



# Company I Poopsheet

Company I, 502 PIR, 101st Airborne

November 2006



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING,** Our wish is for the 2006 holiday season ahead to be a warm, safe and happy time for you and your loved ones.

## SNOWBIRD REUNION 2007 -

and the annual gathering place of Item Company is February 1, 2, 3. Lunch buffet and hospitality room available on Friday and Saturday, The banquet will be on Saturday night.

The registration forms are enclosed and on-line at [www.screamingeagle.org](http://www.screamingeagle.org) (reunions). Deadline is January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007

Sure hope to see many of there in 2007.

Mrs. Champ L. (Astrid) Baker, Sr., August 29, 2006, Enclosed is an article about Champ Jr. Craig Nall, our grandson is a quarterback for the Buffalo Bills. He injured his hamstring about 3 weeks ago, seems okay now. All fine here hope you are okay. Enclosed is a small check for the Poopsheet. Astrid

## Baker to Serve as Society President

Dr. Champ L. Baker Jr., a specialist in orthopedic sports medicine at Hughston Clinic in Columbus GA since 1982 is the new president of the American orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine. He was installed as the 35<sup>th</sup> president at the society's annual meeting on July 1. A native of Alexandria, LA, Dr.



Baker is well known for his research on and treatment of athletic injuries of the knee, elbow and shoulder. Baker completed his undergraduate work at Louisiana State University where he was a National Merit Scholar. He remained at LSU to earn his medical degree. Dr. Baker then served in the Army for 10 years,

completing both his internship and residency at Letterman Army Medical Center, San Francisco and at the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, St.

Louis, MO. He rose in rank to Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Medical Corps and received three medals for meritorious service. He completed his sports medicine fellowship under the legendary Dr. Jack C. Hughston and over the years has served The Hughston Clinic. The Hughston Sports Medicine Foundation and The Hughston Sports Medicine Hospital in a variety of executive capacities. Among his professional affiliations, Dr. Baker has been a member of nearly 30 medical and scholarly associations. He was chairman of the board of trustees at Columbus State University from 2004-05. Baker resides in Columbus, Georgia with his wife, Sue Anne. The Bakers have three children, Dr. Champ (Lee) Baker III (also an orthopedic surgeon), Kate and Sarah.

## MAIL RETURNED

Mrs. Theodore F. (Betty) Martin, no forwarding address, phone has been disconnected. Howard J. Ritts, Dallas, TX, marked Deceased 10/20/200.

Donald J. O'Neill, 2251 W. Auburn Road, Apt 47, Rochester Hills, MI 48309 Phone 248 293 2831

Just a quick note to let you know I've moved and send a check for the Poopsheet. This is my new address (above). Keep up the good work. I'll give Bob a call. Airborne all the way, Don

Richard C. Snow, Silver Oak Ave., Lady Lake, FL 32159, Phone 352 753 3995 Sorry I haven't sent a donation in quite a while, I broke my leg at the knee about 9 months ago and am just now getting around. Richard Snow.

## EDITOR: THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!!

In the September Poopsheet there was a photo of the Pathfinder stick of Capt. Lillyman, 502 PIR. I recently saw the same photo in Mark Bando's book, "Vanguard of the Crusade" on page 15 and the caption states that although Capt. Lillyman jumped with this stick, he is not in the photo.



The following poem was read by Henk Anthony Deuinhoven, MBE, in the 10<sup>th</sup> century church at Oosterbeek to the Operation Torch tour group on September 23.



### THUS IT WAS

By 'Lucky' Lockhurst – 1994

It was descending on a bright  
and sunny lunchtime  
It was welcoming smiles and  
warm handshakes from the  
Dutch civilians.

It was marching down leafy lanes

and into the quiet, Sunday afternoon streets....

Suddenly it was machine guns – it was stretcher  
bearers

It was machine guns – it was stretcher bearers

It was hand grenades and shouts of: "Die you  
German bastards"

It was leaping from garden to garden.

It was dodging from doorway to doorway;

It was smashing out of windows and beating out fires;

It was noise – it was night – it was morning:

It was the second lift –

It was more men, more strength, more chances of  
success.

Days followed night – and night followed days

And it was carrying in the wounded and carrying out  
the dead.

It was frantically waving yellow, silk triangles

It was watching the slaughter of valiant airmen

It was choking at the sight of much-needed supplies  
– drifting out of reach...

It was cursing – it was praying.

It was the screeching of panzers and the whirring of  
the mortar bombs;

It was the mutilated trees – and mutilated men.

It was crapping in the corner of a garage – or in the  
corner of a slit trench;

It was the V-sign, stuttered out of a Bren gun.

