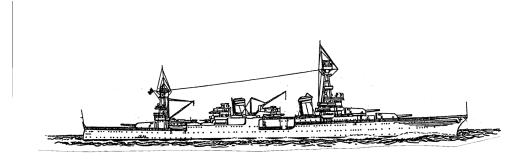
June 2005 Volume 46



CA-30 BLUE BONNET

"The Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast"

Editor: Val Roberts-Poss 107 Hallie Ct., Georgetown, TX 78628

Phone 512 763-1217 Fax 512 868-3385

Email: CA30NG@AOL.COM Website: www.usshouston.org

Co-editor: Lin Drees

REUNIONS

LOST BATTALION /USS HOUSTON

August 11-13, 2005

Omni Hotel - Dallas Park West

1500 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75235 Kansas City, MO

972 869-4300

Contact: Val Poss 512 763-1217

email: CA30NG@aol.com

USS HOUSTON CA30-CL81

Sept 28-Oct 2, 2005 **KCI Airport Hilton**

Contact: Less Beigle 816 532-4130 108 W Main St, Smithville, MO 64089

email: donnakenr@cs.com

USS HOUSTON SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION

February 24 – 25, 2006 Doubletree- Allan Center 400 Dallas St, Houston, TX 77002 713 759-0202

Contact: Val Poss 512 763-1217 email: CA30NG@aol.com

Note: We're having to negotiate between higher room rates other weekends and the Houston Rodeo Parade......

Hotel Registration Information

Omni Dallas Park West 1590 LBJ Freeway Dallas, TX 75234 972-869-4300 1-800-THE OMNI

Room Reservations are to be made directly with the Omni. You may call directly to the Hotel @ 972-869-4300 or through Central Reservations @ 1-800-THE-OMNI which is 1-800-843-6664. Please tell them you are booking for The Lost Battalion Reunion. The special prices are offered for the nights of Aug 11, 12, 13, and 14. If rooms are available, the special rates are extended to 3 nights before and 3 nights after the reunion.

Room Rates are: \$74 a night for single or double/double bedrooms

Cut-Off Date or Hotel Registration Deadline is: Wednesday July 20, 2005

<u>Methods of Payment</u>: The Hotel takes most major credit cards. They will need a deposit of one night to guarantee your reservation. The Hotel will also take a check for your deposit, sent directly to the hotel. Please ask the Hotel directly about their room cancellation policy, especially if you send a check.

<u>Directions:</u> The OMNI Dallas Park West is located at the south west corner of Luna Rd and LBJ Freeway (635). You can see where they are @ www.omnihotels.com Select Dallas, Texas - Dallas Omni Hotel @ Park West.

<u>Complimentary Round Trip airport transportation vouchers</u> are available; but, we must know when you register for the reunion if you need transportation. PLEASE check the Reunion Registration Form for more details.

SEE REGISTRATION SHEET ON LAST PAGE

DONATIONS: Your generosity is amazing! Without you, we couldn't keep going. (Tax ID # 17053122009007) John & Susan Kreutzer (entire cost of March newsletter), GEORGE MCCANDLESS, BASIL BUNYARD, OTTO & Trudy SCHWARZ, George & Tom Jones, Dana Charles, GEORGE MCCANDLESS, JACK & Marie FELIZ, ROBERT & Eileen HANLEY, John & Pat Mintzer, Peg Parris, Bette Fowler, Mary Fort

NOW HEAR THIS!!

All college-bound seniors, all college undergraduates, and all relatives and friends of these seniors and undergrads who have an interest in the USS *Houston* (CA-30): *If you would like financial assistance with those overwhelming college bills*, the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Scholarship Committee has good news for you. Requests for scholarship applications from those planning to attend college in the fall of 2006 are now being accepted. Only actual college students--or those anticipating being students--may request an application. The 2006 Scholarship requirements are that the student request a form by October 15, 2005, and submit an application along with an essay on one of three topics listed in the application packet by Nov. 1, 2005. Full details and requirements are in the packet, which may be requested by contacting Ron Drees, 14219 Wickersham Lane, Houston, TX 77077 or ron.ca30@sbcglobal.net . No telephone requests, please. Those of you who know potential or current college students should encourage them to request an application. Requests must include a return physical mailing address.

