



# Company I Poopsheet

Company I, 502 PIR, 101st Airborne

May 2006



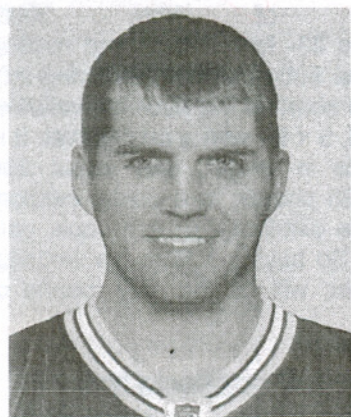
**Mrs. Lydia (John) Altomare**, 1814 Palo Circle, Halethorpe, MD 21227, March 20, 2006, writes, Robert Hartzell made my husband's days happier -- every Poopsheet was like a Christmas present. John loved reading about old friends and

old times. They were such a brave generation and all veterans of 101<sup>st</sup> can be proud of what they accomplished during WWII. Thanks Bob!! With much gratitude, Lydia Alto mare

*Editor's note: Thank you Lydia for the donation to the Poopsheet. Thanks also to Ashley Haskett, friend of Warren Shook, Lenoir, NC for a donation.*

**Fran Jones**, 11409 Clover Knoll Dr., Frisco, TX 75035, April 2006, Dear Ms. Hill, My grandfather was **Edward M. Smith**, and I was wondering if I could please be put on the mailing list for the "Poopsheet". I know nothing of his time in the service until years after he died and am now trying to piece things together to get to know the man he was. I would be extremely grateful. My mother and I plan on trying to get to a Snowbird Reunion soon. Thank you. Fran Jones

**Susie Baker Nail**, Alexandria, LA, daughter of Astrid and the late **Champ Baker**, tells us that **Craig Matthew Nail**, grandson of the late Capt. Champ Baker. recently signed a 3-year contract in a quarterback position for the Buffalo Bills professional football team. Craig and his wife, Amanda reside in Alexandria, LA.



Congratulations Craig!

**Donald O'Neill**, Sarasota, FL, Ph. 941 923 0145, in a phone conversation in early April said he had been sick, in the hospital and in rehab for several weeks, but now at home recovering.

**Edwina (Corey) Shepard**, 4538 Warm Springs Rd., Houston, TX 77035-6028 Ph 713 723-2754 [winashep@wt.net](mailto:winashep@wt.net)

Dear Betty, I am sorry this has been so long in coming and I realize it may be too late. I am Edwina K. Shepard widow of **Corey R. Shepard**. We got married July 4th, 1942, the day Corey graduated from Jump School at Fort Benning. We had a three or four hour honeymoon in Atlanta and he left for the "Frying Pan" Area in Alabama where the 101st Airborne was being born and I guess the 502 was also. I moved with them when they moved to Fort Bragg and our son was born at the GI hospital at Bragg. When he was about 2 months old, the 502 and my husband left for ETO. The rest is history as they say. Corey died in Nov. 1979. I am writing now to thank Betty for keeping the Poopsheet alive and doing a great job! This is to Bob Hartzell: Bob I can never tell you how much I have appreciated your unprecedented dedication all these years. This has been such a good idea to keep a lot of people who shared the terrible time of our lives and -- the ones who were lucky enough to come home -- in touch with each other. It certainly is true that when you fight together day after day and go through the hell and muck that war is, you have a bond forever. The Poopsheet has been so well done and your heart was always apparent. I don't know many of you personally, but I have felt a closeness with you, and when I would get the paper I would just read every word immediately and sometimes cry and when the films are shown on TV of D-Day I go through it all again. So many have gone on now and I know you lost Marie. We miss them and we are all getting old but we are still together because of this little wonderful paper! Again-thanks to Betty and I salute you, Bob. I hope you are doing well. At our ages I think we have to use that well worn phrase "as well as can be expected". I send my best wishes and love to all of you.

Edwina Shepard

## POOPSHEET EXPENSE REPORT

Balance before last issue:	\$502
Donations received	50
Cost of last issue	- 201
Balance before this issue	\$352



## Memorial Day Weekend, 2006

(From the Screaming Eagles website)

All Screaming Eagles and their friends are invited to participate in the Association's annual Memorial tribute to our fallen Eagles who have given their lives in defense of our nation's freedom. The Memorial Day weekend is 26-29 May 2006.

