



Sua Sponte

www.1rrpranger.org

Second Quarter 2013

Inside this issue:

2013 Williams RHOF
By Sua Sponte Staff — 1

Sua Sponte Board of Directors and Info — 2

President's Report — 2
By: Stephen Johnson

Williams' RHOF Citation — 3
By: Sua Sponte Staff

Featured Member — 4
By: Steve Franklin

Editor's Corner — 7
By Michael Chu

A Walk in the Woods — 8
By Dan Linehan

Ranger Herbert Adams — 10
Submitted by Castile's

Deadlines: Sua Sponte is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Absolute deadline for submitting material for the newsletter is 45 days prior to the month mentioned above.

Submissions: Please send to Michael Chu, Editor. Address page 2, inset

Williams RHOF



CSM was selected by the RHOF Committee and will be inducted to the 2013 Ranger Hall of Fame at Ft. Benning this July. Chuck joins the brotherhood of RHOF members including those of our association: Robert Pruden, Vic Valeriano, Danny Jacks, George Beach, and Tom Robison. Congratulations, CSM Williams!



Company G (Ranger)

75th Infantry Association

10433 Juneberry Rd NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

PH: 218-333-1541

Email: TowerG75th@yahoo.com

Sua Sponte

Michael S. Chu, Editor

42 Moanawai Place

Honolulu, HI 96817

PH: 808-282-8109 (cell)

E-mail:

mchu-moanawai@hawaii.rr.com

Officers

Steve "Tower" Johnson, President

Chuck "Wolf" Williams, Vice President

Lynn "Cowboy" Walker, Treasurer

Ed Carey, Secretary

Ed Carey, Historian

Tom "Dolly" Robison, Corporate Counsel

Stephen Crabtree, 75th Regiment Representative

Board of Directors

Tom Nash Board Chairman

Stephen Crabtree, Board Member

Richard Corkan, Board Member

David "Chief" Moncada, Board Member

Frank Svensson, Board Member

Sua Sponte is the official newsletter published quarterly by the Company G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association edited by Michael Chu.

Change of Address: Any Address Changes should be sent to: Sharon Robison, 5523 North Ocean Blvd., Suite 1512, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 or email: tomsharonrobison@msn.com

Membership Information: All former members of the 196th LRRPs, E/51st LRP, and G/75th Rangers are eligible to receive Sua Sponte. Membership applications can be obtained by contacting the Association at any of the addresses or phone numbers listed above.

Newsletter Submittals and Deadlines: see page 1



Congratulations to CSM Williams for being selected into the Ranger Hall of Fame in Ft. Benning this July. He is the sixth association member to be inducted into the RHOE.

I enjoy present day photos of members of our association. Nice looking Morgan. The rider, Tom Hardy, minus the Marlboros, is at home on the range in Kentucky. Tom, along with "Chief" made our very first reunion a historic event with now our 23rd reunion this year in San Diego. Information for bookings and itinerary is on the back page of this newsletter.

Dan Linehan and David Moncada have been collaborating to make this year's reunion an enjoyable one. In the past several reunions the association has picked up the tab for the banquet. In order to cover costs for that, our auction has paid for the banquet. We ask you to please bring an item for the auction and to open up your wallet when "Corky" starts the bidding. We know that some of you can barely afford to attend reunions, and please do not feel obligated to spend more than you can; that is why the association picks up the banquet fees.

John Fritzingier died several years ago from a massive heart attack that may

have been caused in effect due to him being struck by lightning during a mission in Nam. Members of his team revived John. Stephen Crabtree and Gary Gentry were on that mission and "Crabs" is in the long process of establishing the fact that medically the lightning strike weakening his heart and was the cause of death. If that is the case then John's name can be added to the Wall in D.C. If any of you were on that mission please contact Crabs at: Stephen.Crabtree@Gulfstream.Com Several association members attended Stephen Chaney's induction into the Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor. We hope to have pictures and a story from those who were in attendance for the next issue of *Sua Sponte*.

A board meeting took place this spring and here is the result: A motion made by Stephen Crabtree to have a granite with the names of our fallen brothers placed at Ft. Rosecrans. Seconded by Tom Nash. Crabs and Nash were in favor; Svensson, Corkan, and Moncada were not. Motion not carried.

We look forward to seeing everyone in San Diego. On behalf of the board and officers, we wish you and yours the very best.

