



Company I Poopsheet



Company I, 502 PIR, 101st Airborne

March 2008

Harry Nivens, St. Cloud, FL, Enclosed are photos of the four I Company men's graves who are buried in the American Cemetery in Normandy which overlooks Omaha Beach. If you know a family member, I would like to contact them and send a photo of their final resting place. We hope you had a Merry Christmas and the new year will be great for you. Enclosed is a poem written by two troopers of the 502 after the battle of Carentan.

PURPLE HEART LANE

By R.D. Cready and R.H. Bryant

We drink to the men so bronzed and tan.
Who marched down the road to Carentan.
We were the ones who so long had to train
To fight this battle of Purple Heart Lane.

Yes, this is that road stretched across the plain,
This place of Macadean called Purple Heart Lane.

Why was it called this you may want to know.
Well, "Jerry" was there to give us this show.
He had mortars, machine guns and 88's too.

With plenty of armor to back up his crew.
Then there were snipers that we could not see.
They kept firing at us, my buddies and me.

We had laughed at crawling, keeping close to
the ground.

But we did it and liked it right up to the town.
Then came the charge that led to their guns.
We beat back those "Jerries", those invincible bums
Invincible they say, and they weren't far wrong,
But we made them sing another sort of song.

The long battle over, we trudged up the hill.
There we paused to look back at our comrades,... still.
We think of the boys who died not in vain,
Our pals, Yes, the heroes of Purple Heart Lane

To the memory of the men of the 502 that
died at Carentan

If you are a relative of either of these four, you can contact the Poopsheet editor, Betty Hill for a copy of the photo from Harry Nivens. These are large photos with inscriptions clearly visible.



(right) 2nd Lt. Benny J. Klemantovich, I Co. 502, died June 10, 1944

Pvt. Herman Addleson, I Co 502, died June 6, 1944.



(left) Pvt. Roy J. Sherrord, I Co. 502, died June 6, 1944



(right) Pvt. Edward R. Sowder, I Co, 502, died June 11, 1944





William E. (Bill) Baker, was killed in action at Best, Holland, September 19, 1944. Bill went into I company after the Normandy invasion. His grave is at the American National Cemetery at Margarten, Holland. Shown above -- the family of Hans and Christine Kroon, have adopted Bill's grave. Hans was born near Utrecht, Holland. He and his family now live in Paris, France, and visit the Margarten each Memorial Day where they place flowers.

Joe Brangwin, Ridgecrest, CA, January 7, 2008
sent a donation to the Poopsheet. Thanks and best wishes to you all

Jan Coolen, Netherlands, January 10, 2008, Thank you so much for sending me the CO I 502 newsletter. I very much appreciate that and I very enjoy reading that most interesting Newsletter. You do a fantastic job; it's the cement between the veterans and all the people who loves the Airbornes and you do a great contribution in that. Excellent. Warmest regards, Jan Coolen

Susan Lillyman Hyland, Etlan, VA, January 10, 2008, (daughter of **Frank Lillyman I Co.**, 502)

What a wonderful edition this was! I really am sorry that I am going to miss the Snowbird Reunion this year but have already penciled the date in for 2009.

Do you have a digital copy of the photo you used of me that you could send me? I'm looking for one that I can use in my Department Study portal (for the American Military University where I am the Associate Director of the Online Library.) Enjoy the Reunion. I'll

be thinking of you all. Best, Susan (Lillyman) Hyland.

Gary and Kathleen Hershner, Richmond, VA, January 17, 2008 (Son of the late **Capt. Ivan Ray and Ann Hershner**) Thank you for the recent email showing Rolley Castle. While it was sent to me in mid-December, I did not see it until I returned with my own family from Europe on December 27, 2007. It certainly brought back memories.

In the summer of 1970 my father took the whole family to Europe and we went to Rolley Castle. I believe I met the woman that is pictured in the Company I Poopsheet. The castle itself is a fantastic structure. Even better than that is the landscape surrounding Rolley Castle. It is certainly one of the most beautiful sites I have ever seen.