This year the headquarters hotel will be the Hyatt Arlington located in Rosslyn, at 1325 Wilson Blvd, near the Key Bridge, telephone 703 525-1234, or for reservations, 1-800 233-1234. A block of rooms has been reserved at a rate of \$109. When making reservations specify the Hyatt Arlington and 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Reunion to access this group rate.

We have planned a full weekend of activities for participants. On Friday, 26 May, we plan to conduct a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington, at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Exact time for the ceremony is TBD pending notification from Arlington. A hospitality suite hosted by the National Capital Area Chapter will be opened on Friday afternoon at 3:30 PM and remain open throughout the weekend.

On Saturday, 27 May, wreaths will be placed at the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial and the Viet Nam Wall. Due to the problem with parking on the Mall, buses will be provided for Saturday's participants. The buses will depart from the Hyatt Arlington Hotel at 1000. A nominal fee of \$5 per person will be collected upon boarding that will be used to help underwrite the cost of the buses. If you plan on attending, please have the correct amount in cash when you board the bus. Following the Mall ceremonies, an informal lunch will be planned for those desiring to attend. Location is TBD and will be provided with instructions to those participating. The hospitality room will be opened following lunch on Saturday.

On Sunday, 28 May, a formal ceremony will be conducted at the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Memorial at Arlington Cemetery. Units and individuals desiring to place wreaths should contact Bob Ponzo, of the local chapter, telephone 703 527-3084, checks should be mailed to Bob at 4141 N. Henderson Road, Arlington, VA 22203-2452. Following the ceremony, a luncheon will be held at the Hyatt Arlington. Attendees at these functions will need to plan to self-deploy to Arlington and then to the hotel. If you plan to attend the luncheon, please contact Bob Ponzo at the number listed above. It is essential that we obtain an accurate headcount for seating and meal planning. Cost of the Sunday luncheon will be \$45 per person. Persons planning on attending the luncheon are encouraged to pre-pay by sending Bob a check, although persons

may sign-up at the door, payable by either cash or check. A meal ticket will be issued at that time. For those who have pre-paid, a meal ticket will be provided at the luncheon., where all participants will be required to have a meal ticket. The hospitality suite will be open following the luncheon.

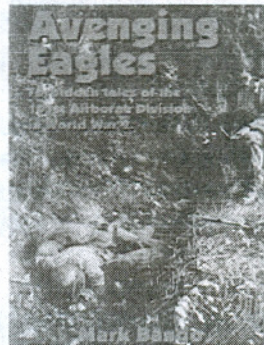
We also hope to obtain some of the limited tickets for the national Memorial Day ceremony conducted in the Arlington Cemetery Amphitheater at 1100 on Monday, 29 May. If we are successful, tickets will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

We hope you will plan on joining us as we pay solemn tribute to those valiant Screaming Eagles who have made the ultimate sacrifice when called upon to serve. For information on the weekend, contact the Memorial Committee Chairman, Dennis Husereau, 310 528-3165.

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### Available soon --

**FROM AUTHOR, MARK BANDO:** This long-awaited collection of tales that couldn't be included in Mark's regular history books has finally been written. The stories describe training and combat mishaps, like parachute malfunctions, accidental shootings, brawls with members of other units, sexual encounters, battlefield mayhem and summary disposal of prisoners. Most of the stories you have never heard before, unless you read them on the Trigger Time website. The book goes to the printer soon and hopefully will be available around the end of



April or beginning of May, 2006. Retail price will be \$30- plus \$3- for postage and mailing costs. In-person sales will be \$30-per book. Ordering info will be posted on website, as soon as the book is available. The book will be cloth-bound, 6 x 9", with a dust jacket. It is approximately 70,000 words in length, and about 200 pages. There will be about 25 photos, in a center section. (Mark Bando will be the sole distributor of this book, until the first printing is sold-out. So buying it from his website, or in person from the author, will be the only means of getting a copy.

<http://www.101airborneww2.com/books.html>

## AVENGING EAGLES

Forbidden Tales of the 101st Airborne Division in WW2  
Author: Mark Bando

## OPERATION TORCH - 15-25 September

"To you from failing hands we throw The Torch, be yours to hold it high" - John McCrae

From 1954 onwards, the Dutch Airborne Friends have welcomed veterans of the American 101st Airborne Division and their families in the "Corridor". It didn't matter whether these Americans came on organised trips during the "Remember September"-month, or during any other season. Among its members, there was always some enthusiastic Dutch Airborne Friend who would host the 101-veteran and make his stay enjoyable. It is for exactly this reason that many a WWII-veteran talks about The Netherlands as the place of his second home.

