, all the material is in storage in Lubbock with date of operation of a new museum not yet established.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

BETTY TAYLOR HILL(sister of Lester Taylor)-2222 Settlers Way#924 -Sugar Land, TX 77478
JOE S. BRANGWIN - 341 Larkspur St. - Ridgecrest, CA 93555 TX 77478
KATHLEEN BURNS(daughter of Bob Burns)-2305 E. Sioux St. - Sioux Falls, SD 57103
MRS. JOHN (MARIE) DEROSE - 8 Royal Crest Dr. #7 - Nashua, NH 03060 57103
SUSAN CAMPBELL(daughter of Richard Campbell)- P.O. Box 432 - Milledgeville, IL 61051
JOSEPH PAGLIULO - 195 W. Puetz Rd.H-109 - Oak Creek, WI 53154 IL 61051
ROBERT B. COLE(son of Col. Robert G. Cole)- 414 Hathaway Dr. - San Antonio, TX 78209
MANUAL GESULGA - 534 E. 17th St. - Oakland, CA 94606 TX 78209
MRS. DAVIS (IRIS) SMITH -6191 S. Southwood Dr. - Centennial, CO 80121
RICHARD STEPHENS - 1919 Bailey Rd. #38 - Eugene, OR 97405
MRS. NEAL (BETTY) BURKETT - 117 Chestnut St. - Andover, OH 44003
MRS. DANIEL (LOUISE) BURTON - 1482 Merion Way #31J - Seal Beach, CA 90740
JOHN SANDERS JR. - 315 Gerdes Ave. - Sun Valley, NV 89433
MELVIN TURNEY - 76 Creed St. - Struthers, OH 44471
MRS. NELSON (LONNY) STEPHENS - 23 Bayberry Lane - Kingston, MA 02364

THE NEW AIRBORNE AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS MUSEUM

The new Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, North Carolina is housed in a beautiful building and is laid out in chronological order from 1940 up to the current date. The Museum is an awesome structure, it is a 59,000 square foot facility which houses a hanging C-47 Airplane, a Waco Glider with a Jeep inside, a helicopter, and a tank, among many other authentic wartime artifacts.

Dioramas of some military operations are displayed and are very well done to the point where you find yourself talking to manikins. The complete tour through the museum is accessible to the handicapped and will take as much time as you wish to spend, but I would say about two hours for someone who was in WWII. It is easy to get to, especially if one has been at Fort Bragg. You just continue to Fayetteville on Bragg Boulevard about four or five miles and just before you reach Hay St. there is a light which guides you to the left to enter the free parking lot for the museum.

MUSEUM FACTS:-Where - 100 Bragg Boulevard, Fayetteville, N. Carolina.
Hours - 10am to 5pm Tuesday to Saturday - Noon to 5pm on Sunday - Closed Mon.
Cost - Admission is FREE, Movie on the History of the Airborne, @ Special Operations Soldiers \$3. - Ride in a simulator (Parachute Jump) \$3. Parking - The Museum has 150 spaces that can be reached from Hillsboro or Water St.
SIZE - The Museum and it's grounds cover nearly seven acres. The Museum spans 59,000 square feet. About 300 objects are on display.

Stitch in Time Froze Behind
I ATTENDED a one-room school in the late '30s and early '40s. Like nearly all the boys at that time, I wore bib overalls.

One winter day at school, I ripped the seat out of my overalls. The teacher asked my older sister to sew them up while I was still wearing them.

Later, I had to go to the privy. When I got out there, I discovered my sister had sewn my overalls to my long johns! I had to remove my coat, shirt and underwear. I nearly froze—it was about 10° below zero that day.

—Clarence Knouse
Huron, South Dakota

Please Send Another Catalog

A NEIGHBOR once wrote to Sears saying he wanted to buy some toilet tissue. Sears wrote back instructing him to order it from the catalog.

The neighbor replied that he couldn't, as his catalog was all gone.