I remembered as we got out of the VW Van, my father addressed the woman who I believe is depicted in the picture. My father said "I am Captain Hershner." At the time I was wondering how my dad thought this woman could possibly remember him. Now I realize that I vividly remember the foregoing scene from some 37 years ago. When my dad identified himself to this woman in 1970, that was only a slightly more than 25 years after he had first met her during a very significant time in history.

Again, thank you very much. Gary Hershner

A MESSAGE TO ALL VETERANS

January 31, 2008 Elaine Smith's son, Craig Cote, asked her to convey his thanks to the veterans at the Snowbird Reunion and to all veterans.

Mom, as you talk with the veterans at the 101st Airborne Reunion this weekend, please tell them for me that inside the heart of this 52-year-old man lies a message that I need to share. Tell them I believe that every pleasant experience that I have ever known ... every security that I have taken for granted, every hope and every dream I've cherished ... every positive event in my life and every opportunity that has been offered me in my lifetime, I owe to the World War II veteran.

Tell them I respect them and honor them for their

sacrifices ... not only on the battlefield, but as the young men on the home-front when they left their homes, their loved ones and their youth. They buried their dreams, answered their country's call and marched on to the drumbeat of a world at war.

I respect all veterans, but the men who served in WWII fought for a unique cause in all parts of the world with no promise as to when ..or if ... they would return. Their tour of duty was for the duration. Some had never traveled far from their birthplace in that time of 1941, and soon they would be scattered to the seven seas and to countries almost alien to their homeland.

In that assignment, they gave their years, their health, and often ... their lives ... in liberating those people already living under tyranny and in protecting our own country from that threat.

This is my promise to you. I will take every opportunity to tell others your story of courage and sacrifice .. and your personal losses along the way. If I can reach them with the reality of your mission, they may remember, for your part in history must not be forgotten. And I will continue to reach out to the veterans, shake their hands and say, "Thank you for sacrificing a part of your life for me. I shall always remember what you did. I believe that you are truly a member of The Greatest Generation America has ever known." With gratitude, CRAIG COTE , 295 Georges Pond Road Franklin, ME 04634



Elaine Smith read the message from her son to **Ed Mobley** and his family on Thursday evening. She shared it with many other veterans at the reunion and is now sharing with veterans' organizations near her home in Florida.

Association President, Joe Alexander, read the message from Jan Coolen, our Dutch friend from Eindhoven. Jan and Matthew van Luyt usually represents our Dutch friends from Holland at this reunion.

Jan was unable to attend because of the sudden illness of his wife, Nellie. We extend our love and prayers to Nellie and Jan Coolen. We wish her a speedy and full recovery.

Matthew and wife, Mia van Luyt, had a conflicting schedule and were in the Middle East. this year

Melanie Janssen was accompanied to the states by her uncle and was the only resident from Holland with us.. We missed our other European friends and look forward to seeing them and all others who missed this reunion next time.



Melanie Janssen

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A Case Study from the website of Tom Timmermans, Eindhoven, Netherlands, www.battledetective.com

Study Title: Temporary War Cemetery at Wolfswinkel

Subject: From D+2 of Operation "Market Garden" (September 19th 1944) to May 30th 1949, the US Army turned a pasture in Wolfswinkel, a hamlet close to Son, into a temporary cemetery, mostly for troopers of the 101st Airborne Division, Killed In Action.

Date: September 19th, 1944 - May 30th 1949

Location: Wolfswinkel (Son), Holland

Introduction:

Friday, December 8th 2006 at about 4 PM a new monument was unveiled in Son. The monument which was a private initiative, reminds of the fact that from September 19th 1944 until May 30th 1949 a temporary war cemetery was located at about half a mile behind the black marble marker. The marker is located next to the stretch of road that has become known as "Hell's Highway", about 2 miles North of Son and next to a rural road leading to the Waterhoef Farm.

The inscription on the monument marker reads:

"U.S. Military Cemetery Son.
 This road led to the fields where
 from 1944 to 1949 the American
 and Allied temporary cemetery
 was located behind the
 "Waterhoef" Farm. This is where
 the soldiers rested who paid the
 ultimate price for our freedom.
 Remember them all!"