Several times the roles were reversed during the Dutch Are Coming-trips. Whether in Holland or the U.S., these trips were always a celebration and were the base for a tight and special friendship between members of the 101st Airborne Division and the Dutch people.

The Screaming Eagles of WWII Foundation believes that this friendship is too valuable to let it disintegrate. In cooperation with the Society of Dutch Airborne Friends the decision was made to, figuratively speaking, accept the torch from the Dutch Airborne Friends by organising a trip especially for a younger generation of 101st Airborne Division Association members in September 2006.

The trip's programme is based on WWII, more specifically on Operation Market Garden and the role of the 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne.

A trip back in time to the battle fields of old with the friendship that originated in WWII as a thread woven through it.

### Remembering the sacrifice - Keeping the memory alive

The cost for this trip is \$1500, based on double occupancy, which includes hotels, meals, planned day trips and events. (Does not include air fare). For registration and more information on this trip and on the Screaming Eagles of WWII Foundation visit our website:

[www.screamingeagles.nl](http://www.screamingeagles.nl)

Screaming Eagles of WWII Foundation  
Petra Wenstedt-Pulles (secretary)  
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The Netherlands

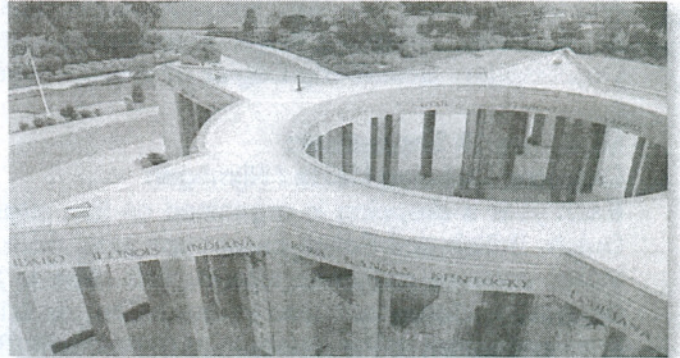
Email: [p.wenstedt@chello.nl](mailto:p.wenstedt@chello.nl)  
Tel. +31 40 2122856

Joseph M. (Joe) Bossi, Clarksville, TN is the tour contact in USA: Ph: 404 299 0000

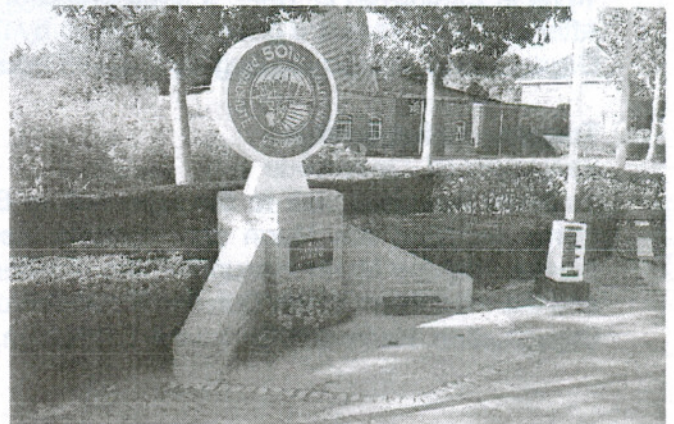
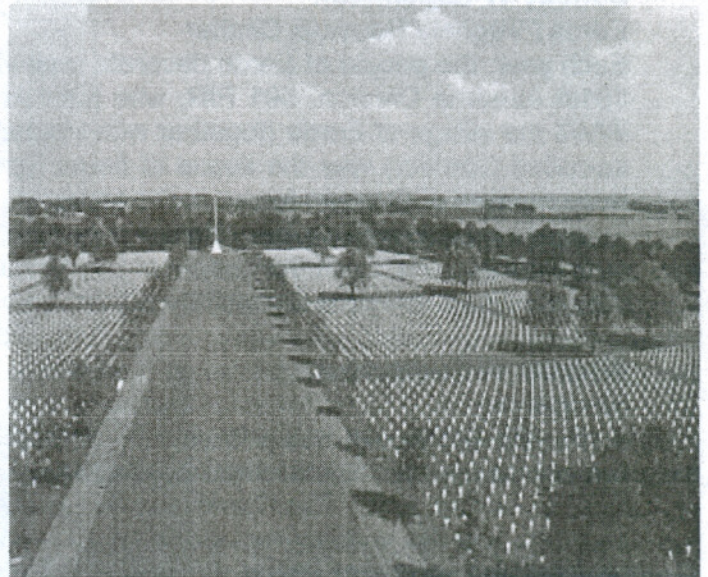
In USA, you can contact Joe Bossi, 931-624-8060 or [josephmbossi@wmconnect.com](mailto:josephmbossi@wmconnect.com) with any questions regarding payment method.

