

P. O. Box 167
Green Cove Springs, Fla.
March 4, 1957

Hi Buddy:

First a moment of prayer for those we left at Mariveles Bataan, and the numerous other cemeteries we all know too much about. At the dedication on Bataan Col. Jones said, " History will record what you did here, this hallowed ground shall be your tomb and the hearts of a free people forever filled with gratitude shall be your monument ".

Gentlemen, this letter is intended to give you a general idea of what happened in Washington, D. C., the weekend of 2/22/57. With approximately seventy of the old timers of the 503rd Parachute Regimental Combat Team present, we drew up a constitution which will bear the name 503rd Regimental Combat Team Association (World War II). Active membership will require and be available to all men who served with this gallant organization between 10-20-42 and 9-2-45.

Your buddies paid me the tribute of electing me to the Board of Directors as representative of the Southeast. My duties are to organize and represent the Southeastern Section of these United States. We hope to form chapters of this association in every section of this country. These chapters will be in direct contact with our national headquarters.

As we organize and grow the national headquarters will furnish the Directors literature concerning our activities. I promise to forward this information to all active members in my zone to the best of my ability. As soon as possible I hope to charter these chapters in your respective state or in the general area in which you live and thereby strengthen the chain of communication with our national headquarters.

What addresses I have are those I have taken off a Japanese flag you boys autographed for me on Noemfoor Island back in 1944. I have approximately thirty addresses of you men here in the Southeast. I realize that many of you have moved and that several of these letters will be returned to me unclaimed. However, the law of averages will be in my favor. In this respect I wish to request that those of you who actually receive a copy of this letter please advise any of the other men you might be in contact with and ask these men to contact me. We would like very much to have the present mailing address of every one of these men.

At this point it comes to my attention that possibly I should introduce myself as at least a few of these letters will fall into hands of relatives of boys who are now deceased. I have, of course, no way of knowing who these might be. At any rate, my name is Claire J. Hansen. Most of you will remember me as Supply Sgt. of Co. " C ". I served with you boys from October of 1941 to June of 1945.

In closing may I suggest that you please respond by return mail and that you state in your reply whether or not you are interested in becoming a part of this national association. May I further request once again that you advise any of the boys you might be in contact with to please contact me.

Respectfully yours,

C. J. Hansen