CREWMEMBER SPOTLIGHT – provided by niece of ARLIE WILLIAMS A short Bio on my Uncle-Arlie Williams: He was born October 1918 in Corrigan, Texas, where he lived his entire life until he joined the Navy in 1935 or 1936. The only ship to which he was ever stationed was the USS Houston. He worked in the Soda Shop on the ship. He never married and had no children. His Mother was Amolisa Williams, and his sisters were Lena Faye and Mable Eddith (my Mother). He was loading shells into a gun that was mounted on the deck of the ship on the night of February 28th just before it sank.

MAILBAG – Bill Lynch shared a website he found listing the war dead in the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial at http://www.abmc.gov/ml.htm. Another site of great help is: http://www.wwiiregistry.org/abmc/mia/. You can also find your crew member at the WWII Registry (thanks to our Bridget McMaster) at http://www.wwiimemorial.com/. While robin Rowland was doing research for his book, he found a UN sponsored plan to rebuild the Railway (cost: \$1.75 million/kilometer..... with paid labor). GEORGE MCANDLESS sent a nice donation. He is the last man of his Division to survive. RAY GOODSON also sent a generous donation. He had his 84th birthday March 18th. Marie & JACK FELIZ also sent a donation with a note they are heading for Europe for the summer. She says "Jack has to do it while he's still YOUNG!" A note from ROBERT HANLEY says they plan to attend the August reunion – good! We've missed you! Bette Fowler, widow of CHARLES "JACK" FOWLER sent a donation & asked that I put a little note in the BlueBonnet as to what amount is appropriate to donate. Please know that we have no set membership fees or dues. Whatever you can afford to send is appreciated. Carol Pullen emailed to let me know she has been giving speeches for the past 3 years about WWII and her brother ROBERT PULLEN who died as a POW. Bill Flowers (survivor with

the Australian Field Ambulance) emailed sending his best wishes & expressed his sorrow to learn of MILES BARRET & PAUL PAPISH'S death.

IN SEARCH OF:

TANNBERG, ALBERT NEIL Bkr.3c (died 11/2/44-Saigon) – Dr. Don Higgins (nephew) and Albert's two sisters and brother would love to talk with anyone remembering him. Albert was a boxer on the USS Houston boxing team and a baker. Reply to Donnakenr@cs.com or 1821 N. Noyes St., Visala, CA 93291

GARY, JAMES CRISLER (JIM), JR., range finder – Mark A. Whittington, PO Box 569, Terry, MS 39170, phone: 601 878-5340, email: MAW317@AOL.COM

MAHLANDT, MELVIN – Dana West, PO Box 77, Hoffman, II 62250 or email: vlwest@frontiernet.net

COLLITON, LUKE D – Andrew Colliton, 33 Landing Dr, Methuen, MA 01844, phone 978 794-4635 or email: Colliton03@comcast.net

VINJI, HAROLD - Peg Parris (sister), 4462 Winston Ln. SI, Sarasota, FL 34235

BIOS AND PICTURES

Susan Krug and Shawn Flynn are creating a USS Houston Crew Album for our next reunion. We are putting together a one page bio, with a favorite story AND a **then** and **now** picture of your suvivor. So what we need from all is:

- 1. Then and now photograph
- 2. A short Bio.
- 3. A favorite story.

Susan and Shawn will put all together in an album for our next reunion. In addition, Shawn will create CDROM versions for all who wish one. AND the same one page bio, favorite story, and then and now photo, will be posted for all to view on Shawn's Suvivor website.

So please email Shawn at shawnf@pon.net or Susan Krug lvkrug@saw.net with your suvivors, short Bio, favorite story, and then and now photograph. Just attach the photograph to your email.

If this is a problem, you can always call Shawn for help. 707-277-7963, or if you do not have the where with-alls to accomplish this. Please mail them to:

Shawn Flynn 5240 Tenino Way Kelseyville CA 95451

If sending by mail... Shawn will carefully photocopy all photos and return them to you!