Stephen Tower Johnson

CSM Williams 54 Years of Service

Ranger Hall of Fame Nomination

CSM Charles P. Williams is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for a lifetime of service, displaying uncommon valor, leadership, and teaching lessons learned in war and in time of peace. CSM Williams was awarded the Bronze Star with three Oak Leaf Clusters during his two tours in Viet Nam. On 7 April 1967, while doing counterinsurgency missions in the Central Highlands against hostile forces, he was awarded his first Bronze Star for completing the mission despite exposing himself and advancing against enemy fire, causing the NVA to abandon their positions and withdraw from the area. He was one of a rare few advisors that was respected and accepted into the Montagnard community.

CSM Williams also proudly served with Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry in 1969 -1970 as first sergeant. His heralded leadership ability greatly improved the Americal Recondo School and worked closely with Rangers from Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry to complete their respective missions. From 1970 -1974 while at Ft. Riley, Kansas, First Sergeant Williams, chief of the Tactics Department was award the Meritorious Service Medal for his mentoring 1st Infantry Division NCO Academy students and senior noncommissioned officers Vietnam Orientation Course, including Ranger tactics learned as an Advisor and serving as a Ranger while in Vietnam.

CSM Williams' tours of duty culminated as Command Sergeant Major of the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. CSM Williams retired after 27 years of active duty only to carry on another 27 years as an ROTC instructor and cadet commandant, proactively influencing youth and young adults many of whom are now serving in the US Army.

CSM (Retired) Williams continues past his 54 years of uniformed services and is presently and actively Vice-President of the G Company (Ranger) 75th Infantry Association. CSM Charles P. Williams is a life time member of Company G and the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and proudly personifies the Ranger Creed.

Featured Member Steve *Bubbles* Franklin



FEATURED MEMBER

Sua Sponte is pleased to highlight its sixth featured member, Steve "Bubbles" Franklin. Steve served in Vietnam in 1968-1970.

By Steve Bubbles Franklin

Remember that hit song back in the mid-60s "The Ballad of the Green Berets" by SSgt Barry Sadler? Anyway, that was my buddies and my favorite song back in high school in Michigan. We just couldn't wait to graduate and join the Army. Heck with college – there was action going on overseas (where was Vietnam?), so the five of us went to Ft. Knox on the buddy plan for basic training two weeks after graduating.

We all went our separate ways in the Army, and I went to

Ft. Gordon, GA for A.I.T. After graduating 11C(mortars), I was assigned to the 4th BN, 21st Inf, 11th BDE over at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. Our battalion flew U.S. Airways to Chu Lai in April 1968, and we pulled patrols in the American Division AO.

John (Gunner) Starnes and I were in the same platoon, and one night at our night defensive position (NDP) were six guys in camo fatigues with painted faces. Gunner and I looked at each other and asked them who the heck they were. "LURPS" they said and we're doing a stay behind insertion. Right then and there John and I decided we wanted to start the 1049 process to volunteer for that elite unit. After interviewing with Cpt. Gary Bjork and passing E/51 Recondo School, we were in! Because Gunner and I trained together, went to Vietnam together, and worked together it was difficult to be separated and assigned to

Featured Member Steve Franklin

different teams in different AO's.

I was first assigned to a team down in Duc Pho (Team Marlboro?), and to other teams in my two years over there. I also worked out of LZ Baldy, but never been on Mad Mac's Mtn. Some of the guys I knew and worked with were Dick Roth, Larry Mosley, Ben Thomas, Rick Lett, Bruce Davey, Lance Chandler, John Felts, Rick Corkan, John Fritzinger, Lt. Henry, Mike Lazorchak, Roger Peet, Lt. Pennington, Ron Ridenhour, Tom Sagan, Pat Scallion, John Schultz, Dave Shupe, Dave Swires, Sgt. Slaughter, Udell Strack, Henry Tablano, Pat Thiele, Bradley Watts (KIA – it should have been me), Don Scheerer, John Dane (the Brit), and others I can't recall at this time. By the way, I would like to say that the 4th Ballation, 21st Infantry Reg., 11th Inf. Brigade, Americal Division contributed at least four guys to E/51 (LRP): John Starnes, John Dane, and myself from C Company (mortar platoon), and Tom Robison from E Company (Recon) (read his riveting, excellent book "W.I.A.").