—M. McDonald
Burt Lake, Michigan

Outhouse No Inconvenience

MOST outhouses in our neighborhood were built of ugly gray wood. Inside was a rough board with two holes.

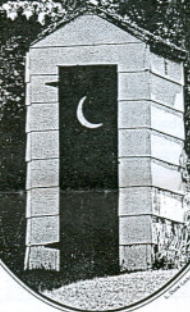
My parents had other ideas. Dad painted the outside white with green trim. Inside, he made one hole smaller to accommodate my younger sister and installed lids to cover the holes.

Mama added her personal touch by padding the seats with old rugs. But even those padded seats provided only a little protection on bitter winter mornings.

On the wall, Mama glued covers from *Liberty* magazine. They not only hid the cracks and brightened the decor, but were an endless source for wonderful stories Mama made up for us.

One spring, a robin built a nest in the caves of our outhouse. For a short time, we were treated to the chirping of four little fledglings. We only had to be told once, "Be sure to put the lids down so

These readers remain privy to memories of "the little house out back"



the baby birds won't fall in the holes."

A few years later, we had a bathroom installed in the house, complete with tub and a flushing toilet. Even though it lacked a robin's nest and colorful stories pasted on the walls, we managed to adjust to our new convenience.

—Millicent Barnard
Feeding Hills, Massachusetts

Prevented Paper Emergencies

IN MY YOUTH, the outhouses at summer camp always had names. At Camp Wildwood in the Adirondacks of New York, it was called "The Community House".

This privy was located just downhill

from camp. It was a brief stroll in the daytime...but that path seemed a lot longer at night. Then we'd take the walk three at a time, with one of us holding a lantern.

At The Maples, a camp on the St. Lawrence River near Massena, the outhouse was called "The Ration Board". It was equipped with a Sears catalog "for emergencies".

Never was an outhouse so diligently stocked with toilet tissue. We used that slick-paged catalog for a doornstop.

By the end of summer, it still had all of its pages—a testament to our first demonstration of responsibility by regular replenishment of the toilet tissue supply.

—Carolyn Wurdner Beck
Portland, Oregon

Hold Her Breath Page by Page

ALTHOUGH we had indoor plumbing, my grandparents had a two-holer. We visited them every summer.

I can remember how I used to take a huge, deep breath before going into that two-holer, hoping that I'd be able to exit before my breath did.

I never made it. But I did enjoy the Sears catalog.

—Jennifer Wilcox
Monroe, Washington

Depression Privies Were Pretty Fancy

IN NICE WEATHER, the outhouse was a kind of refuge, where you could go to get out of doing dishes and where the Sears Roebuck catalog opened up a dream world.

Some ladies planted morning glories to hide the ugly little house, but FDR had a better solution. The WPA went throughout the country building pretty privies.

They were white and sat on a concrete base. The lids even had springs! We were so proud of ours.

It didn't take much to make us happy back in the '30s.

—Kathleen Skoog
Holdrege, Nebraska

DON and PAT O'NEILL - 2312 Elfin Way - Sarasota, FL 34231
Phone (941) 923-0145

Two more suspicious areas recently appeared in Pat's struggle with cancer. Please keep her in your prayers. A friend of mine wants to know the name of the Lt. in that famous D-Day picture with General Eisenhower, could you tell me who he is? That Christmas Popsheet is great.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lt. Wallace Strobel of Company E 502 is the man speaking with General Eisenhower an hour or 2 before we boarded our planes for the D-Day Jump into Normandy.

MRS. MICHAEL (MARY) CAVANAUGH - 954 Wyoming Ave. - Forty-Fort, PA 18704
Phone (717) 287-2983

Your Christmas Popsheet was absolutely wonderful, and very interesting! I read every word, and hope to read it again. How great of you to keep doing this all of these years. Enclosed is a donation to help with expenses.

MRS. BILL (MARJORIE) STEADMAN - 406 Union St. - Gaffney, SC 29340
Phone (864) 489-4423

My prayers are with you and all our Company I family.

