



Company I Poopsheet

Company I, 502 PIR, 101st Airborne

January 2006



Harry Nivens, 1130 Monore Ave., St. Cloud, FL 34769, Ph. 407 957 0098, December 11, 2005, In November we visited the family of Emmet Nix (he died in Normandy) in Cleveland, GA and enjoyed meeting many of Emmet's family. We attended a Veterans Day

service at their church, very emotional for me. After leaving the Nix family we visited my sister in Charlotte, NC and then to Ohio and visited Bob Hartzell. We stayed two nights in Tiffin and met two of Bob's sons and one grandson. It was great seeing Bob and retelling our war stories. His son, Joe, was in Vietnam, and he had some interesting war stories. We will see you at the Snowbird in Feb 06. Talked on the phone recently with Earl Kelly, Jimmy Norris, Walter Murdock and Celso Garcia...Celso recently lost a son to heart attack. Enclosed is a donation. Best regards, Harry and Joanie Nivens.

IN LOVING MEMORY



Mr. Celso Garcia, 83, a resident of Albuquerque, NM passed away on December 11, 2005 peacefully at home with his loving family by his side. Mr. Garcia is the beloved husband of 60 years

to Mrs. Justita Garcia. He is also survived by his loving sons, Tom Garcia, Tony Garcia, and George Garcia; one sister, Eugenia Sanchez and husband, Max; three grandchildren, Renee Olivas, Celso Garcia, and Deanna Garcia; five great-grandchildren, Reann, Brianna, Celso (C.J.), Midea, and Eusebio;

many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Mr. Garcia was a member of the Catholic Church, a Veteran of the United States Army serving in World War II. Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at 9:00 a.m. December 15 2005. Interment followed at Mt. Calvary Cemetery with Military Honors by the United States Army. Pallbearers were John Saiz, Ramon Barros, Esequiel Arias, Celso Garcia, Mark Olivas, and Steve Romero. Honorary pallbearers were Rick Romero, Jerry Sanchez, Jonathan Sanchez, and C.J. Garcia. Arrangements by: Gabaldon Mortuary

Eulogy for Celso Garcia delivered by his son, Tom Garcia, on December 14, 2005

My Father, Celso Garcia, was a member of the Greatest Generation, and he was the greatest of that generation, the generation that came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War, and went on to build modern America, and gave us the world we have today.

He came into this world on September 23, 1922. He was born in Colonias, New Mexico. He used to always say, "we lived in the poorest town, and we were the poorest family in that town." His parents struggled during those hard times. His father was a ranch hand and shepherd. As a young boy and teenager my father also herded sheep.

When he was in the seventh grade, the family moved by horse drawn wagon to Santa Rosa, New Mexico, where his father worked odd jobs and the family, by now with a young daughter, lived in a series of rented rooms.

He was only 19 years old when he went to California to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad. He did this because Southern Pacific gave a contract which included a ride on the train. He was not there long before WWII broke out. He was drafted and inducted into the Army on December 2, 1942 at the Presidio in San Francisco. From the Presidio he went to Camp Roberts for Boot Camp and Basic Training. He could have been exempt from serving because by then his Father was physically impaired, but he chose to serve. It was at Camp Roberts where the Army asked for volunteers to the Airborne. I asked my Dad once why he volunteered to jump out of planes. He said because the Army offered \$50 more a month for the

Airborne, and he could send more money home to his family.

From Camp Roberts he went to Ft. Benning, Georgia where he took jump training and was assigned to the 101st Airborne. "The Screaming Eagles."

On September 5, 1943 he departed New York and set sail for England and the war in Europe.

Just after midnite on June 6, 1944 the 101st landed in Normandy, and by the end of the day Utah Beach was secured. The 101st went on to participate in Operation Market Garden, the Holland Invasion, on September 17, 1944 and the Battle of the Bulge (the defense of Bastone, Belgium) in December of 1944. A lot of the troops suffered from frost bite during that bitter winter, but my Dad used gunny sacks to cover his feet (something he had learned as a young boy herding sheep in Colonias), and he never suffered from frost bite.

In November of 1945, he left Belgium and returned home. For his bravery and valor he was awarded the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. My father never talked about those times when I was growing up. And it wasn't until the 50th Anniversary of D-Day and the release of the movie "Private Ryan" that I understood the magnitude of his bravery and dedication, and that of the Greatest Generation any society has every produced. He never liked being called a "hero", but he was my hero.

By the time my Dad returned to Santa Rosa his parents had bought a house which my Dad had paid for with the money he had saved and the money he won gambling. He loved to gamble and always won.