My code name "Bubbles" was given to me because on the approach to insertion I would pop two pieces of "Hubba Bubba" bubble gum in my mouth and chew it for the entire mission (even sleep with it), and when running to the chopper for extraction I would stick the lump on a tree. I remember chewing it quietly, not popping any bubbles, except on one patrol sneaking through elephant grass with Boot" Corkan as TL. I will never forget that killer stare he gave me!

The missions I went on can be related by all your guys: some intense, some not so; some lasting minutes on the ground, some lasting hours; some three days, some five days; radio-relay; hunter-killer. But one thing for sure was the teamwork, concentration, awareness, professionalism, bondage, and brotherhood of the guys I worked with. Nothing in my post-LRP life can compare with that. I think and reflect on my LRP experiences daily. I'm here today because of my brothers.

I left G Company and ETS'd out of the Army in June of '70. With the money I saved up over there, I paid cash for a 650cc Triumph Tiger motorcycle and rode west from Michigan to a small town in Wyoming to begin my G.I. Bill at

Northwest Community College in Powell, WY. I received my Associates Degree in 1973, then went back to Detroit and worked at Chrysler Motors on the assembly line and at other motor jobs.

While back in Michigan, I met my (then) future wife, Shirley, (we married in 1975), but I couldn't take the auto industry anymore, so I decided to go back out west to continue college and work on my Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT. I graduated in 1977, then we moved down to Denver, CO in 1979 after accepting a job offer with the oil industry. The work involved computer-processing of seismic exploration data, and lasted until 1986 when I got laid off. The oil industry just picked up and left Denver and the Rocky Mountain region and moved down to Texas.

We moved up to Bailey, CO in the mountains in 1984, and have been up here ever since. In the immediate years after being laid-off, I worked all sorts of jobs ~ from security, to spraying chemicals on lawns, to being a chimney sweep (need your chimney swept? I still have all my equipment, including my black top hat!).

In 1990 I was hired by the National Park Service as a survey technician. I was on the road with my survey crew for over two years traveling to various national parks and monuments across the country performing topographical mapping projects for park engineers who wanted improvements to certain areas and facilities at the parks. At that time our theme song was "On the Road Again" by Willie Nelson. Then in 1997, I transferred over to the Federal Highway Administration and mapped road improvements in various national parks, forests, and other Federal lands.

I got my Colorado Professional Survey License in 2002 after six attempts of the 8-hour exam, and then worked for CDOT (Colorado Department of Transportation) working on various highway survey projects until 2006, when I left the work force due to VA service-connected PTSD, then later S.C. Ischemic heart disease (agent orange).

FEATURED MEMBER STEVE FRANKLIN



In conclusion, my post-Vietnam life has been blessed in many ways. My wife of almost 40 years has been my life and soul-mate to this day. We have two grown sons: Michael, who is working on his PhD, and Jesse, who is a career NCO in the Air Force. Our house is paid off up here in the mountains, and the deer and elk are so cool to watch out our window! Even though I had triple by-pass open heart surgery back in 1996, I am fortunate to be physically active. I have even been on the 23 summits of Colorado's

54 14ers (mountains over 14,000 feet in elevation), and have participated in eight Outward Bound courses for veterans. However, I'm not very sociable, and would rather stay home here in my bunker. Every other Tuesday is my Vietnam vet group at the Denver Vet Center, and I look forward to the groups to bond with by bro's. I am honored to have been asked to tell my story. I hope to see you guys at some future reunions, but I will definitely see you on the LZ on the other side. Until then, Charley Mike. Bubbles

Editor Michael Chu's Corner



EDITORS CORNER

Feature Member

The 6th featured member for this edition of Sua Sponte spotlights Steve Franklin from Bailey, Colorado. Steve served a couple years in Vietnam, both with E/51 and G/75. You'll see he's led an interesting and diverse life since departing the Army. Read on and enjoy about Steve Franklin.

Since assuming rein of the Sua Sponte newsletter, Sua Sponte has initiated a column entitled "featured members". This column focuses on individuals who have been supportive of the Association for a long time but lay quietly in the background and do not receive recognition as Association superstars.

So far, Sua Sponte has posted featured members to date to include:

Steve Castile
Ron LaBar
Felix Blinn
Tim Shur
Shawn Ranahan
Steve Franklin

All have been generous and extremely cooperative in drafting their own articles and submitting photos. Sua Sponte extends its thanks and appreciation to all of the above.