SEEN IN THE SCREAMING EAGLE MAGAZINE: A hesitant caller phoned George Koskimacki and identified herself as Mary Wilhelm. George asked, "are you possibly related to Fred Wilhelm of Company I and the pathfinders who parachuted with Captain Frank Lillyman on D-Day?" She was indeed one of five children of the late Fred Wilhelm. Both she and her husband are avid Airborne history buffs. Her husband was present in Normandy last June and will be going there again this year for the ceremonies.

A REUNION NOTE FROM BOB HARTZELL: Some of the Hotel Rooms at the "Snowbird REUNION" are quite a distance from the Hospital Room. All of us of Company I are 80 years old, or close to it, and we don't move too far after a few drinks. George Welch, president of the Snowbird Reunion told me when we phone for our Hotel Reservation we should ask for "John Allen", who is the Hotel coordinator for the "Snowbird Reunion", and ask him for a room close to the Hospitality Room because of our advanced age. If John is not available, ask for "Janie". John Allen and Janie are at the Hotel Monday through Friday from 8.00 to 4.00 Eastern Time. Last year they gave all who asked for it, a nearby room. For best results make early reservations with the Hotel, as they have a liberal cancellation policy. Make sure you ask for the Special Snowbird Reunion rates of \$59.00.

BOB and STELLE MOLSBERRY - 10368 Glenwood Pines Ct. - Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone (530) 273-1698

Our prayers go to all Company I people. It was so wonderful seeing you all from Company I at the 2001 Snowbird Reunion. And you all look so young. We really enjoyed the good fellowship with everyone. I had the best conversation with so many Company I men and wives. Our conversation with John Altomare about his West Virginia place and their garden they grow in the summer sounds heavenly. Earl Kelly's encouragement for Bob to re-open his status with the VA, which he has done. Besides more loss of the use of his arm and "Post Traumatic Stress" that causes him to fight Germans, - and sometimes I'm "it". Usually I can tell when he is having these dreams and can get out of the way. Our doctor knows Bob for his gentleness and says this can come back on you in later life easier than when men are first out of the service. I try to waken him before it takes a good hold of him.

Enclosed is a donation to help with Popsheet expenses.

MRS. BETTY TAYLOR-HILL - 2222 Settlers Way #924 - Sugar Land, Texas 77478
Phone (281) 491-6165 email: bjth23@hotmail.com

Being able to talk with you on the phone on Saturday was wonderful. Through the internet technology, I've been in touch with some great people who've helped me find out more about my brother, Lester A. Taylor, who was KIA on Sept. 19, 1944 in Operation Market Garden near Best, Holland. At that time, I was 5 years old. I have very little real memory of him, but he has been my hero all these years. Our parents were farmers in Tennessee. Lester wanted very much to get back home and establish himself on a farm. He was married a short time before going overseas and had no children.

An older sister, Lola, was in touch with Lester's friends in Company I. Their names are enclosed. Lola would be so happy to know I've found you and the other contacts that have been made recently. She died of cancer in 1988. We were a large family of 4 boys and 5 girls raised on a small Tennessee farm.

I talked with Bob Tripp on the phone this morning. Great conversation... he told me his memories of Lester's death that he had heard, since Lester was the squad leader...he added to Champ Baker's information that Lester took a route through a house to reach the others, there were Germans inside, they had a shoot out, Lester came out of the door fatally wounded with a live grenade in his hand which he tossed away before he died right there.

I look forward to receiving pictures from Bob and will send him some of my information. Bob recommended I talk to you, to which I could tell him that we had already talked...my thanks to you all. I'm anxiously waiting to receive the Poopsheet. I plan to share all this with my family as they are very excited also. It's really sad that it has taken so long to find you.

This week, I ran across the following message on the internet. Do you know this person? Is he someone who may have known Lester?

