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## 167TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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September 1, 2004

**TO: ALL FORMER MEMBERS AND THEIR LADIES  
167TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION**

**FROM: JESSE L. HICKS**

**SUBJECT: 2004 NEWSLETTER NO. 2**

### REUNION IN BRANSON

*We are looking for a good attendance at our reunion in Branson, Missouri.*  
**The dates are set for October 6 - 9, 2004. I hope that all of you have already marked your calendars. Dean and Fern Graves, with the help of Bill and Mary Stefanu are serving as co-hosts and are busy working out the details for the meeting. We will be staying at the RED ROOF INN, and a block of rooms has been reserved. The room rate will be \$48.95 for a single or double room plus tax. This includes an expanded continental breakfast. You should have made your hotel reservations by August 6, 2004, (Tel. 1-800-324-4191), but it still might not be too late if you call soon.**

The arrangements committee decided not to make advanced reservations for the group to attend some of the musical shows together, due to the logistical problems that are involved. We will work out these details after we arrive in Branson. Some of you may wish to arrive a day or so early to spend time with friends or for additional activities. The RED ROOF INN is located at 220 Wildwood Drive, Branson, MO. It is within walking distance of some of the major theaters. A map showing the location of the hotel is enclosed.

Here are the directions to the Hotel : From US Hwy 65, turn west on Hwy 76. After approx. 0.5 miles, turn left on Fall Creek Road and proceed to Wildwood Drive. The Red Roof Inn is across the street from the Thousand Hills Golf Course.

The Registration Desk will open at 1:00 PM on October 6th, and our first meeting is scheduled for 3:30 PM.

close relatives.

Proportionally this small community suffered the nation's severest D-Day losses.

**DO YOU REMEMBER?**

***How good is your memory? Do you remember the following activities about 60 years ago when you were a soldier in the 167th Engineer Combat Battalion ?***

On 5 August 1944, the Battalion disembarked at Utah Beach and bivouacked one mile Southwest of St. Germanine de Varreville, France.

On 12 August 1944, while out on reconnaissance patrol in enemy held territory, Lt. Ziegler, T/4 Newlin and T/5 Nicholson were captured. Cpl. Ronald Baker was killed. The patrol was ambushed at a German road block, one kilometer Southeast of Villaines. *(A monument was later erected in honor of Ronald Baker by the people of Villaines-la-Juhel and a Street was named after him)*

During the last days of August, the Battalion moved through Velleloup, Sommesous, Resson, Bar-le-Duc, Commercy and Toul, France.

During the period 11 to 16 September 1944, the unit distinguished itself in the performance of Combat Engineer missions in support of the crossing of the Moselle River at Dieulouard, France by the 80th Division and the XII Corps. A commendation of the work of the Unit at the Moselle River crossing was made by Major General M.S. Eddy, commander of the XII Corps.

*---(Taken from the Unit History)*

We will test your memory again at our reunion in Branson !!

**REUNION IN 2005**

How would you like to have another reunion in Wisconsin ?? Curly and Artis Allen have volunteered to host our 2005 reunion and are proposing to hold it in Wisconsin Dells, approximately 40 miles from Madison. If you have suggestions, please contact Curly, (Tel. 608 / 251-0418), or our President Sam Brown, (Tel. 757 / 431- 2797). Curly and Artis will have more information on dates and hotel rates at our Branson meeting.

**PROUD OF OUR TROOPS - - WAR IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN**

It seems that everything we hear about the war in Iraq and Afghanistan from the newspapers and TV is negative and almost nothing positive . Here are some of the positive things:

-Millions of people in Afghanistan have now registered to vote in the upcoming elections. Thousands of people who fled several years ago now have moved back there to take part in the new democracy.

- In Iraq, over 4.5 million people have clean drinking water for the first time ever.
- Over 400,000 kids now have up-to-date immunizations.
- Over 1500 schools have been renovated and are now rid of the weapons that were stored there so education can occur.
- The port of Uhm Qasar was renovated so grain can be off loaded from ships faster.
- School attendance is up 80% from levels before the war.

THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

Following is a note from a young soldier who just returned from Iraq. I thought it was interesting:

"Today I went to visit the new World War II memorial in Washington, DC. I got an unexpected history lesson. Since I am a baby boomer, I was one of the youngest in the crowd. Most were the age of my parents, veteran's of the 'greatest generation' with their families. It was a beautiful day, and people were smiling and happy to be there. Hundreds of us milled around the memorial, reading the inspiring words of Ike and Truman that are engraved there.

On the Pacific side of the memorial, a group of us gathered to read the words President Roosevelt used to announce the attack on Pearl Harbor. They read: *'Yesterday, December 7, 1941, -a date which will live in infamy-- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked.'* One woman read the words aloud, *'With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph.'* But suddenly the lady stopped reading and with anger she said, 'Wait a minute. They left out the end of the quote. They left out the most important part. Roosevelt said, *'So help us God.'*

'You are probably right,' her husband said, 'We are not supposed to say things like that now.' 'I know I am right,' she insisted. 'I remember the speech.'

The two shook their heads and sadly walked away.

But she was right. I went home and pulled out the book my book club was reading. It's The Flags of Our Fathers by James Bradley. It's all about Iwo Jima. But there it was on page 58. Roosevelt's speech to the Nation. It ends, *'So help us God.'*

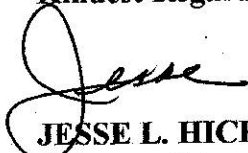
The young man continued, "The people who edited out that part of the speech when they engraved it on the memorial could have fooled me. I was born after the War. But they couldn't fool the people who were there. Roosevelt's words are engraved on their hearts"

*And Now, the Supreme Court is seriously debating taking out "Under God" from the pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag. Think about it !!*

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So long for this time until next time.

Kindest Regards,



JESSE L. HICKS

Secretary/ Treasurer



LOOKING FORWARD TO  
SEEING YOU IN  
BRANSON !!