But how are these individual selected? As editor, it's been pretty much up to me. I basically take a dart and throw it against the wall (metaphor). Then in the role of editor, I follow up with phone calls and emails. I've been lucky so far in receiving outstanding cooperation from all of the dart board recipients.

This has been an arbitrary process on our part, and as editor, we feel it's important to disclose our current process and offer an expansion and solicit eligibility and opportunity to this Sua Sponte column to any Association member. The only requirements if selected as the featured member are:

Association member be in good standing
Provide a brief written description of their Vietnam experience and what they've done with their lives since leaving the Army
Provide photos as appropriate

Send any request or questions for consideration to the editor:
mchu-moanawai@hawaii.rr.com
Or call Michael Chu at 1-808-21218108 (cell)

Until I hear from you, we will continue to use the "dart board" process.

Board for Corrections of Military Records

About two years ago I dusted off my DD214 and was startled to see a typo in my SSN. I figured this could a big problem when applying for veteran benefits, such as burial so I contacted the Board for Corrections of Military Records (ABCMR). Initially, they responded with the typical bureaucratic run around and put my case at the back of the line.

I persisted with several more letters and eventually solicited the help of our Hawaii US Senator who was kind enough to make an official inquiry on my behalf. That must have been the magic bullet. I recently received a letter from the ABCMR stating they reviewed my case and will be granting me full relief by having all my Army records revised to correctly reflect my true SSN. The ABCMR cited a code limiting the statutes of limitation of 3 years but saw fit to wave that "in the interest of justice."

The lesson here? Check your DD214. Make sure copies are available to family members or care giver. Two years later, a happy ending.

Michael S. Chu

A Walk in the Woods with George

By Dan Linehan

I joined Team Texas sometime in late June 1969. The team was comprised of George Beach (TL), Tom McCarthy (Mac - ATL), Bob Baldwin, Perry Hughes, John Haines and me. As I recall, John Shenkaruk had left for a stateside extension leave and to recover from having been dragged through some trees during a night extraction from a riverbed via McGuire rig on a recent mission...which created the opening for me on the team.

At this time, George was well into his second or third tour in Viet Nam having served with the 101st Airborne before re-upping and coming to Chu Lai in early '69. Mac was a recovering line dog from the 198th Infantry who was finishing up his time in the luxurious confines of the Ranger company. I believe Bob was also an escapee from a line company who still had six months or so left in his tour. As for Perry and John, they had recently finished the company recondo school training vacation (sic).

Me, I had been languishing in the Americal Combat Center for a month or so after arriving in country waiting for orders from G Company...the orders never did appear, so First Sergeant Manning just added me to the company roster and assigned me to Team Oklahoma...a bunch of guys who were all short-timers... We spent most of our time shuttling back and forth to Hill 1362, Mad Mac's Mountain, where we worked on setting up a radio relay station...but this is about walking in the woods with George...

My first mission with Team Texas came up shortly after I moved into the second last hooch in the company area with the rest of the gang...After an overflight, George briefed us and said we were going for a long chopper ride...to locate a division-size basecamp... I don't remember the map sheet having a name on it... We all spent a day packing our gear...Water, ammo, radio batteries, C-rations, LRRP rations, grenades, and other paraphernalia...we taped things so they didn't shine or rattle. We soaked our clothes in bug juice to keep the mosquitoes and leeches off...all the things we were taught in our various training sessions...I packed enough food, water, and ammo to re-supply a small company...obvious first timer...The packing done we all went to sleep...

A little before sunrise, we collected ourselves and equipment and stumbled out to catch a deuce-and-a-half for the helicopter pad (before we built our own pad)...and off we went...

We were airborne for what was about 45 minutes...smoking cigarettes...legs hanging out the door of the Huey...That long a time in the air put us well into the mountains of the Central High-

lands...on one side or the other of the Laotian border... As we started to get close to our insertion point, and the chopper banked to drop down to our LZ...Haines got car-sick (or helicopter sick, I guess) ...he had taken some meds and they didn't agree with him...Beach told him to stay on the chopper when we went in just in case his health issue was something more than a little motion sickness...

The "LZ" or "landing zone" was somewhat lacking in the "landing" part of the term...it was an open space on a steep finger of land extending down from an even steeper ridge...as the airship got to a point where it could hover...about 15 feet above the ground... George told me to get out...I looked at him in disbelief...then put my feet on the right-side skid and jumped...the others followed suit and the chopper was gone...