Front grave marker in above photo is Cpl. Lester A. Taylor, 1 Co. 502 PIR. KIA, September 19, 1944

"The Forum", a local newspaper in Son, Netherlands, December 12, 2007 printed the following article with the same photo above. **THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A MEMORIAL BEFORE.** (Interview with Martien Hooymayers, thanks to Lisa van Berkel for English translation)

When Henk Hooymayers was 12 years old he worked at WATERHOEF FARM in Son, as told by his brother Martien. The Waterhoef farm was not far from the Dommel river. Behind the farm were open fields. During the occupation of our country (1940-1945) there were Jewish people in hiding in Waterhoef farm. According to Henk (my late brother) the Jewish people were in a barn behind the farm. You did not tell this to other people. They were more hiding

places in the area.

Headmaster Beelen of the school in Breugel/Son was in hiding as well because the Germans wanted to arrest him for underground activities (this was in 1943).

The headmaster went into hiding in Diemen, not far from Amsterdam.

A temporary cemetery was needed to bury the allied soldiers who were killed during the fighting in the surrounding area. In the center of the field was an open space, where barracks were built and on Memorial Day in May, ceremonies were held.

In 1948 the temporary cemetery closed. Part of the bodies were transported to the USA, part buried at the American military cemetery in MARGRATEN in our country. The fields were used again by farmer Swinkels.

My brother Henk has never talked about what he has seen about the exhuming of the bodies.

After the liberation he has worked at the Waterhoef farm for about 8 years. He got married and had a job at the Philips Works in Eindhoven.

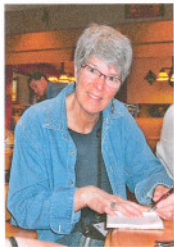
Sometimes people from the USA come over to see where their beloved ones

Henk passed away at the beginning of 2007. He was in my home and had a brain stroke. I have so many questions left, however it is too late now,

THE WEISBERG'S

Aboard the *Strathmauer* troop ship crossing the Atlantic in September 1943 were 5,800 men (about 2,200 of these from the 502 PIR) from the 101st Airborne and approximately 150 women.

Lt Ruth Barker and Lt. Ty Miller were in charge of a 6-



person Army Women's Army Corp (WAC) communications detachment. Maybe some Item Company, 502 men remember those WAC's on board. Turned out to be impossible to keep the romance at bay. On board was Lt. Col. Benjamin Weisberg who pursued Lt. Ruth Barker all the way across the Atlantic. In England,

their romance blossomed, and they were married in England. Just about a year later due to the pregnancy with their first daughter. Ruth Weisberg was discharged from the Army and returned to the States

At the Snowbird Reunion this year, it was a pleasure to meet at breakfast on Thursday morning Courtney Weisberg Johnson, ((photo right) the younger daughter of Ben and Ruth Weisberg. It was interesting to hear of her parent's "forbidden" romance from Courtney. We have read about them in Mark Bando's book, *101st Airborne, The Screaming Eagles at Normandy*. (Page 15)

(below) Reg Jans provides us with another great 1944 photo of the Rolley Castle near Bastogne.



BASTOGNE, DECEMBER 2007

Jan Coolen provides a report on the annual events

inear Bastogne in December 2007.