Pat Callery - West Hempstead, L.I., NY

I got my ParatrooperWings on May 8th 1942. I joined 502nd P.I. as a medic. In August 1942 the 101st Airborne became our Division - from the Frying Pan thru Fort Bragg to Camp Shanks, then to the cruise ship Strathnaver, after 45 days we arrived in England then came Normandy, Holland, Bastogne and Austria. I was with Company I 3rd Battalion 502nd.

I phoned Mrs. John Lachkovic-Hill - Mrs. Paul Cooney - Mrs. Glenn Moe - and Bob Tripp whose husbands were close friends of Lester.

The copies of the enclosed letters aren't very good. They've been copied several times in the last 57 years. Share them as you wish. Also, please share my address with your Poopsheet recipients so they may contact me.

Here are the names of Lester's friends who wrote to my sister Lola, in 1944. John P. Lachkovic - Lt. Robert G. Burns - Sgt. Paul Cooney - Cpl. Glenn Moe - Capt. Champ L. Baker. Lester's remains were returned to the States just before Easter, 1948. He is buried beside his Mom and Dad at Loretto, TN.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I retyped these letters so they could be more easily read by us who can't see as clearly as we used to.

OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Corporal Lester Taylor distinguished himself by heroic achievement in action. On June 6, 1944, he landed by parachute in the inundated area near St. Germain de Varreville, France. Seeing a comrade struggling in his parachute in a canal, Corporal Taylor, ignoring the danger of enemy machine gun fire from nearby positions, and the danger of drowning in the canal, unhesitatingly plunged down the bank into the water and dragged the drowning man to the comparative safety of the bank. The furor caused by this rescue caused the enemy to fire on the three men engaged in the rescue with mortars as well as machine guns, but disregarding the risk involved, Corporal Taylor continued to render artificial respiration to his comrade until he regained consciousness. In a later operation, - Corporal Taylor was mortally wounded. His actions were in accordance with the highest standards of Military Service.

Holland, Nov. 3, 1944

Dear Miss Taylor,

Introducing myself as: Captain Champ L. Baker, your brother's Company Commander, of Company "I" 502 Parachute Infantry.

I received your letter of 11 October, but unfortunately, censorship regulations have prevented me from replying as soon as I would have liked. As a matter of fact, I am still limited as to what I can tell you. Perhaps later I can be more specific and elaborate in detail of Lester's passing.

It is awfully hard for me to put down on paper how I feel about the men of my Company who have gone. And especially Lester. He was a member of my platoon nearly two years ago when I commanded the second platoon of "I" Company. I watched him develop from a civilian into a soldier, you might say, during that time, and I learned to place the utmost confidence and trust in him.

During the harrowing days following the invasion of Normandy, when our Company was torn to bits (though we inflicted terrific losses on the enemy), Lester's coolness and calmness under heavy fire stood out, and he was promoted to Corporal on the field of battle. Upon our return from France his efficient handling of our new men and his evident desire to transfer his knowledge to them gained on the field of battle resulted in his promotion to Sergeant on the day we left for the invasion of Holland.

I cannot disclose the location of our jump in Holland or list any names of any type. We jumped on the 17th, and Lester was killed in action on the 19th. Our Company, after one day's heavy fighting, had been given the mission of defending a very important road block which would deny an avenue of supply and re-inforcements to the enemy we had trapped the day before. This very important mission was given to the second platoon commanded by Lt. Robert G. Burns. They went into position at 10.30 the night of the 18th, and at 2.50am were heavily attacked by a German column. In the face of terrific fire, the equal of which I have never seen, they held their ground and massacred the enemy attempting to break through. We killed many of them and took thirty-seven prisoners. Lester's squad, on the right, by its display of bulldog tenacity and his personal leadership, refused to be pushed from the road block. His men held fast and the enemy was forced to retreat.

