



# Company I Poopsheet

Company I, 502 PIR, 101st Airborne

September 2006



**Our love and sympathy to the families of those who have passed away, and our thanks for all the donations for the Poopsheet expenses.**

**Mrs. Walter (Regina) Kerwynn,** 4408 Jackson

Place, Alexandria, VA 22309, Ph. 703 799 3060  
June 29, 2006, Thank you for the Poopsheet work. I am sending a donation to help with expenses in memory of Walter. It's been 6 years since Walter Kerwynn left us. I am 81 years old and walk 4 to 6 miles every day, but have my "senior" moments. Had an eye operation, a cornea implant, can see again but use five kinds of eye drops daily. Excuse my English as I have no schooling in English. I was Belgian-born and came to this country in 1949, so my English is limited. Thank you, Love, Regina Kerwynn

**Ray and June Dunlap,** PO Box 65, Fayette City, PA 15438 Phone: 724 326 4351 July 5, We are still getting around, just celebrated our 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary. We are both 84 yrs. Our daughter lives close by and it sure is a blessing to us. We would like to thank you all for the Poopsheet, We look forward to getting it .Donation to help with expenses enclosed. As Always, Ray & June

**Delmar Winslow,** Omaha, NE, The July 2006 Poopsheet was "returned to sender" and marked "deceased 10-13-01".

July Poopsheet Mail Returned "undeliverable" for Mrs. James V. Fewell  
Arlene Kennedy

**Curt and Sandy Hahn,** 9 Landis Ave., Jeannette, PA 15644 Ph. 724 527 6750 - July 13, 2006, Dear Betty Hill, First allow me to thank you for all you do. My Dad was a member of the 101<sup>st</sup> I/502 PIR, WWII. We received your newsletter through my Mom, **Della Hahn.** Dad passed away in 1992, now Mom has gone to be with the Lord also. Us kids would to continue to receive the Company I Poopsheet at my address above if it would not be too much trouble. I've

enclosed a small donation. Sincerely, Curt Hahn, son of **Ernest O. Hahn** (Our Hero)

**Mrs. Denver (Sybil) Hatfield,** P.O. Box 162, Pawnee, OK 74058,, July 1, 2006, I hope you are well. I enjoy getting the news letter. Tell Bob Hi, I hope he is doing O.K. It is hot here in Okla. My husband, Denver, passed away March 17, 1987. I also had a son, Darrell, that was in the service; he passed away in 1965. Both of their names are on the Sidewalk of Honor in Pawnee. I thought I'd send a clipping to you of my husband's sister's grandson who is in the 101<sup>st</sup> airborne. He was hurt in Iraq. I think he is doing O.K. Take care, Sybil Hatfield.

Form *The Pawnee (Okla) Chief* newspaper Wednesday, May 10, 2006 **WELCOME HOME SHANE** SP/4 Shane Nuttle, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, U.S.



Army, wounded in action in Iraq, January 28, 2006, will be arriving in Pawnee today (Wednesday). He has spent the past 2 months in the VA Medical Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, after being transferred there from Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. Specialist Nuttle's

mother has been with him in Washington, D.C. and Minneapolis since his return to the United States. Nuttle received his Purple Heart last Friday in ceremonies at the medical center

**Patrick R. Burns,** 4142 Xerxes Ave. N. Minneapolis, MN 55412 Phone (612) 875 1022 [patrick.r.burns@earthlink.net](mailto:patrick.r.burns@earthlink.net) July 10, 2006, Dear Betty, thank you for all of your help and interest in my search for those that knew my grandfather, **Lt. Robert G. Burns,** and the history of the "Screaming Eagle" nickname.. I am his oldest grandchild and had the good fortune of knowing him for 30 years before he passed away. I would be interested in corresponding with anyone who would be willing



share about my grandfather. I have only one photo of him dating back to WWII. Best Regards, Patrick

Excerpts from the funeral program for his grandfather in November 2000.



In Memory of: **Robert G. Burns**, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, died Monday, November 6, 2000, at age 79.

Robert G. Burns, was born February 8, 1921 in Des Moines, Iowa. He grew up in Sioux City, Iowa where he first became involved in athletics as a Golden Gloves boxer, earning city championship honors. Bob attended

Sioux City Central High School where he competed in football and was named to the All-City Team as a 150 pound fullback. While at USD he entered the ROTC program and upon graduation in 1942 was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. Bob was assigned to Fort Benning, Georgia for basic training. He then volunteered to become a paratrooper and attended "jump school" at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. There he became a part of the 502nd parachute Infantry Division and the 101st Airborne Division (the Screaming Eagles") He parachuted into Normandy, France the night before the historic D-Day invasion.. On September 17, 1944 he jumped into Eindhoven, Holland as part of "Operation Market-Garden". He later fought in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. Bob was awarded both the Silver Star and the Bronze Star and was twice wounded in combat, earning a Purple Heart decoration each time. After the war he returned to Sioux City, and his college sweetheart, Alice LaVerne Drabek of Winner, South Dakota. On December 1, 1945 the couple was married. Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Alice LaVerne and his son, John. Grateful for having shared in his life are his children, Robert and his wife, Susan of Sioux Falls, James and his wife, Anjelika of Seattle, Steven and his wife, Brenda of Minneapolis, and Kathleen, of Sioux Falls, and nine grandchildren, Patrick, Sarah, Mary Ellen, Steven, Matthew, Robert, Honor, Joshua, and John.