PS: Shawn is also collecting any and all photo's of the USS Houston and her crew, incarceration, liberation, and any other photographs of the period. Shawn is creating a virtual "Suvivor Scrap Book" on his Suvivor website. So he would like to collect and publish all posible to share. **Please send any and all!**

Thanks
Shawn Flynn and Susan Krug

ABOUT THE PROJECT – I've been sending gentle reminders to those on my email list to send Shawn the pictures and bio's. This is going to be the goal Otto and I have had for several years. It was taking Rachel Walsh (our volunteer that is legally blind) and myself long hours to scan one page at a time..... it's agonizingly slow! I wore out my scanner and had to break down to get another. They are much cheaper than days of yore & was able to get a combination fax, copy/printer and scanner that would do multiple scans at a time (about 25-30). Still, I had information from the 30's until current to scan. Then, everything fell together --- Shawn volunteered to put the scanned information together, Susan Krug offered to come to Texas and help, Sharron Long, Bridget McMaster & Pam Foster are helping Shawn. They were just waiting for Rachel & I to scan the rest of it. Susan Krug's son was gracious enough to get his mom the airline tickets and she arrived late afternoon May 10th. I gave her the tour of the office and outlined our work. The next morning we hit it with Susan in my office and I put the laptop and scanner/copier (donated by Susan & Larry Krug & used at the March reunions) on the kitchen table. We scanned hours on end for a week & were able to scan approximately 2,000 files. We now have over 3,000 files organized in folders and on disks!! I've got about 1/3 more to do and the job is done. This project will be incredible and the only one of it's kind for a veteran's organization! If anyone is interested in getting a copy of what I've got so far, you can write or call me (see # & address on front page). What's even more fantastic is it is the work of the Next Generation all on a volunteer basis. We've not only put our personal hours into this but they've added up to multiple weeks safe to say months. Can you tell I'm excited, thrilled, and in awe of what has been done? So may to thank for so much done!!! We have available at this point: Ship's pictures, crew pictures and bios. Death Railway pictures, POW records, debriefings, Battle of the Java Sea information, Bluebonnets from the 30's to current, Ships logs from the '40 – '42, Changi prision information, POW camps info, personal statements (unclassified), action reports, Dive '05, Houston History, personal stories, History of the USS Houston (s): AK-1, CA-30, CL-81, & Saga of a Stout Ship story.

PLEASE – WE NEED THOS PICTURES AND BIO'S! It may take a couple of hours of your time, but it's nothing in comparison to what these men went

through. Take the time to be sure these men are never forgotten. It's the least you can do for your loved one.

DEBRIEFING BY LEON ROGERS (date unknown) continued from last issue: The five of us were put in one cell and spent the night there, the only inmates in the jail. The next morning (March 5) Lt. R.R. Ross, U.S. Navy, was brought in with a party of about 25 men; part Houston survivors and part Perth survivors. I was kept in this jail for one week during which time Japanese soldiers brought in tow or three prisoners almost every day. We were all given a thin straw mat to sleep on, one cotton shirt and a pair of cotton shorts. We had two meals a day consisting of a large helping of steamed unpolished rice and a small bowl of some kind of locally grown "greens". A doctor and a nurse from the local hospital came each morning and held "sick call". Most of the men had cuts and blisters on their feet; some had minor shrapnel wounds; several had great raw places under each arm from swimming in life jackets without shirts. Two Australians had been badly cut up by natives with machetes. All were confined in bare cells with wooden sleeping platforms and covered wooden tub for a toilet. The cells were designed for five native prisoners each and although there were as many as eight men in some cells none had to sleep on deck. Japanese soldiers made frequent inspections but did not stay at the jail. The native jailers continued to run the jail under Japanese supervision. With the exceptions of the meager diet, hard sleeping spaces, and poor toilet facilities, treatment in general was not too bad. There was adequate cold water for washing and sufficient boiled water for drinking. We were permitted out of our cells in the prison yard (behind high stone walls) a couple of hours in the mornig and a couple of hours in the afternoon. During this time, we used the outside latrine consisting of a very faulty septic system and thus were able to reduce use of the wooden tubs in the cells to a minimum.

We had plenty of rest and sleep once we became accustomed to sleeping on wooden boards, but it was difficult to gain strenght on the prison diet.

On March 11, there were 37 Americans in the Pandeglang jail. I was taken to Serang on this date along with 10 other Americans and a number of Australians. Here we were placed in the local jail where we found a large number of other survivors.