The next day (19th) the enemy again attempted to push through and once more were repulsed with heavy losses. The fighting raged around the road block all morning, and the ferocity of the action necessitated my sending up sorely needed reserves. At approximately 10.00a.m. Lester, seeing the need of more men on the other side of the road, proceeded across the road with two of his men to go to the aid of our troops there. He was struck down by machine gun fire and his death was instantaneous. His passing was merciful, and he suffered no prolonged pain.

For his outstanding work in the face of the enemy and his utter devotion to duty he has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal posthumously. In due time you should receive this award from a grateful government. It may please you to know that by the road block's being held we were able to push forward later during the day and completely annihilate the enemy, taking over 900 prisoners and killing many.

I know this information is not as complete as you would like it, and later on when censorship permits I shall endeavor to ease your grief and pain at his loss with more specific details. Lester was one of my boys and his loss is very precious to me. I shall never be able to replace him, and in the coming years of peace I shall often think of him and the courageous manner in which he performed his duties under fire. His bravery and determination ranked beside the highest heroes of this war.

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2002 SNOWBIRD REUNION INFORMATION

The Florida "Sunshine State Chapter" of the 101st sponsors this annual moni-Reunion which will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, February 7, 8, 9, 2002 at the - Ramada Plaza Hotel Gateway - 7470 Highway 192 West - Kissimmee, Florida 34747 - toll free phone 1-800-327-9170 - just outside of Orlando, a hop and a skip from highway I-4 - one mile from "Walt Disney World Resort" entrance.

The cost of the Hotel Rooms are \$59.00 plus tax per night for single or double. Reservations for rooms require a one-night deposit or a credit card number. Cutoff date for Hotel Reservations will be January 12, 2002, after that date reservations are on a space available basis. Make your reservations directly with the "Ramada Plaza Hotel Gateway" phone 1-800-327-9170.

Registration fee for the entire Reunion, including 2 continuous Hospitality Rooms full of food and drink, and a sit-down Saturday evening dinner is \$45.00 per person. The Saturday evening dinner will feature Filet of Beef, or if you prefer fish or chicken.

Please send your Registration Fee of \$45.00 each, check or money order, payable to "101st Sunshine State Chapter", before January 12, 2002. Send the cut-off portion below for your Registration to Tom Moran. If necessary pay him upon arrival in the Hospitality Room, but do let him know you are coming, you can always cancel if you find out you can't attend.

"Mears Shuttle Service" at the Orlando airport entrance, is available for transportation to the Hotel and return to the airport for \$27.00 each round trip, or if you have 2 or more people the taxi rate is about \$48.00.

Thirty five Company I people attended last year's "Snowbird Reunion" and early indications are we will have a great attendance again this year.

SNOWBIRD REGISTRATION FORM

Name Hill Betty Taylor Unit 502 CoI
LAST FIRST M
Spouse _____ or Guest David Lasseter
First Last First M
Address 2222 Settlers Way #924 City Sugar Land
State TX Zip 77478 Phone (281) 491-6165

Show your e-mail address? 67b23@hotmail.com Fax _____
Name Tags will be made on the above information. If you have a Nickname and would prefer it on the nametag let us know.
Special Instructions _____

Banquet Saturday evening will feature Petit 8 ounce filet of Beef. (If no selection is made you will receive chicken)

If you do not care for beef, choose an alternative.

Please indicate your choice and the number of each Beef 2 Chicken _____ Fish _____

The registration fee is \$45.00 per person.

Hospitality room with it's free bar, the Buffet, Fri and Sat afternoon and the Banquet Saturday evening is included in the registration.

PLEASE REMIT BEFORE 12TH January 2002

Amount Remitted \$ 90.00 Number Attending. 2

MAIL TO TOM MORAN
120 Neptune Ct
Indialantic Fl. 32903

Due to limited seating the 1st 400 registered will be assured a seat at the banquet. All others will be on a standby status.
Postmark will determine earliest registrations.

*****CUT AND MAIL TO TOM MORAN*****

*David will pay upon arrival.
His plans are "ifly" -
Hopes to be there*