Given that I weighed about 200 pounds...and my pack another 100 or so...when my feet hit the ground, they were buried in about six inches of sucking mud...My first job was to extract them to improve my mobility...The other guys must have been better at this sort of thing as they were already moving up the finger toward the tree line...I scrambled as quickly as I could to catch up...

When we got to the tree line we found an unoccupied observation post...with a sheet metal roof...pretty plush....If it had been in use at the time of our arrival, we might not have finished the day...

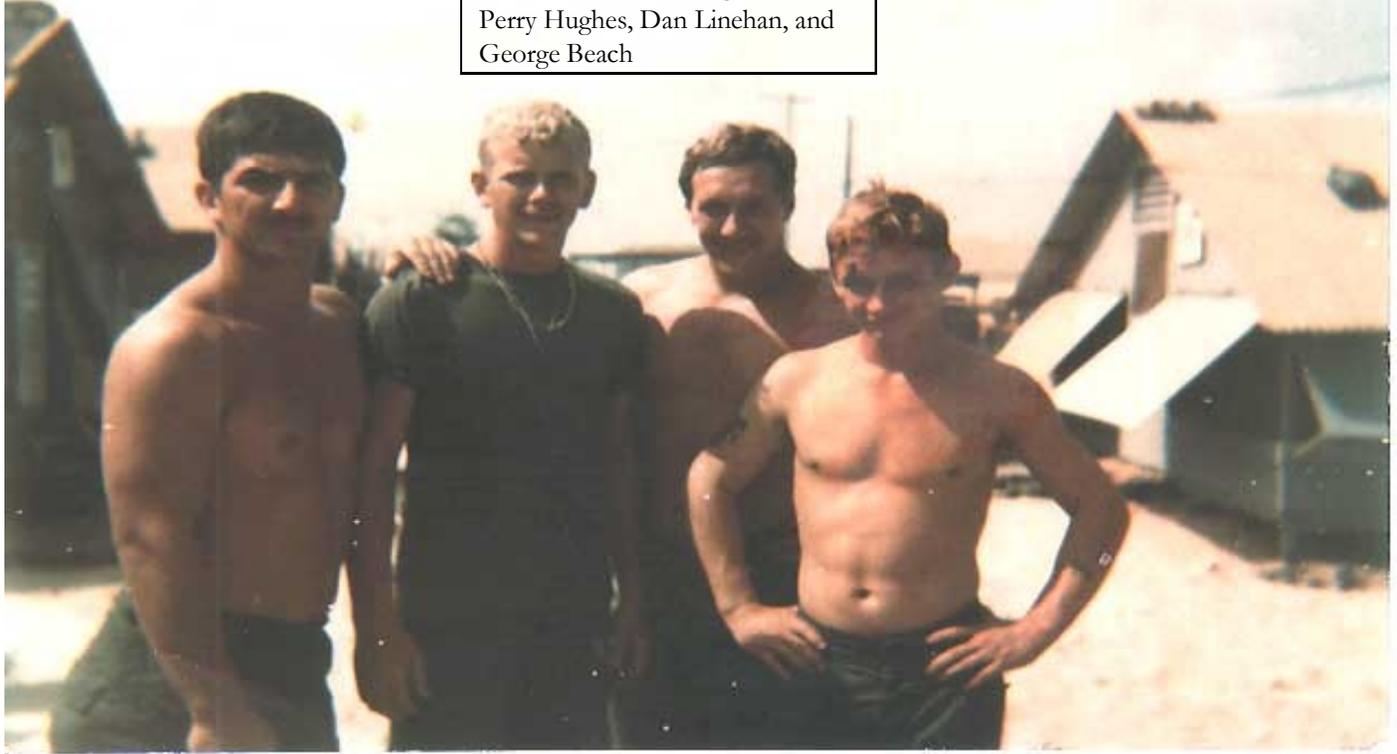
From there we trudged uphill for about twenty minutes or so until we came to an open space on the ridge...We were almost to the top when we stopped ...there were steep ravines on both sides... We spread out and formed as much of a defensive perimeter as five men can form...We were a bit winded from the climb and settled down for water and a cigarette...

A few minutes after sitting down, George stood and looked across the ravine to the east side...and saw two NVA soldiers in tiger fatigues...Now, from a distance, George, who was a bit short of stature...and wearing tiger fatigues himself...looked to the NVA like one of their own...They smiled and he smiled back and they pumped their AKs in the air...George then beckoned them with a palm-down gesture to "la dai" (come here)...