Leon W. Rogers Lieut., (jg), U.S. Navy

FACTS ABOUT THE HOUSTON CA-30 — On board you could find a Barber Shop, Post Office, Library, Notion Store, General Kitchen (Galley), General Store, Clothing Store, Print Shop, Soda Fountain, Laundry, Telephone Exchange and Telegraph Office. There was a Power Plant capable of providing sufficient power which, if used for illumination purposes, could have supplied a string of street lamps placed 12 feet apart, reaching from San Francisco to Shanghai. The Distilling Plant converted sea water to fresh water with a capacity sufficient to provide each person of a city of 800,000 with a tumbler of water each day. The length of the *Houston* could be compared with the length of two football fields placed end to end or the height of a 48 story building. She had a Police

Force, Fire Department, Plumbers, Electrical and Telephone Service Men and others on duty at all times supervising public utilities...... alas, no air conditioning though.

WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

Japanese POW Camps -

http://www.mansell.com/pow_resources/camplists/fukuoka/fuk-24-sendryu/fuku 2sendryu.html,

Japanese POW Camps (it says you need to translate but just click cancel): http://homepage3.nifty.com/pow-j/e/

www.usshouston.org

& the one we're all working on ---- http://home.pon.net/shawnf/

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS – Meg Parkes of England writes "I wish to inform your membership about a memorial project in England that will be of interest to them. I believe that some of the survivors were imprisoned in Java in '42 at a camp called Tanujong Piok near Batavia. In that camp the prisoners built a beautiful replica of an English church in reinforced concrete. One of the British Naval officers painted two exquisite mock stained glass windows which were set in the south wall behind the alter. These windows depicted the national flags and crests of Britain, Australia, Holland and the United States. They have survived for 63 years and are currently on display at the Anglican Church of All Saints in Jakarta.

Last summer I launched a national appeal here in Britain to raise funds to commission replicas of those windows. They will be placed in the South facing wall of the new FEPOW (Fare East POW) Memorial & Cultural building which will be officially opened August 15 at Alrewas, Statfordshire, England. They will be dedicated to the memory of all Java FEPOW of whatever nationality. More details are on my website at www.kranji.co.uk. Mrs. Meg Parkes, "KRANJI", 34 Queens Road, Hoylake, Wirral, England CH47 2AJ

JAPAN'S APOLOGY - Johan VanLeer always sends updates and great articles. The latest one I received was a copy from the New York Times dated 5/3/05 (Late Edition-Final, Section A, Column 2, Page 13) titled JAPAN: APOLOGY FOR DUTCH P.O.W.'S. The short article stated that the Japanese Prime Minister apologized for the suffering Japan's military inflicted on thousands of Dutch POW's during WWII when he was visiting the Netherlands. "Humbly accepting the fact that Japan inflicted grave damage and pain on people of many countries, including the Netherlands, during World War II, we would deeply reflect on this and offer a heartfelt apology". Hummm – does that mean an apology to the Americans is in sight or the inclusion of "people of many countries" cover it? I emailed the Prime Minister and inquired at:

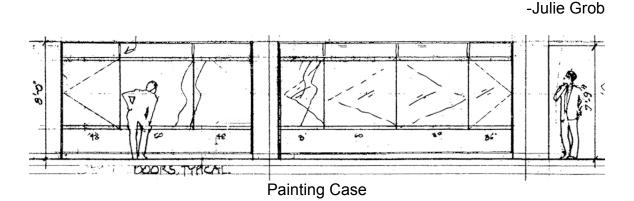
http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/forms/comment.html ... you can always write him at Prime Minister office 6-1, NAGATA-cho 1 chome, Chiyoda-Ku Tokyo, Japan.

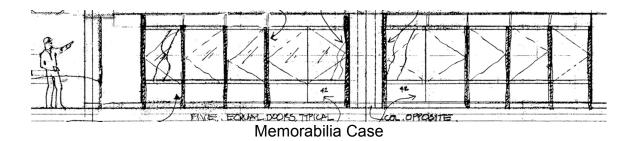
USS Houston (CA-30) Exhibition Gallery

Plans are underway to begin installation of the paintings and other framed items that will be displayed in the new USS *Houston* (CA-30) Exhibition Gallery. The gallery, made possible by a generous donation from the Hamill Foundation, is located on the second floor of the library right next to the Administration suite. The gallery consists of two sets of exhibit cases, one which will hold framed items, and the other which will hold memorabilia. The cases holding framed items are along the walls which line the library's atrium, and should be highly visible to visitors to the library. These cases have sections which vary in size, the largest being 5 feet across, in order to hold different size paintings.