### A FEW PLACES TO BE VISITED IN SEPTEMBER:

Roof top view of the huge Mardasson Memorial at Bastogne.



Margarten Cemetery



Monument at the town of Eerde and windmill.



↖ Of the identified troopers:  
Lt. Corey Shepard,  
I Company, 502,  
front, right side.

Night Practice Jump, Thursday, 11 May, 1944, 2230 hrs in England. This stick is from Third Bn. Headquarters Co. of the Deuce. Captain Edward 'Poop' Barrett is seated at left, while Lt. Corey Shepard is seated in the right foreground. Willis 'Bill' Cady is 7th man at the end of the left row (see Bad Bastards page for stories about Bill Cady). Joe Lofthouse a 3rd Bn HQ Co. radio operator has also been spotted in the photo.  
SC photo c/o Joe Pangerl IPW Team #1, 502 PIR



11 May 1944 again, the same stick of G/502, standing in the door. Note the regular infantry uniforms instead of jumpsuits. SC photo c/o JP

(Coped from Mark Bando's website

<http://www.101airborneww2.com/warstories2.html>



## D-day in Holland

Al Krochka, assigned as one of the divisional photographers for Market Garden, took this amazing photo on 17 September, 1944. The bazookaman at left wears a 2/501st helmet stencil, and presumably, the serial floating to earth in the distance is 3/501 arriving. This is presumably DZ 'A', near Eerde, Holland.

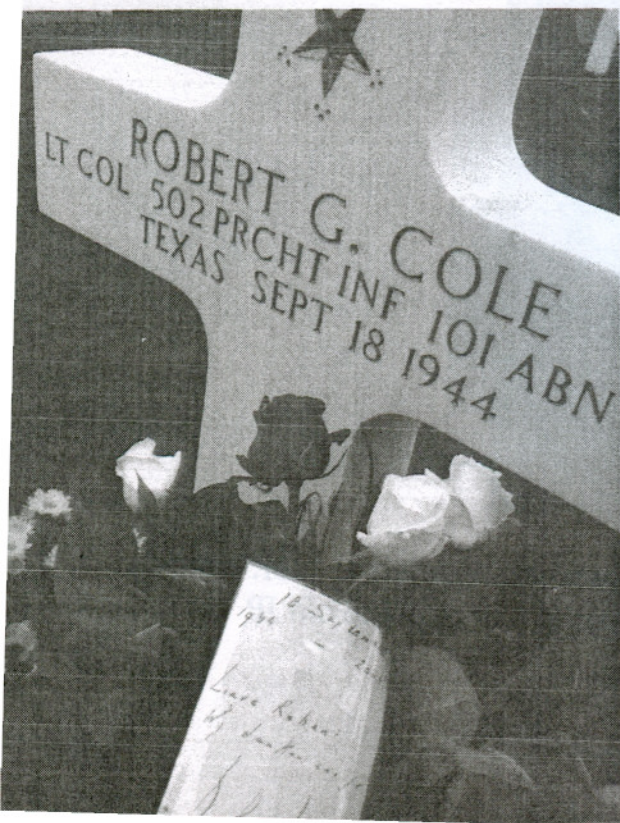


Photo taken September 2004 at 502<sup>nd</sup> T  
Commander Lt. Col. Robert G. Cole's gr  
Margarten Cemetery in Holland. A copy  
letter to Mrs. Cole from Dwight D. Eiser  
this issue.