He had seen my Mother before he left for the war. He had checked her out and liked what he saw, but had never met her. When he returned, he saw her at the drug store where she worked and asked her out. They began dating and in February of 1946 they were married. He always said, "she waited for me." They moved to Albuquerque and rented a room with the bathroom outside on Lily Avenue. Then moved to a room with a kitchen and the bathroom outside on Broadway where my brother Bobby and I were born. In 1954 we moved to a home on the west side where we still live and where my brothers Tony and George were born.

My Dad worked two jobs for most of the years I was growing up. He would work 8 to 10 hours at Sears, come home, take a shower, eat dinner than worked tending bar until 2 or 3 in the morning. He'd come home, go to sleep for a few hours then get up and start all over again. I never heard him complain once. He did this because he wanted to provide more for us. He was able to take his family on vacations and

give up those special things that make life more pleasurable. He lived for his family.

He was a beautiful, humble man. Everybody loved him. And he was the most generous person I ever met. When he visited me in New York and he saw a homeless man eating from a trash bin, he took him aside and bought him a meal. He never forgot what it was like to be poor.

He lived a long and beautiful life and he had no fears. He was ready.

"Life changes fast. Life changes in the instant. You sit down to dinner and life as you know it end."

My Father always said "todo se acaba." -- Everything comes to an end.

And so, Beloved Father, Beloved Husband, Beloved Grandfather, Beloved Great Grandfather, Beloved Brother, Beloved Uncle, Beloved Friend, we bid you farewell. There is no end to missing you.

Mabel Howell, (Jim Howell) Aberdeen, MS. December 12, 2005, writes in email about Celso Garcia: Oh, how my heart breaks. They were such a sweet couple, I kept up with them by phone after Jim died. Celso would call just out of the blue and want to talk about Jim. Mary will have such a sad time without him. Seem like he was her whole life. We went on the 55th anniversary trip to Europe with them and had a ball. Lots of wonderful memories. Thanks so very much for the update. Love Mabel

May Schultz Junkin (Charles Art Schultz), 34122 28th Ave. SW, Federal Way, WA 98023 Ph 206-952-5616 MayWA@aol.com That is a beautiful eulogy for Celso delivered by his son. I met Celso and his wife at a couple of 101st Airborne Co. "I" Reunions years ago with my husband, Art Schultz (deceased 16 yrs. ago). I recall them as being a wonderful couple. May (Schultz) Junkin

Mrs. Daniel J. (C.) Zapalski, Santa Rosa, CA, October and December mail was returned marked unable to forward and the phone is disconnected.

Donald O'Neil, 2312 Elfin Way, Sarasota, FL 34231, Ph 941 923 0145, I'd love to make it (to the Snowbird Reunion) but between worn out "trooper knees" and up-coming surgery, travel is not my thing right now. As you might know, I lost my wife in May of this year, and since I was her caregiver postponed a lot of medical items; it's time to get myself repaired. I'll be there in spirit. As my doctor says: "You've got a 50 year old brain and a 81 year old body, so don't make

any promises you can't keep". I hope you can get me some of the pictures of the bunch. The Merriest Christmas of all, Don

Lydia (Mrs. John) Altomare, 1814 Palo Circle, Halethorpe, MD 21227 Ph 443 342 9649, Christmas card, Dec. 19, Thank you for sending me the "Poopsheet". Always like to hear how others are doing and saddened to see the loss of friends. Enclosed is a donation. With much thanks and love, Lydia

Marvin and Charlotte Cartwright, Box 212, Elk Mound, WI 64739 Ph 715 879 5241
Email Dec. 19, regarding the *Brothers In Arms: The Untold Story of the 502, Part 1 and Part 2* programs on the History Channel. We think everyone did a fabulous job on the show last night. Was good to see those fellows again, those who we knew so well. Good to know the schedule as to when it will be shown again. Wouldn't mind seeing it all over again. Thanks so much for keeping everyone posted. Our love, Marv & Charlotte

Don O'Neill, djoneill@iopener.net email regarding the Brothers In Arms program: I had mixed emotions about it. I watched it and also taped it, but I didn't enjoy them using it as sort of a commercial for the Game Boy stuff. Our guys looked good, and I was glad they showed the causeway part. I was one of the ones waiting for a medic (either US or German) when Col. Cole took off. I had sort of a flashback. One other thing about the causeway, we referred to them as Gates not bridges, if my memory serves me right. I'm going to watch it again tonight. Airborne all the way, Don O'Neill

(Editor: below, from Mark Bando's website forum, is an excerpt about the program.)

December 19, 1005, Hello all, I am Colonel John Antal, US Army (Ret.) and I had the honor to work with the veterans, Mark, the Gearbox Team and Foglight Productions to help produce the 2 Hour Brothers in Arms History Channel Show. We are very proud to bring this story to the History Channel and we did so in an unbelievably short time.