It was the cries of "Whao Mahomet!!" and the groans  
of the badly wounded.

It was the dirt in the mouth – and the ringing in the  
ears;

It was the rain-soaked clothing- and the blood-soaked  
earth.

It was the shortage of food, of ammunition, of sleep,  
of hope...

It was surrender – but it was not a defeat:

It was a brave, brave try:

It was Arnhem – 1944.....

Lucky Lockhurst fought around the Old Church in

Oosterbeek near Arnhem in  
one of the Squadrons Airborne Engineers.

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**REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY  
1-3, 2007, SNOWBIRD REUNION IS JANUARY 10,  
2007.** Mail both registrations forms with payment to:

Florida Sunshine State Chapter,  
PO Box 214723, South Daytona, FL 32121

The two registration forms are attached or can be  
printed from the website [www.screamingeagle.org](http://www.screamingeagle.org)

For shuttle transportation to the Ramada Gateway  
Plaza in Kissimmee from the Airport in Orlando, call

**Mears Transportation, 407-423-5566** or purchase  
on-line at

<http://www.mearstransportation.com/index.htm>

for reservations ahead of your arrival, or stop at their  
counter in the Ground Transportation area of the  
airport upon arrival.

Contact **Jim Patton** at **(256) 837-7544** or email him  
at [wwll501@aol.com](mailto:wwll501@aol.com) for information or other reunion  
issues.

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Let's hope "no news is good news". Not many notes  
from Item Company to include this time. We would  
love to hear from you, just to know how you're doing.  
Send a short note to Betty T Hill at 2222 Settlers Way  
# 914, Sugar Land, TX 77478 to be included in the  
Poopsheet. My email address is [bjth23@yahoo.com](mailto:bjth23@yahoo.com)  
and phone no. is 281-277-3787.

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An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems  
for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the  
doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing  
aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%.

The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the  
doctor and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect.  
Your family must be really pleased that you can hear  
again."

The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family  
yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations.  
But I have changed my will three times!"

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### EXPENSE REPORT

<b>Balance before the last issue</b>	<b>\$345</b>
<b>Expense of the last Poopsheet</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Donations Received since last report</b>	<b>235</b>
<b>Balance before printing this issue</b>	<b>\$434</b>



Operation Torch 2006  
[www.screamingeagles.nl](http://www.screamingeagles.nl)

September 15, 2006, at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport, some lucky individuals from the USA met their hosts, Petra Wenstedt and the Screaming Eagles of WWII Foundation. These fortunate people hailing from California, Washington, Ohio, Florida, Minnesota, Texas, Tennessee, Washington DC and Canada, arrived with a common desire to see the battlefield areas of Operation Market Garden and the Battle of the Bulge. Some with relatives who fought, some died, and former 101<sup>st</sup> veterans, two of the Vietnam era, to witness firsthand the warmth and friendship of the Dutch people and see the landscape of their predecessors in the airborne.

A warm welcome and huge banquet awaited the group on the first evening with a WWII themed party. A "big band" entertained with tunes from the '40's. The many Dutch hosts for each day of the tour joined us



for the good food, singing and dancing. WWII veterans already in Holland who came to our party were Bobby Hunter, Bert Collier and John Primerano all from the 501<sup>st</sup> and Don Malarkey, E/506.

We were up early each day, and on the first full day, traveled to the dropzone area near Arnhem, Ginkelse Heide, for the annual dropping at dropzone Y for the British 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne

Division in September 1944. The drop consisted of Active Duty Soldier's from the 504th Inf. from the 82nd Abn. Div. Ft. Bragg, NC. There thousands of people witnessed the beautiful sight of those jumping from the planes of 1944 and chutes opening as they fell onto the drop zone. Next, we visited the museum at Oosterbeek, viewing the many exhibits and memorial to the fallen soldiers of Operation Market Garden. (photo below) Note the roof is fashioned like a parachute.



September 17, off to Eerde and Veghel where Erwin Janssen and the Airborne Committee in Eerde hosted us for the entire day and evening with their great food and hospitality. After coffee and a tour of the countryside, we witnessed their annual ceremony at the windmill in Eerde.

Our emotions ran deep as we gathered at the site of the explosion of an ammunition truck in 1944 that killed several 101<sup>st</sup> troopers. One was the fiancé, of Elaine Smith, in 1944. This was Elaine's first visit to Eerde and the place where her fiancé, Carmen S. Ladner died. We enjoyed the company of veterans in





attendance from the 501<sup>st</sup> who jumped on September 17, 1944 near the windmill, Bert Collier, Bobby Hunter, and John Primerano.