As soon as some unexpected electrical work is competed, a private art installation firm will come to professionally hang our amazing collection of paintings and other framed items related to the USS *Houston*. We are hoping this work will take place in July. The memorabilia cases will not be ready for a number of months because they are in an area that is still under construction. We anticipate that the entire exhibit will be ready in time for next year's reunion and library reception.

Works of art that will go in these cases include paintings of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) by Gr. Perales, Judith-Ann Saks, Robert Blake, and J.G. McCredie. The cases will also hold a panoramic photograph of the Thousand Houston Volunteers, and a plaque holding the champagne bottle from the launch of the USS *Houston* (CL-81). Other paintings and prints will round out the group. Because of space, we will not be able to display every single item that was hanging in the old Brown Room. But these prominent new exhibit cases give us the opportunity to display more recent acquisitions, and to showcase the Cruiser Houston Collection to a much broader audience.





WE HAVE A MYSTERY! – I was contacted by Merite Burris advising that her mom purchased a trunk at an auction. When she opened it, it was full of newspapers of the WWII era and letters from William David Miller S2C (KIA) saved by Gwendolyn Kleine. They are trying to locate a family member to give the contents to them. Call 757 397-5398, email at MPBurris@aol.com or mail 738 Mt Vernon Ave, Portsmouth, VA.

ANOTHER MYSTERY.......... You will find a page showing an American coin that looks like a watch fob. This was found at the Hintok River Camp & thought to be someones in "H" Force. Please contact me if you recognize it. (see my phone, etc. on the front page)

FORT FAMILY - The late CECIL CHAMBLISS must be up there in heaven bragging to his buddies about his grandchildren! His daughter Mary reports that Katy (this year's scholarship recipient) is getting the last of the paperwork done to have the money set up at her college. In the mean time, son Casey is in the 9th grade and also in the Navy ROTC & was named Cadet of the Year at his awards ceremony!

ANOTHER PROJECT - I came to realize that our records are incomplete. We have where our men who perished in the POW camps were buried in the camps but we don't have records about where their remains were finally transported after the war. We have record that they were sent to a cemetery in Calcutta, India but nothing after that. I have made efforts to track down the information but soon realized it's a bigger bite than I can chew. Many of our Next Generation have lost someone that have died in the camps but alas, only 3 have replied. What a shame there is so little response. I've asked for someone to volunteer to help however no reply......

FINANCIAL REPORT – Oops, I didn't get in the financial report for March so this issue will have March & June

MARCH				
Debits			Credits	
Newsletter postage	63.08		Previous balance	1962.28
Newsletter printing 151.08			Donations, sales, R	eunion
Website '04	240.00		Reunion	9817.55
Website '05	173.01		Interest	.41
Phone	430.87		Total	1780.24
Postage	276.14		Balance	4983.90
Supplies	328.22	Reserve for	'06 reunion:	
Total	6796.34		Auction	685.00
			1/3 of balance	1661.30
		Total Reserv	ve	2346.30
		TOTAL BAL	ANCE	3322.60
JUNE				
Debits			Credits	
Newsletter postage	75.69		Previous balance	3322.60
Newsletter printing	131.88		Donations, sales	1396.65
Phone	197.91		Rebate	30.00
Scanner	145.00		Interest	.96
Reunion programs	111.64		Total	4750.21
Shirts	402.50		Balance	3320.92
Postage	74.82	Reserve for	'06 reunion	2346.30
Supplies	380.67	appro	x 1/3 of balance	653.70
		Total Reserv	re e	3000.00
		TOTAL BAL	ANCE	2667.22

ITEMS FOR SALE – We have USS Houston T shirts sizes medium to 2X, great looking Next Generation coffee cups, caps, Monument pins, Bell pins, bumper stickers and more for sale! Contact me for further information.......

GOD BLESS UNTIL NEXT ISSUE AND HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!



Add Your Memories to the Navy Log

To all Navy Log Shipmates: this would be an excellent time to add your own "Memories" account to your entry in the Log. Our "Memories" collection consists of over 3,300 first-hand accounts of naval service. "Memories" may be written up as biographies, histories, anecdotes, sea stories, poems or even prayers. If you are a Log member, you can add your "Memories" to your existing Log entry for a requested donation of \$25.

Accounts may be one-to-two pages in length and may focus on any subject, provided it relates to military service. Please provide your Memories on computer disc in an IBM-compatible format if possible. While typed and handwritten accounts will be accepted, their processing is far more time-consuming and error-prone.