We started production in September 2005 and completed the work in December – which must be some kind of a record in the film industry. The guys at Foglight and Gearbox worked very hard to put together the best show possible, integrating as historical footage with authentically recreated battles scenes from the Brothers in Arms game. It is very

difficult, and expensive, to make a complete movie with full pyrotechnic effects. As a result, the battle scenes were shown from the graphics generated from the best-selling Brothers in Arms Video games.

As the Historical Director of Gearbox Software, the maker of Brothers in Arms, we are very proud of the response from the veterans who fought on D-Day about our game. One veteran told me that it was like a time machine and a tribute to the veterans who fought there. We are proud of this, as we want to tell the story of the selfless service and sacrifice of these warriors to new generations who are not necessarily getting this experience in books or movies.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful Holiday Season,
Colonel John Antal, US Army (Ret.)

Ted Nivens, son of Harry Nivens, St. Cloud, FL, Tednivens@msn.com We had some family together with dad (Harry) sitting together watching both programs. It was an honor to be a part in the event. I was with dad when the History Channel crew came and interviewed him for nearly two hours. Dad was exhausted yet proud to have this done. The team from the History Channel did an awesome job. They asked questions that never have been asked. They tried to bring out some of the personal feelings that had been locked in dad's memory for so many years. I could see in dad's eyes that he was seeing the "action " in his mind. Dad said to me after the interview that he thought that the guys had to be psychologists. We all laugh at the comment but I believe that there was a lot of truth in that statement. We tried recording it and it didn't work. Hope to hear from you before the Holidays but if I don't happy holidays to you all! Airborne Love, Ted Nivens

[Brothers In Arms: Road To Hill 30 DVD \(Parts 1-2\)](#)

1 DVD(s) / 100 Minutes \$29.95

Availability: Product will ship on 02/14/06, (due to recent airing of program) Only Available on DVD.

This DVD only available on The History Channel Shopping. www.thehistorychannel.com or call to order 1-888-891-7609 7 a.m. - 3 a.m. EST

PRODUCT DETAIL: Follow the famed 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment as they advance across Europe. Hosted by Ron Livingston (Band of Brothers). The first two episodes of the new series from THE HISTORY CHANNEL. The 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment of the famed 101st Airborne Division was one of the most decorated units of D-Day. In this riveting new series hosted by Ron Livingston (Band of Brothers), archival footage, interviews with veterans and detailed re-enactments

combine to tell the complete story of the 502nd's accomplishments during D-Day and afterwards. The daybreak invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944 actually began the night before. Shrouded in darkness, 18,000 Allied paratroopers jumped into the fog and flak-filled skies, landing behind enemy lines before the full invasion. The 502nd was among them, and the men of the regiment quickly set about clearing the way for the Allied landing at Utah Beach, securing important German strongholds and ultimately liberating the strategically significant town of Carentan.

Michael Aschieris, 4311 Gleneagles Court, Stockton, CA 95219. *A young fan of the 101st Airborne* sent us a nice Christmas card...Dear Mrs. Betty, Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas, and thank you so much for your letter and the article (*from past Poopsheet*). I'll try to get in touch with them (*some of the 1/502. men*). Hope all is going well with you. Have a great Christmas!, Sincerely, Michael (*Editor: Michael is a true airborne fan, if he calls you, you will enjoy talking with him. He drew a fabulous airborne patch on his Christmas card.*)

Jesse M Meason, 209 S. Phoenix Ave., Russellville, AR 72801, Ph 501-968-6707 December 29, 2005, Thanks for taking over for Bob, appreciate the Poopsheet very much. Saw the special on H.C. (*History Channel*) and enjoyed it. Keep up the good work, Jesse M. Meason (*Donation was enclosed*)

Mrs. L Yzquierdo, 51 Bonner Ave., Schenectady, NY 12304, Dec. 25, 2005, Dear Bob (Our G.I. Earth Angel,) you will never be forgotten for keeping our WWII GI's all together on Earth and in God's world. May God's most precious gift fill your holidays with peace and joy! We all love you in Christ. Mrs. Angelo F. Yzquierdo P.S. Blessing to Betty T. Hill also.

Robert (Bob) Hartzell, 313 Wentz St. Tiffin, OH 44883, Ph 419-447-0448 May the joy of the Savior's birth remain within your heart this Christmas and throughout the New Year. Bob, Frances, Clarice, Mike

Aggie (Hartzell) Welling, December 30, 2005, Hi, My Dad loves hearing from you all, so I thought I would let you hear from us. My dad is doing well. He very much enjoyed the history channel show on the 502 company I. He enjoyed seeing his buddies and the recent Harry Nivens visit he really loved. Harry Nivens and Ed Mobley were very good

representatives of the 502. After that he told us family some things we have never heard him say.