September 18, Liberation Day in Eindhoven. Time for shopping and exploring before the big annual celebration on the town square in the evening. The Operation Torch group was honored to have Don Malarkey, E Company, 506 who was already in

Holland with his host, Peter van de Wal, to join the group for several days.

On this special day in Eindhoven, Petra Wenstedt, and Han Pulles, officers of the Screaming Eagles of WWII Foundation and Joe Bossi, their "Director of Operations in the USA", Ben Infusso, a veteran of the 506th from Canada who joined the American Army so he could served in the 101<sup>st</sup>, and Eindhoven resident,



Peter van de Wal, along with Don Malarkey, were invited to the office of the Mayor of Eindhoven where they were warmly welcomed by the mayor. Joe Bossi presented the mayor with an American flag from the 506th Association., the 506th is the Regiment that liberated Eindhoven, also a Flag was also presented by Joe from the 101st Airborne Div. Association,

and messages from Col. Vail of the 506 currently in Iraq and MG Turner.

Thousands of people joined in the parade and light events of the evening. Eindhoven was liberated by the 506, the city honored Major Richard (Dick) Winters, E/506 with a certificate of Honorary Citizenship in the City of Eindhoven. The open telephone conversation between the mayor and Major Winters from his home

in Pennsylvania was heard by everyone in the town square and was most heartwarming.

Early on the 19<sup>th</sup>, the group headed to the town of Best to meet with hosts, Harrie and Christian Dijkhieuzen. They led us to the bridge at Best and the Joe Mann memorial and the location where Joe gave his life for his comrades, for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor, and





on to the drop zone area of the 502 and gliders, the place where Col. Robert Cole, 3<sup>rd</sup> Btn. 502, lost his life on September 18, 1944 Today, in Best the Medal of Honor for SSG. Joe Hooper, is also displayed. SSG Hooper, was awarded his medal for action above and beyond the call of Duty in Vietnam, Joe Hooper on visiting the Memorial for Joe Mann, in Holland, was so moved by Joe Mann's sacrifice in saving his fellow Screaming Eagles Lives by placing his body on a German hand grenade before it exploded. SSG. Hooper then took his Medal and climbed to the top of the monument to Joe Mann and placed his Medal on the Monument. The Hooper Medal is secured by the town of Best, Holland and is displayed with the Honor Display for Joe Mann, in the City Hall.

This day was special to Betty Taylor Hill because her brother Lester A. Taylor, Item Company, 502, died September 19, 1944 near Best. We were able to pinpoint the location of Taylor's platoon that Tuesday 62 years earlier between the Wilhelmina Canal and the road intersection near the town of Best.



We stopped at the site of the temporary cemetery at Son, 1944-1949, where we met with Mien Lavrijssen, (photo left. with Betty near the old cemetery site) one of the Dutch sisters who "adopted" and cared for Taylor's grave in 1944-1948 and the three men who are placing a new monument: Odwin van Ruillo, Christian Dijkhuizen and Mark Thunnissen The monument scheduled to arrive in a few weeks will mark the 4-year resting place of almost 400 soldiers before they were moved to Margarten or brought back to the states in

1948-9.

We were in awe of the vintage planes and The Wings of Liberation Museum at Best. We toured the City Hall in Best where many WWII memorials are housed, and we enjoyed two great meals hosted in the Best community center.