A Memories account is really history as seen through your own eyes, so personalize it! Remember, if you don't tell your story, no one else will. Mail your completed Memories to the U.S. Navy Log, Department "M," P.O. Box 96570, Washington, D.C. 20077-7685, or bring it to the Naval Heritage Center.

If you are already enrolled in the Navy Log, just send us your Memories account plus your Navy Log ID number and payment. You can pay by check, money order, or credit card (card number, expiration date, name on card). Memories entries cannot be returned. If you are not yet a member of the Log, it is not too late to enroll! Please submit a completed Log application and picture. We cannot add your Memories account until we receive your application.

Pass This To A Friend: Join Over 250,000 Shipmates in the Navy Log

- ★ The Navy Log is a permanent register of naval service men and women — the only publicly accessible evidence of your service, proudly preserved in a national memorial.
- ★ Entries are displayed on video screens in the Log Room of the Naval Heritage Center in Washington and on our Internet website www.lonesailor.org.
- ★ A tax-deductible \$25 donation is requested for each Log enrollment. Those who have served in the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, reserve components or Merchant Marine are eligible for the Navy Log. Fill out this form, mail with \$25 check to:

U.S. Navy Log, P.O. Box 96570 Washington, DC 20077-7685.

Name:	te, sponsor an eligible					Branch: (circl	
Address:	Middle	Last	5.55	Suffix	(Jr., III, etc.)	USN	USNR
No.	(For deceased					USMC	USCG
City:	State:	ZIP:				USMM	0000
Hank/Rate:	k/Rate: Corps/Specialty:					From (mo./yr.)	
Birthplace:		ate of birth: _	Month	/ /	Year	To (mo./yr.)	
stations:			awards or	r decoratio	ns:	hest or most sig	
f you wish to include a	prioto, an additional	AZO COMMINUM	on is reques	sted (total	\$50). Wi	th soft pencil, p	rint your
If you wish to include a name and location and	rear taken on the had	k of the photo	and on the	and the			Investment - Lances
name and location and	year taken on the bac	k of the photo	and on the	e next line			
If you wish to include a name and location and y If photo is enclosed: Ye Sponsor name:	year taken on the bac ar taken:	k of the photo	and on the	next line		notos cannot be	
name and location and y If photo is enclosed: Ye Sponsor name:	year taken on the bac ar taken:	k of the photo	o and on the	e next line			

Washington, D.C.

Page 11

Reunion Registration Form 61st^h Annual Reunion of the Lost Battalion Association 2nd Battalion 131st F.A. and USS Houston (CA-30) August 11-14, 2005

Location: The OMNI Park West. Hotel registration is separate.

PLEASE PRINT CLEAR						
Your name:	e. son. ne	phew)		_	
2 nd Attendee name:	-,, -	Γ	/		_	
Relation to survivor:						
Survivor name: Circle: Army Navy					-	
Circle: Army Navy		Marin	ne		-	
Your email address					_	
Home address					-	
Full Registration includes al	l events v	w/ 4 n	neals, bands & mus	eum fund		
Early Registration per perso	n: \$	85.00	x # Atte	nding=		
Late Registration (after Jul	y 20 th) \$1	105.00	0 x # Atte	ending = _		
Note: Children under 3-no			e), ages 3-12 \$15.0 fast same as adult	0 (evenin	g meals only)	
Individual Meal Tickets:			Number attendin	g Sı	ub total	
Breakfast Friday	17.00	X		_ = _		
Dinner Friday Breakfast Saturday Dinner Saturday	25.00	X		=		
Breakfast Saturday	17.00	X		_ = _		
Dinner Saturday	30.00	X		_ = _		
Dinner Saturday Child's Plate Friday	15.00	X		_ = _		
Child's Plate Saturday	15.00	X		_ = _		
TOTAL Registration Enclos	sed					
Total number of airport shut PLEASE NOTE PER TH THE DAY OF THE EVENTRE AS	<u>E HOTE</u> ENT CAI	<u>L</u> : ME N No'	EAL TICKETS SO	LD 48 HC EED TO B	OURS BEFORE E THE SAME	
Mail Registration to:			C	ontact: V	al Poss	
The Lost Battalion Association, Reunion				512 763-1217		
PO Box 1104	viumon,	icui			30ng@aol.com	
Grapevine, TX 76099			L	man.CA		
Orapeville, IA /0099						