8 March, 1945

Dear Mrs. Cole:

Only recently I learned that your husband lost his life during our airborne operations last fall. Although I do not wish to bring afresh to your mind memories of your tragic loss, I admired and liked him so much that I feel impelled to send you some expression of my sympathy and regret.

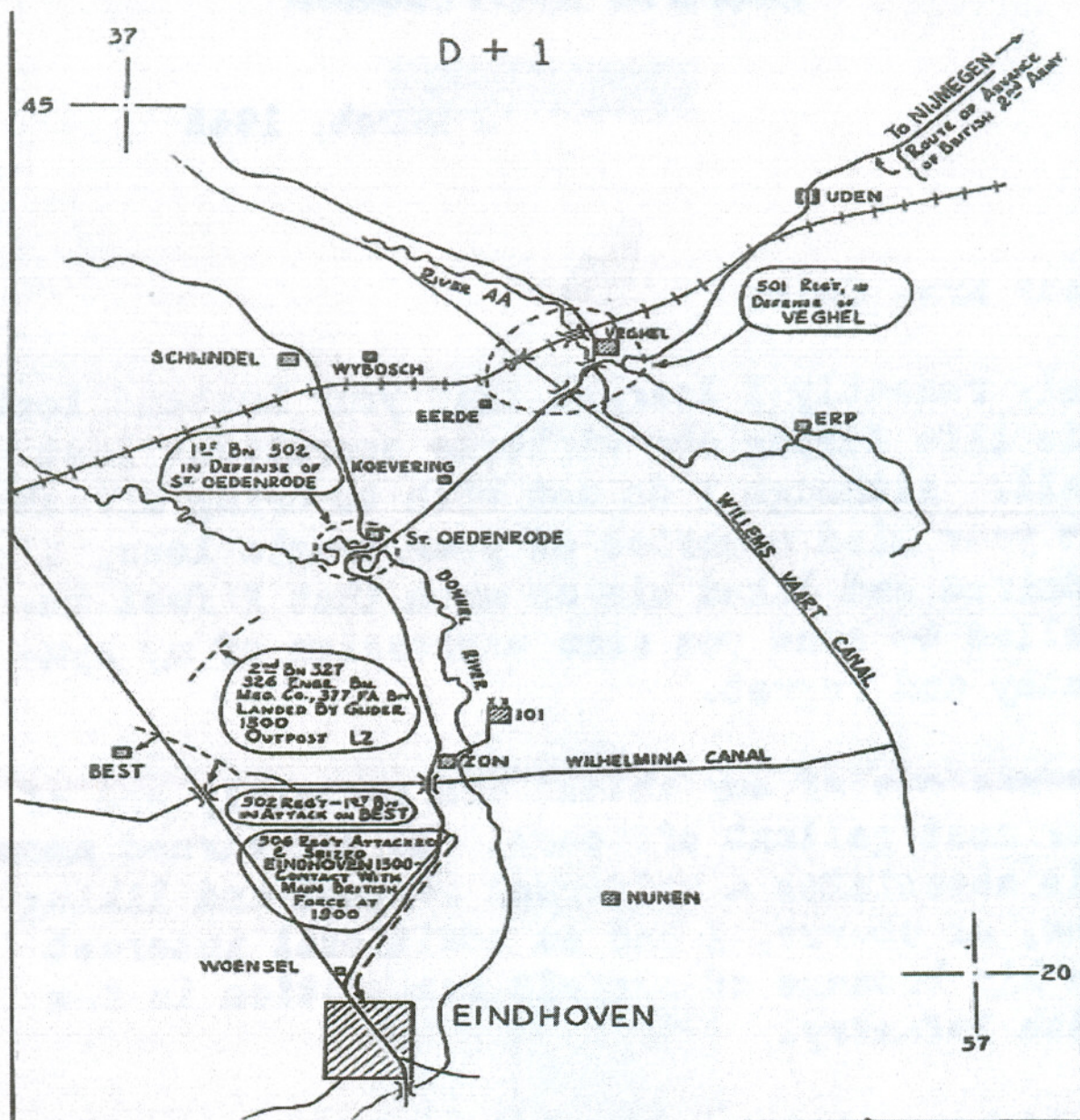
He was one of our ablest and certainly one of our most gallant officers. He had earned among his associates a universal respect and liking and, of course, I had an additional interest in him because of our old association in the 5th Infantry.