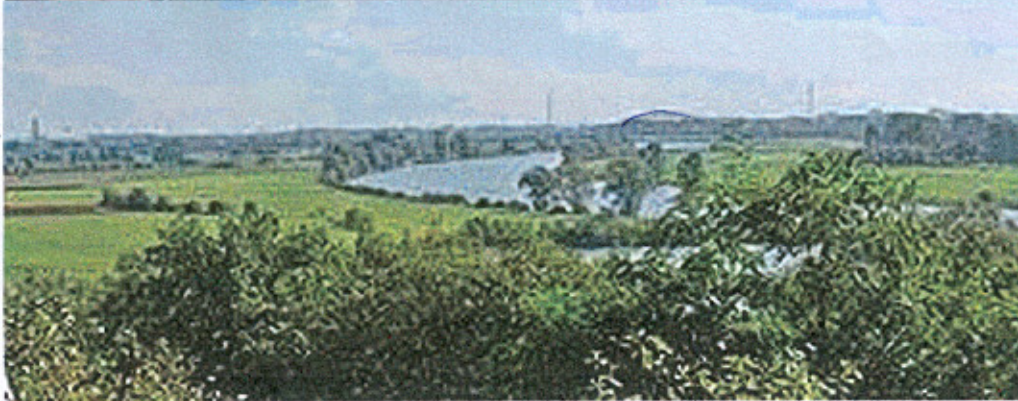


Off to the Island on September 20. Our hosts for the day, Cees Jansen and the Screaming Ducks, (representing the Deuce, 502 PIR) gave everyone a day to remember, the ride through the country in jeeps and trucks from WWII was an impression the group will never forget. They served us two meals and a cook-out in the evening in tents at the farm of the Vink family in Dodeward; such wonderful food! With Don Malarkey, E/506, along to share with everyone about his experiences in the Island area was more great "living history." Traveling along the Rhine River, the dykes, and to the railroad bridge near Arnhem, listening to Don tell firsthand experiences are special memories. We

learned what the the WWII soldiers did when they ran out of gas too... always a spare can on board.

On the 21st, we met Frits Janssen, a local 82<sup>nd</sup> airborne historian, for a memorable tour of Arnhem, the





museum Hartenstein, former headquarters of the British 1st Airborne Division and a visit to the bridge at Arnhem with dinner overlooking the bridge. We were enthralled with the film and presentations regarding the fierce fighting we have seen in the movie "A Bridge Too Far". It brought to mind the gallant courage of all allied liberators in Operation Market Garden. In this photo of the Rhine, that bridge in Arnhem is on the horizon and the church steeple at Arnhem at far right.



On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the group left Eindhoven for Bastogne, stopping at the beautiful resting place, Margarten, the U.S. National Cemetery where we placed 100 roses on the graves of fallen soldiers. Photo: Col. Cole's grave below: After a great lunch at the In Den Hoof restaurant in Maastricht, everyone explored the city of Bastogne, McAuliffe Square, and did lots of souvenir shopping. That evening we arrived at the quaint, old town of Houffalize in the mountains of Belgium. We gasped at the beauty of such old buildings, some from the time of the Roman Empire.

Next morning, the group met Henri Mignon, a professional tour guide who led us through the battle fields of The Battle of the Bulge, from Bastogne through the Ardennes and entire surrounding area.

We visited the museum and church in Bastogne and marveled at the huge Mardasson monument, just outside Bastogne, some climbing to the top.

Photo left: Kathy Moe Hagan, daughter of Glenn Moe, I/502, at the Mardasson monument.



We lunched at the "Nuts" café, their "la Nuts" salad is terrific. Exploring the small villages, notably, Foy and Longchamps, where many fierce battles occurred, seeing bullet scars on the buildings, and standing in foxholes still very visible in the forests amazed us.





Left: The Peace Woods in Belgium where many veterans are honored with a tree is a beautiful sight. We had another personal moment near Foy in the Ardennes. Tedi Schmoil, with the help of local historians, found the area where her father, Edgar Kelley, A/501, died in January 1945. That is Tedi standing beside the tree in honor of her father in the Peace Woods. Among the many, I found the trees honoring Joe Hennessey and Ivan Hershner, both growing quite well.



Leaving Bastogne on September 24, we traveled through so many small villages, stopped at a small beautiful old 10<sup>th</sup> century church in Oosterbeek, Oude Kerk, (photo left) where over 1,000 Christmases have been celebrated. It still has a very active congregation of Dutch Reformed faith. The two-story pastor's home next door served as a medical center and the lady of the house cared for over 400 wounded soldiers from the fighting in the area in 1944-45. We visited the beautiful Henri-Chappelle Cemetery where thousands

of allied soldiers from The Battle of the Bulge are resting. We also stopped at the National German cemetery, where hundreds of German soldiers now rest.

Returning to Eindhoven where we stopped for pie and coffee with our friends of the Screaming Eagles of WWII Foundation, said our goodbyes to friends in Eindhoven, Son, Best, and Veghel, headed to Amsterdam for our group's farewell dinner at the airport hotel and our respective flights home the next day.



One cannot express the warmth and hospitality of the days spent with the Dutch citizens. Much is missing from this account, for along the way to our spots of special interest, some I'm sure I've overlooked, we visited castles, windmills, old churches and many other local Dutch and Belgian places. The food was fantastic...reports say most everyone gained an average of 5 pounds! This fortunate group witnessed the love from an appreciative country, and our memories will live forever. In coming years, as this opportunity is presented, rest assured you will be blessed with the gift of a lifetime not just a tour. Photo to left is from "The Island", at the monument and the railroad bridge in the background.