Last December 15 we went to Bastogne to visit the yearly commemorations of the Battle of the Bulge. This visit was for us the twenty-fifth time since 1982. Dec 19, 1944 was the day the 101 had to leave Camp Mourmelon (France, 125 miles from Bastogne), in summer clothes, lightly armed, not completely replaced and on 380 ten-ton trucks (most open cattle trucks) by 5 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 15 Celsius) for the last great attack of the enemy. That enemy had six times more soldiers than the 101, sturdy clothes (even white camouflage; it was winter), was well armed with tanks and light and heavy artillery and had enough food and supplies. But the 101 soldiers were six times more brave, more inspired, more passionate, more ingenious and very grim in battle. AND THEY HELD, with the support of the American VIII Army Corps; -- to illustrate (your writer J.C. from the book of Toland); when Col. William Roberts, commander of B-group 10th Armoured Div. (attached to VIII Corps), did send his Team William Desobry for to set up a road block in Noville, he said: "Bill, you soon will consider to withdraw, but then get in your head (and he threw friendly one arm around Bill) that I have said that you don't do that". And unhappily, December 1944 is still one of the coldest winters in history in the Ardennes. It was terrible. Many soldiers had one or two frozen legs amputated. I know some of them who still have a bad sleep, every night, because their legs give pain. On this Dec 15 we first went to the villages Champs, Longchamps and Hemrouille to see the parachuting and to visit Castle Rolley, which was the CP of the 502nd during the Battle of the Bulge. There Lt Col Steve Chappuis got his DSC from Patton and McAuliffe (by the way Gen. Chappuis is still living, 28-12-1913). The castle is still in battle, because when you nowadays uninvited turn into the drive, the very old lady (same from 1944) comes towards you with a rifle. But the story goes that this nice woman took care for some food (uncooked ham about three kilo's) on Christmas night, just the day before the planes could drop food, because they couldn't drop during ten days because of the bad weather, so the 101 soldiers not only were frozen but starving too. It's a nice castle and the cattle outbuildings bring you back to the eleventh century. There also was a parachute jump near the Mardasson monument (for me the most impressive WWII monument) and there were laying of wreaths at Patton and McAuliffe monument. On our way from Champs to Bastogne we saw many of the 2500 participators of the yearly march "in the footsteps of the 101", a lot of them in original WWII

outfit including rifles from that time and, I guess, over 500 vehicles from WWII and from many countries. And it seems there is every year a bigger and bigger crowd of visitors in and around Bastogne. Alongside the route were about twenty re-enactor camps. The same very large crew was in the parade the next day. The throwing of nuts for the children is moving and together amusing (you know why nuts). I have special feelings for Bastogne, because many of the 101 soldiers who did liberate me, died in Bastogne (only in and in the immediate vicinity of Bastogne were killed 3000 civilians and 12000 soldiers: 3000 from the USA -- 525 of the 101 -- and 9000 of the enemy). We met Ed Shames, Herb Sewert and Frank Soboleski and his wife Renee, Nobuo Izumi and his wife, all from 2nd or 3rd Bat. 506 and Ray and Helen Nagell from 101-321 GFA. Jan G.M. Coolen, Montgomerylaan 31 5612 BA Eindhoven, The Netherlands
Email: lohanqmcoolen@hetnet.nl (new email address)

The Editor's Snowbird Reunion photos were emailed to our Airborne friends:

Matthew van Luyt, Eindhoven, Netherlands, February 7 and 11, 2008. It was good to hear from you. I wonder how your photo's will be when you are a real photographer. I see still many of my dear friends attending. To bad I could not make it. In the meantime we were in the Persian Gulf, cruising to the different emirates. Hope you are well. Kindest regards, About the Remember September 2009we'll be there to lay flowers at the monuments but if we expect a big group from the 101 to visit our area?? Who knows. Kindest regards, Matthew and Ria

February 7, 2008, Frenk van Derks, Son, Netherlands, Thanks for the pictures, it's good to see that everybody enjoyed themselves and all look healthy. Regards, Frenk...

February 7, 2008, Ronald Stassen, Netherlands, Thanks for the very nice pictures. You must have had a wonderful time there. Airborne all the way I'm interested in WWII US Paratroopers and especially the 101st Airborne Division. That's why I build www.band-of-brothers.nl, well I'm not the builder but it's in my hand now for almost three years.
Yours Sincerely, 1st LT Ronald Stassen, XCO, S3 and research, VZW Band of Brothers Belgium and The Netherlands Ronald@band-of-brothers.nl
www.band-of-brothers.nl www.band-of-brothers.be

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

Never test the depth of the water with both feet

If at first you don't succeed, sky diving is not for you.

Why is it, opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your door forever?

Peace starts with a smile.

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Tough Questions.....

Why do you have to "put your two cents in".. But it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going to?

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?

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Thank you for your support. Stay in touch so that we have news to report.