I do hope that the knowledge of his superb gallantry and of his invaluable services to his country will bring to you some comfort, even though it can not diminish your grief.

Most sincerely,

Dwight D. Eisenhower

# Holland Situation map, 18 September, 1944



## In Deadly Combat Near Best



As IPW officer (prisoner of war interrogator) for the 502 regiment, Captain Joe Pangerl headed the IPW Team #1. The photo shows Joe eating lunch at Dodewaard, Holland in October of 1944. Sometimes, his job afforded him the luxury of living in a building where he could set-up an office. The first night in Holland, he was taken in by a Dutch family, fed, and slept in a house with electricity and clean sheets. The next day, he encountered his friend Richard Daly, a DEMO lieutenant, who had spent the night in a hole, during intense fighting. Joe wrote: "he was so dirty, I didn't recognize him".

On September 18, 1944, Captain Pangerl left the 502's reserve position near Wolfswinkel and headed into the Zonsche forest at the south edge of DZ 'C', where 3rd Bn of the Deuce was embroiled in heavy fighting, and would soon be assisted by 2d battalion as well. Although not involved in the actual killing, Pangerl had a good overview of the action there, and has written a graphic account of what he witnessed during this, one of the 502's epic engagements in all of WW2. At the end of this engagement, Joe would preside over a bigger group of prisoners than he had ever imagined. The training he had received at Military Intelligence School at Camp Ritchie, MD, would serve Captain Pangerl well in those circumstances.

Joe wrote in his diary:

"In the morning, we woke up to the sounds of heavy fighting. Reports came back that our rear C.P. was overrun. About 1:30 PM went to the S-2 C.P., which was on the west side of the DZ, at the edge of a small pine woods. Went along a sandy road lined with troops walking up in single file. Warm day. Met German PWs in groups of 10-30, being brought back. Soon met wounded being carried by Germans on stretchers or shelter halves.

The Germans looked gray and dirty. All the PWs talked, low morale. The last mile, met rifle and MG fire, coming through the woods, as we came to a small pine forest, and dug-in. Very easy as ground was soft and sandy.

Origin of this was a platoon action to take the RR bridge and highway bridge over the Wilhelmina Canal. (This was) originally scheduled to be taken by the 3rd Battalion, LTC Cole, and reinforced 'H' Company, plus a section of LMGs from 3rd Bn HQ and 3rd platoon of 'C' Company of the 326th AEB, under Lts Moore, Watson, and Laier.

H Company Commander, Captain Robert Jones was supposed to go SW and come out on the Eindhoven/Bokstel road, 1,000 yards SE of Best. Got lost in pine woods and came out about 400 yards from Best crossroads. Came under heavy German fire from Best, so he withdrew back into the woods and then sent the 2nd platoon of H Company under Lt Ed Wierzbowski to take the bridges. However, so many men had been lost or missing, that only a small group was available and it was sundown.

What was learned later from captured PWs, was the British reported that the RR line from the north, which supplied the Germans, had been cut and was not in service. Actually, the Germans had repaired it and some of the PWs taken later had been in Amsterdam, just the day before, got on a troop train and were unloaded right at Best, to go directly into combat. Some had movie theatre tickets stamped in Amsterdam just the previous day to prove their point. So instead of a small Best garrison, German troops were coming-in by the hundreds.

Colonel John H. Michaelis 502's C.O. didn't know but the 'platoon' mission was later to require a battalion, then two battalions, then half the division, plus a squadron of British tanks."

D plus 1 s/of Best, cont'd: "Was brought a large number of documents, letters and German info. Translated them and gave them to S-2 section, then dug-in and none too soon, as about 1/4 hr later, we came under heavy gunfire from the NW and the S. The pine woods was a perfect location from the standpoint of cover, and very soft ground, so we dug-in even deeper. The troops were told to move up, but soon stopped because of the very heavy resistance. All movement stopped and told to wait. We just lay in our trenches, cooling off. Again came under heavy MG and rifle fire, which when it slowed, we dug for more room for our feet and then I continued reading the German captured material and mail. Again heavy rifle and MG fire and occasional A.T. and mortar fire, from about 1-2PM, as we were stuck because of heavy German troop concentrations.

The S-3, Major Ginder, raced by jeep back to the main highway, where a British squadron of medium and heavy tanks, Cromwell, Churchill, and Sherman tanks, were stopped and making tea, ignoring all the firing