Just as they were digesting this exchange of greetings, Bob Baldwin, who was seated near George,... being a curious man, stood up and looked across the ravine...This created a problem for the NVA as Bob didn't look at all like he could be Vietnamese... at six feet tall...and being of African-American descent...it was suddenly clear to them that he wasn't likely to be a friend...That's when the shooting started...

A Walk in the Woods with George and Team Texas

Team Texas from left: John Haines,
Perry Hughes, Dan Linehan, and
George Beach



I think George and Bob were at least able to wound our NVA counterparts...Of course, since there were only five of us...and since we were looking for a division-size basecamp...and given the roofed observation post - we had found the basecamp...and were in it... and our location was...twenty or more miles from the closest other US troops...the odds were somewhat against us...

Well, George got on the radio and explained our situation to the mission commander who was still in the air on the helicopter we had vacated ...they were almost back to Chu Lai...He conveyed our plight to the pilot who turned around and headed back to our location...We had only to wait...Along with a few thousand unfriendlies...The pilot was somewhat concerned about his lack of fuel at this point as he had been in the air for a very long time...but he knew that we were short on time...The pilot got in touch with some friends in Huey gunships, just in case, and continued back out to pick us up...

The gunships arrived first so we marked our position with smoke grenades and George directed their rockets and mini-guns around our perimeter...By the time the chopper arrived he was able to pick us up without drawing fire...but we still had to fly out and there were high ridges on both sides of our flight path...It was interesting that we felt very secure sitting in the open doors of a Huey with

NVA soldiers on the parallel ridges firing their weapons at us... I remember feeling very safe in the chopper...

The final challenge was to see if we could get back to Chu Lai with the fuel remaining in the ship...The gunships continued to hang around on our return flight...in case we had to stop enroute... We did manage to get back without further incident...

A few days later we heard that the chopper that extracted us, besides being very short of fuel, had acquired 46 bullet holes on the way out...

That was my first walk in the woods with George Beach and Team Texas...the first of many...

Dan Linehan

RANGER HERBERT ADAMS

In October of 2012, against doctors' orders, I visited the Ranger Memorial at Pointe du Hoc on the Northern coast of France. It was moving to see the place that inspired me to become a Ranger. But when I returned home I realized that medical conditions prevented me from doing the chores around the house that I was used to doing, I needed help!! WOW. Finding someone would be a daunting task.

I put the word out at the VA and Tyler Adams, a 30 year old graduate student, was recommended to me. I could tell that there was something special about this guy and then I discovered he was the grandson of Herbert Adams, 2nd Ranger Battalion that attacked Pointe du Hoc on D-day, June 6, 1944.

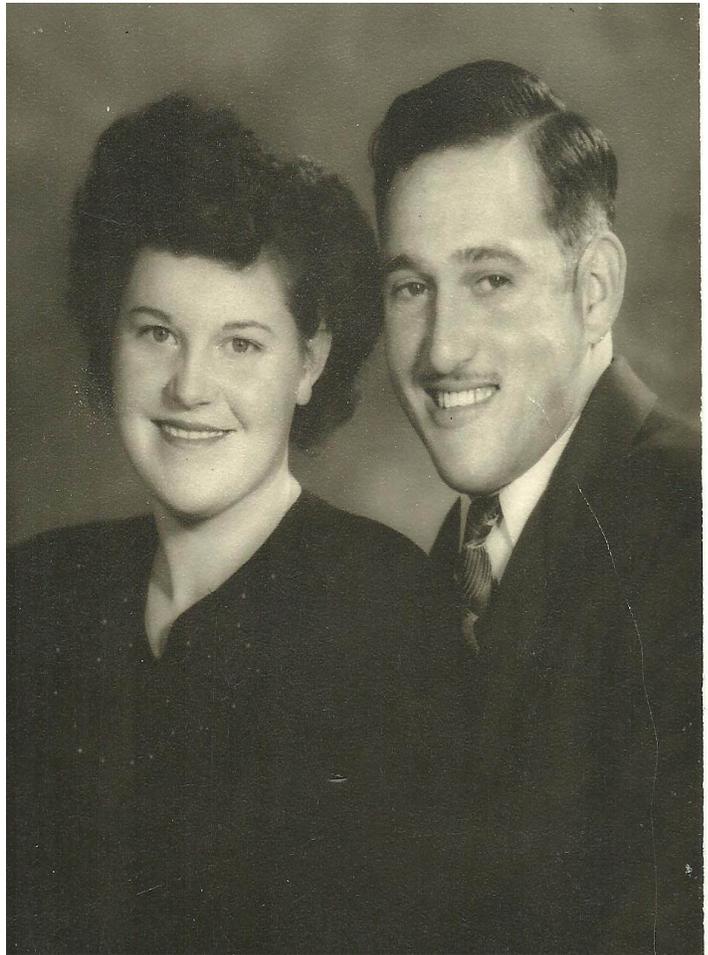
The pre-dawn attack was to neutralize the 155mm guns (5 pads and six guns). British Lancaster bombers bombed the site at night but could not do a damage assessment. Daytime bombing was not feasible due to German anti-aircraft positions along the Normandy Coast. The 155mm guns could cover Omaha and Utah beaches with devastating fire power. Herbert Adams was a Tactical corporal with the 2nd Ranger Battalion that stormy day in June 1944. They landed a couple of miles north of the Pointe on Omaha beach and quickly captured it to make way for the assaulting forces.