Editor

It was an honor and privilege to attend another airborne reunion the first weekend in February 2008. This would have been my brother, Sgt. Lester A. Taylor's airborne reunion. Lester was killed in action near Best, Netherlands, on September 19, 1944.

Photo: Lester A. Taylor and bride, Dewett, 1943



This year, I arrived at the 101st Airborne's Snowbird Reunion that is hosted by the Sunshine State Chapter of the 101st Airborne Association on Wednesday afternoon in time to catch all the "early birds". Theodora (Tedi) Schmoll, Oglivie, MN, was my room-mate for the reunion. Tedi's father Edgar Kelly was in A Company, 501 PIR and died January 12, 1945 near Bastogne.

Lori Novotni, Reno, NV, the great-niece of Edward Sowder, I

Company, 502, killed June 11, 1944 in Normandy, also arrived on Wednesday. This was Lori's first airborne reunion. Later she expressed that she was very happy she came, next year she would bring her mother too.

My other close friend, Elaine Smith from Floral City, FL, who lost her fiance, Carmen Ladner, 501 PIR, on September 24, 1944, near Eerde, Netherlands in an explosion of an ammunition truck, arrived on Thursday morning.



Tedi Schmoll, Lori Novotni, and Elaine Smith

Upon arrival at Orlando, we learned that Kathy Moe Hagen (daughter of Glenn and Lillian Moe, I-502) and her friend, Don Groth from Yakima, WA would not be coming due to a death in Don's



Photo: June Hennessey, Aggie and Warren Welling

family. Arriving at various times over the reunion: I Company, 502 PIR in attendance this year was, Ed and Clara Mobley, and his family, two daughters and son; Harry and Joan Nivens, Joe and June Hennessey, Agnes and Warren Welling, Lori and myself. Agnes (Aggie) Hartzell Welling was there for the first time. She was a wonderful representative of her father, Robert (Bob) Hartzell who lives in Tiffin, Ohio and is no longer able to attend the reunions. Agnes had a marvelous time meeting many of the airborne veterans and their families, and very pleased when someone told her she looked so much like her dad.



We went out with friends for dinner on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. Our breakfasts in the hotel were lengthy and time passed swiftly with so much conversation and war stories flying all around. We shopped in the PX for our airborne souvenirs, shirts, books, etc. In the hospitality suite, there were snacks and drinks while sitting around the tables with friends.

Friday and Saturday's lunches were catered and served by the host chapter. The weather was perfect, no rain, no cool days. Several, including Tedi Schmolz enjoyed a swim in the hotel pool. She had left home in 10 below zero degree weather and would return to below-freezing weather in Minnesota. Between eating three meals a day and visiting with friends... the time flew by. At least three different raffles were held as fund raisers. How did I get so lucky! I came away with not one, but two prizes, so I shared with Lori Novotni

Photo above: Joe Hennessey and Aggie Welling

Photo left: We're hanging off the balcony, enjoying the raffle and beautiful weather.



Elaine Smith was with us in 2006 on the Operation Torch tour of Holland and Belgium. She invited some friends to join her Friday evening for refreshments and to see her scrapbooks and pictures from WWII that she had brought to honor the memory of her fiancé, Carmen Ladner. (501) killed in action Sept. 1944.

Elaine charmed us Friday evening and again on Saturday evening with the song from the WWII era, *Lilly Marlene*, a German love song. In the rendition on Saturday she was accompanied by David Wisnia, of Levittown, PA.



Photo right: L-R: Tedi Schmolz, Ed Hallo, A-501, Joe Pisano, 327, Elaine Smith, Betty Taylor Hill, and George Koskimaki. toast the 101st Airborne, especially those not with us. .

David Wisnia, a Cantor, originally from Warsaw, Poland, has a remarkable story. In January 1945, At age 18, David escaped from captivity in Auschwitz and Dachau concentration camps. David lost his entire family in the concentration camps. Imprisoned with his family at age 13, and having a musical talent, he could entertain the Nazi soldiers. Probably because of that, he survived until his escape in January 1945. Today, recognized as one of the world's truly legendary maestros, Cantor David Wisnia's extraordinary life is well documented, including deportation to Auschwitz in 1942, his escape from the Death March 1945, his subsequent rescue and "adoption" by H Company, 506 PIR of the 101st Airborne Division, his citation for bravery in action against an elite SS troop that guarded Hitler's mountain retreat, his eventual emigration to the US, his countless awards and recognitions by governors, legislatures, even in New Jersey a "Cantor Wisnia Day", and his featured TV



appearance with Charles Osgood.