We had a wonderful Christmas but my dad was too tired to join us at my house for Christmas. He gets tired just going out to lunch, which he loves doing, we take turns doing that. He loves you all as if you were his family, but stronger ties are there with his buddies who were in battle with him. We've always known that since we were little kids. We both send you much love and wish you all the best in 2006. Robert Hartzell / Aggie Hartzel Welling

H.V. Kemenade, N. Tilborg, Barrierwag 3, 6501 BE, Best, Netherlands - December 29, 2005, Best wishes from your friends in the Netherlands. Always thanks for the liberation, from H.V. Kemenade, N Tilborg

Mrs. Sildny (Anson J). Manuel 609 McArthur St., Bossier City, LA71111, Ph.318-747-5588

December 28 2005, I'm Sildny, wife of Anson J. Manuel. I'm sending a copy of a picture that I have. I thought some body might want a copy. I don't know who the guys are and if Anson is one of them. Would be nice to know for sure. Thanks for the newsletters. Hope you have a good year. If anybody needs a copy, let me know. (*Editor, see picture on another page, taken December 25, 1944 near Bastogne. Print quality is probably not good enough to recognize anyone, but if you do happen to remember the picture, please let us know.*)

Patrick and Teresa Gallery, 629 Park Ave, W. Hempstead, NY 11552, Ph.516-486-7439 May the blessings of the Christ Child fill your Christmas day with joy.. May His love make your heart sing today and always! Merry Christmas, Love Teresa & Pat

Joe and June Hennessey, 914C Heritage Village, Southbury CT 06488, Ph. 203 264 2790, With the warmest Christmas wishes and a very Happy New Year. Hope to see you in Florida.

Barbara and Cecil Slover, Hampton, FL; Ed and Clara Mobley, PO Box 648, Lawtey, FL 32058, May the gentle gifts of the season fill your heart with peace and joy. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you in 2006.

Hank and Trudy van Zelderen, St. Augustine, FL, With warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season and everything that brings you happiness. Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. We'll see you in Kissimmee.

Robert Bruce Cole, 414 Hathaway Dr., San Antonio, TX 78209, Merry Christmas and all good wishes for a wonderful new year. I want to thank you for the many kindnesses to me, to my father's legacy and 3/502, especially Co. I. Best Wishes, Bruce

Harry and Joanie Nivens, 1130 Monroe Ave., St. Cloud, FL 34769, Ph. 407 957 0098, May God bless you this Christmas, Love, Harry & Joanie

Marvin and Charlotte Cartwright, Box 212, Elk Mound, WI 64739 Ph 715 879 5241 May all the blessings that Christmas brings come your way on angel wings. We pray that you will have a blessed Christmas and good health in the coming year. We enjoy your friendship so very much! Our love, Marv and Charlotte

Poopsheet Expense Report, January 3, 2006	
Balance November 1, 2005	\$ 489.00
Contributions Nov - Dec	<u>135.00</u>
	\$624.00
December 9 Poopsheet	
Printing and Postage	(\$109.00)
Balance before this issue	\$515.00

Thanks so very much, these donations of dollars, letters and support keep us in touch. Betty T. Hill, 2222 Settlers Way, # 914, Sugar Land, TX 77478

Kurt Barickman, 307 Ridge Rd, Albert Lea, MN 56007, Ph 507-377-8259, kabarick@chartner.net December 31, 2005, Hi Betty, Would really like to get a copy of the newsletter when it comes out please. I wrote this over about a 6-7 year period interviewing Eldon Abrahamsen, and he personally approved everything in the attached article. I am a World History teacher at Albert Lea Area High School in Albert Lea MN and a part-time instructor at Riverland Community College. I have been teaching for 17 years and am an ardent collector of WWII 101st items. I thank you for your interest. I thought that I had heard of your name before, I have your website about your brother book-marked. Mark Bando and I are very good friends, we talk quite often and I went to Normandy with him a year last August. Thanks for the contacts, do you have phone numbers and addresses for those nearby troopers? Thanks, Kurt Barickman (Editor gave Kurt the Co I names of Marvin Cartwright and William Penkwitz in the Minnesota/Wisconsin area.)

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10% percent discount.

Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?

Answer: Tied shoes.

Question: Why do retirees count pennies?

Answers: They are the only ones who have the time.

Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?

Answer: NUTS!

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SNOWBIRD REUNION - February 1 - 5, 2006

Hope many of you are packing bags for Florida.

You'll find someone from Co I in the hotel lobby most anytime of day. I'll be there from Wed. evening to Sunday morning. Some handy information: .

Ramada Gateway Plaza Hotel & Inn, 7470 Hwy 192 West, Kissimmee, FL 34742; Ph 407 396 4400 (to speak with the local hotel reservations, ask for "in-house" reservations).

Mears Transportation for Shuttle 407-423-5577

Reunion Planners: 817-251-3551 or email info@militaryreunionplanners.com

Editor: Please help us to be informed of address changes or other updates to the mailing list.