Rangers under the command of LTC James Rudder, who later became the president of Texas A&M, took the objective. They captured the POW's, and moved inland some 2 miles where they found the guns. Thermite grenades rendered them useless by welding their parts together, making them inoperable. Mission accomplished. Even though Ranger casualties were more than 50%, they continued inland with the other invading forces to liberate Europe and were part of changing the world.

Herbert Adams died on Veterans Day 1983 in Prescott, Arizona. Like so many soldiers, Herbert did not talk much about his experiences in the war. His wife Dorothy and two sons Don and Ron spoke with me about the great father and husband Herbert was. Always a Ranger he worked in

the VA hospital system in Temple, Texas, then in Prescott, AZ. His wife, children, and grandchildren are a testament to the America that we know.

We honor Herbert's service as an Army Ranger and the sacrifices he made for his country back on that dark day in 1944, just as we honor the millions of men and women of the US armed forces past, present, and future. It is because of them that America is #1



Submitted By Steve and Patricia Castile

By Lynn Walker, CPA from January through April 30, 2013

Treasurer Report

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Direct Public Support-Individual Business Contributions	Total	\$230.00
Other Types of Income/Concessions	Total	\$125.00
Program Income/Membership Dues	Total	<u>\$360.00</u>
Total Income	Total	\$715.00

Expenses

Bank Fees	Total	\$ 21.00
Operations Printing and Copying	Total	\$ 658.75
Operations Supplies	Total	<u>\$ 855.87</u>
Total Expenses	Total	\$1535.62

Net Income - \$820.62

Current Assets Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2013

Checking and Savings	Total	\$19,616.90
Charter Oak Capital Management	Total	<u>\$11,021.21</u>

Total Assets Total \$30,638.11

Liabilities and Equity

Equity Prior Year	Total	\$ 4,615.63
Opening Balance Equity	Total	\$26,843.10
Net Income	Total	-\$820.62
Total Equity	Total	\$30,638.11

Total Liabilities and Equity Total \$30,638.11



ASSOCIATION CONCESSIONS... Association Tee's

RANGER-LRRP Gear at its Best!

Order early and have all your LRRP gear at the ready...

For prices and ordering: www.lrrpranger.org

or email Dave "Chief" Moncada at

meganmoncada1@comcast.net



Sua Sponte
5523 North Ocean Blvd., Suite 1512
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



"of their own accord"

Quarterly Newsletter of
The 196th LRRPs, E51st
LRPs, and G-75th Rangers

www.lrrpranger.org

PRESORT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BEMIDJI, MN
PERMIT NO. 71

San Diego Reunion September 5th-8th

By Sua Sponte Staff

1(619) 224-3621 Ext: 701 or toll free in USA only 1(800) 662-8899

Go to our website www.lrrpranger.org On the website is an automatic form for making reservations. If you would rather call for reservations, the phone numbers are listed. Also on the home page, you can click on the Final Schedule and you will find a five page itinerary put together for you complements of Dan Linehan. Remember, you can book either 3 days prior and 3 days after should you want to have an extended stay in San Diego. Our **group code is LRR** and you have until the 15th of August for this special rate.

WWW.LRRPRANGER.ORG

San Diego Bayside Resort

General Membership Meeting: Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M., September 8th, 2013 San Diego Bayside Resort