David was with H-506 to the end of the war.. A Book about his life is to be published in the near future.



Photo:above: Elaine Smith & David Wisnia

Photo left: Aggie Welling and David Wisnia



The color guard for Saturday

night's dinner was provided by the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the 101st Airborne Association. (Photo above right) Gen. Fleming of the Florida National Guard was the guest speaker for the dinner on Saturday night. We all departed on Sunday with hopes of "see you at the next reunion".



Reported by: Betty Taylor Hill

2008, FEBRUARY 1-2 - I COMPANY, 502 AT THE 101ST AIRBORNE'S
SNOWBIRD REUNION, KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA.



(L-R)
Betty Taylor Hill,
sister of Lester A.
Taylor, I-502, KIA
9/19/44; Mark Bando,
author/historian
Harry Nivens, (I-502)
and Joan Nivens;
Clara Mobley, Lori
Novotni, great-niece
of Ed Sowder, I-
502, KIA 6/11/44; Ed
Mobley, (I-502) and
Agnesi Welling,
daughter of Robert
Hartzell (I-502)

Photo Left: (L-R): June and Joe
Hennessey, (I-502) and
Trudy & Hank van Zelder,
Dutch-American friends of the 101st.



Photo Left: (L-R) Diane, M. Hughes
Daughter and Wayne Mobley, son of
Ed Mobley (I-502) with Joan Nivens.



Photo Right: Agnes (Aggie) Hartzell Welling and her
husband, Warren Welling, sign in for the reunion.





Left: Perfect weather for the whole reunion!! Lots of gatherings in the plaza.
 Photo below: Aggie Welling and George Koskimaki, 502, author/historian



above left: Betty Taylor Hill, Lori Novotni and Elaine Smith.



Photo

Wayne Mobley & barbara M. Slover and Cecil Slover, family of Ed Mobley.
 Photo below: Ed Mobley, Joe Hennessey, Harry Nivens, I Company, 502 PIR.



Photo Below: Mark Bando autographs his latest book for Hank van Zelderren while talking on phone with Earl Kelly, (I-502) at his home in Maryland



CO. I, 508 PARACHUTE



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Betty T. Hill
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Sugar Land, TX 77478

First Class Mail



May the Lord Bless you...



Happy St. Patrick's Day

COMING UP IN 2008.....

101st Airborne National Reunion in Reno, Nevada - August 13 - 17, 2008

Registration Forms available on website www.screamingeagle.org

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OPERATION TORCH - September 12 - 23, 1008

Tour the towns and battlefields of Operation Market Garden and Battle of the Bulge. Local groups and guides donate their time and knowledge to insure each participant of the tour visits their place of interest. This tour is sponsored by the non-profit organization, The Screaming Eagles of WWII Foundation, Petra Wenstedt-Pulles, Chairman. Contact Joseph M. Bossi, 2231 Pendleton Drive, Clarksville, TN 37042, Joe's Phone 931-624-8060 or email jmbossi@peoplepc.com. Find Details at www.screamingeagles.nl

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The Normandy Campaign: D-Day and the Liberation of France

09/19/2008 - 09/28/2008 Beginning in London at Winston Churchill's underground headquarters and finishing up on the hillside where the Normandy Campaign came to its final fiery conclusion, this trip will take a look at some of Operation Overlord's most significant and successful leaders and the spots where these men made history. (this is one of their many tours scheduled)

G-2 Associates Historical Tours, Tour with Chris Anderson and Steph Leenhouders.

P.O. Box 309 20 Church St. Liberty Corner, NJ 07938

Ph: 908.542.1007 Fax: 908.604-5951

<http://www.g-2associates.com/home.html> for details and list of all

Their scheduled tours.

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"Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous"