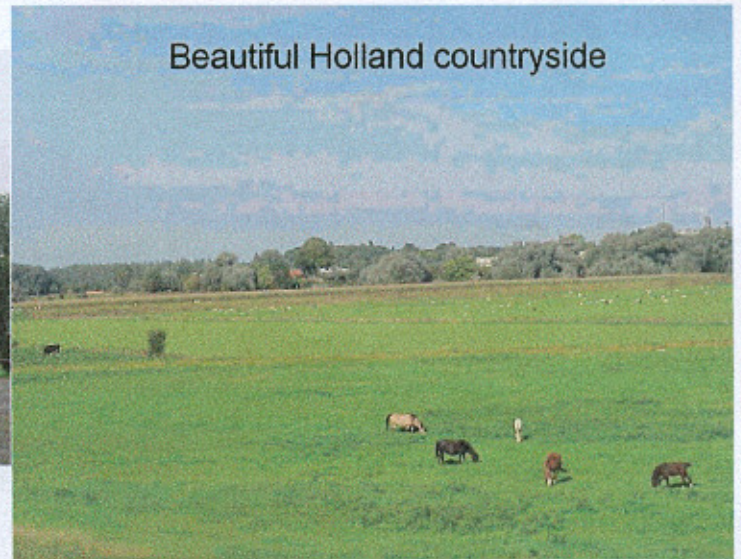
The last marker, the first one is on the beach in Normandy...



Lunch on patio of "Nuts Café" Bastogne



Afternoon visit to a magnificent old castle.



Beautiful Holland countryside



Left: Foxholes in the Ardennes



Kathy Moe Hagan and Elaine Smith at Joe Hennessey's tree in the Peace Forest.



23 October 2006 To the World War II Veterans of Item Company, 502<sup>nd</sup> PIR, and 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division:

I hope this letter finds you, and finds you well. It is with genuine admiration and heartfelt gratitude that I write this letter. I sincerely appreciate all the sacrifices you, and the millions of men and women in the service, made from 7 December 1941 through 2 September 1945. Each and every one of you is truly a hero, especially those of you who personally experienced the horrors of combat.

I am a 40-year-old resident of Lancaster County, PA who has a voracious appetite for reading. I always had an interest in military history, especially personal accounts of World War II. The genesis of this interest can be largely attributed to my father, who proudly served four years in the Navy during the mid-1950s, my stepfather, who served with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne in Korea, a 1998 motion picture and a Christmas present. The epic film is, of course, *Saving Private Ryan* and the Christmas gift was a book entitled *In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors*.

Over the past several years, I've read scores of books about World War II, including *Band of Brothers: E Company, 506<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Nest*. It really struck a chord with me. Subsequently, I hoped that I might somehow be able to personally thank the Veterans of World War II for the extraordinary efforts they made, but I realized that this would be a very ambitious and difficult task. Therefore, I decided to write letters to thank Veterans, like you, for the gallant efforts and countless sacrifices you made throughout the war.

The first letter I wrote, in 2003, was to Major Richard D. Winters, of the aforementioned "Band of Brothers," who resides in nearby Hershey, PA. His letter was very similar to this one. In the last paragraph of the letter I requested an autographed photo and I included a self-addressed stamped envelope for him to use. As you can imagine, I was very delighted when I received his correspondence, which not only included an autographed photo, but also a personalized letter, a few weeks later. Thus, Mr. Winters was the initial member of my personal collection of autographed photos of World War II Veterans.

Since then, my autograph collection has grown considerably. I now have in excess of 630 autographed photos of World War II Veterans, ranging from the rank (during WWII) of Private to Colonel, including many Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. Therefore, I would be extremely grateful if you would please provide me with an autographed photo of yourself, or even a signed photocopy of one of your pictures. Please write the appropriate information (i.e. Rank, Company, Regiment, Division, Medals, etc.) on the back so that I can easily identify and organize your photo within my collection. I would proudly display your signed photo alongside other WWII memorabilia I have collected.

I look forward to receiving any correspondence from you. Thank you for your consideration. Take care and may God bless you, and all the citizen soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen who so valiantly served during World War II.

Respectfully, .

**Boomer Mitzel, 2711 Kimberly Road, Lancaster, PA 17603-7007 E-Mail: [bmitzel@contitle.com](mailto:bmitzel@contitle.com)**

P.S. If you haven't done so already, please register yourself or a comrade at the National World War II Memorial Web site. It's very easy and it's free. [http://www.wwiimemorial.com/registry/edit/donor\\_nameaddr.asp](http://www.wwiimemorial.com/registry/edit/donor_nameaddr.asp)

P.P.S. I would be remiss without thanking Betty Taylor Hill and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin D. Cartwright for their assistance with having this letter appear in the Item Company newsletter. I am truly grateful. Thank you.