This following was a part of the Burns Funeral Program and is from S.L.A. Marshall's book Night Drop (1962)

*Item Company was down and out. Flattening when the bombs fell, its men could not rise again, save for a sturdy half dozen, whose first thought was to evacuate the worst of the stricken. The great number fell victim to the deadly drowsiness that overtakes infantry after calamitous shock losses. They had no interest in what had happened to them; they expressed no curiosity about who had been hit. Lieutenant Robert G. Burns found he could not keep his men awake no matter how he tried. Some were in heavy sleep within two minutes of the bombing. It confused Burns; he could not tell which were the sleepers and which the wounded and dying. He saw men who, having tumbled down the bank, lay still with their bodies half in water: He went to them, thinking they had been hit, then discovered they were sleepers who had rolled down the bank and had not awakened when they slipped into the frigid marsh. Others lay there in their jump suits, wet through and through, yet sleeping the torpid sleep of utter exhaustion. Officers gave over any attempt to rouse these men. Item Company had become a cipher in the column. Burns, a burly, redheaded bruiser who had served as division athletic officer; saw far more than he understood, which but made him wonder more why none of the experts came forward to explain it to him. Burns said, "II By God, it's funny. Here I had just been worrying about how we would get some sleep. " What remained of Item Company had come forward because Lieutenant Burns wouldn't quit. When the fann fight opened, his little band was just behind Bridge No.4. They heard the noise of battle up ahead. But in the same moment, the Gennan machine-gun fire again engulfed the iron gate, and bullets struck fire from it as on the evening before. The men of Item ran for the narrow opening amid this hail of steel. They did it one man at a time, heads down. The lucky ones who got through then jumped down to the protection of the embankment. Lieutenants Burns and Gleason, the last two officers, were hit trying to get through the gate. So were 7 of the 21 troopers who had survived the ordeal on the embankment. The few who made it went on leaderless, attaching themselves as individuals to any group they could find. Item, as a company, no longer operated. From Niight Drop - S.L.A. Marshall (1962)*



Below is one of the stories from "Avenging Eagles" by 101<sup>st</sup> historian/author, Mark Bando.

*"Captain Ivan Ray Hershner was C. O. of Item Company of the Deuce. He made his parachute landing at St. German de Varreville, crashing through the branches of a tree near the small church cemetery. As a result of this landing one of Hershner's ankles was broken. He got out of his harness and stood up. He discovered that he could hobble along, favoring the injured foot, unless he stepped on an uneven spot of the ground, which would cause him to collapse. Meeting some friendly troops, he headed south along the D 14 road, toward his objective, Causeway #3 at Audoville la Hubert. While moving in the darkness, Captain Hershner spotted a small dugout beside the road. It looked like an air raid shelter or small bunker. Hershner pulled the pin on a fragmentation grenade and tossed it inside the structure. He was puzzled when no blast resulted. Seconds later, a French boy about 9 years old came out of the shelter, said "Ka-BOOM," and handed the grenade back to Hershner. The mystery was solved. Before boarding the plane, Hershner, like many others, had wrapped tape around the safety handle of the grenade, to prevent an accidental detonation if the pin should fallout. He had fortunately forgotten to remove that tape before tossing the grenade into the shelter. The French boy's parents were also hiding in there."*

**Bob Hartzell** sends thanks to **Marilyn Olson** for keeping alive a tradition that her late husband, **Ray Olson** had of phoning on D-day

**Lori Novotni**, Reno, NV, niece of **Edward Sowder**, August 14, 2006, Hi Betty, I'm planning to attend the reunion in February, and I can't wait for that Here's some money for the Poopsheet. Lori

**Patrick and Teresa Callery**, W. Hempstead, NY, August 18, 2006, I hope this e-mail finds you well. We spent a weekend at my son's house in Connecticut and had the **Hennessey's (June and Joe)** over as they live close by. All is well here. Love Teresa and Pat

**Mary Cavanaugh**, 954 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort, PA 18704, August 18, 2006, Meant to do this sooner but it has been so hot and humid. All is well with me and

hope the same for you. Poopsheet is always nice to receive and so nice of you to do it. Sincerely, Mary C. (Donation enclosed)

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A boy had just gotten his drivers license. He asked his father, who was a rabbi, if they could discuss his use of the family car. His father took him into his study and said, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little, get your hair cut and then we'll talk about it."

After about a month, the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss his use of the car. They again went into the father's study where the father said, "Son, I've been very proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied the Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut."

The young man waited a moment and then replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. You know Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair." The father said, "Yes, and everywhere they went, they walked."

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**Harry and Joanie Nivens**, 1130 Monroe Ave. St. Cloud, FL 34769 Ph 407 957 0098, August 19, 2006 I just talked to **Walter Murdock**, he and Kay plan to attend the Snowbird Reunion next February. Talked to **Earl Kelly**, **Bob Hartzell** and **Jimmy Norris**, all are doing as well as we expect to at our ages. I mailed a copy of the Brothers in Arms to **Ed Sowder's** niece, Lori Novotni. Tape didn't work and she returned it with a letter that she plans to attend the Snowbird Reunion. I'm looking forward to meeting her. Joanie's daughter from Dallas is visiting us, and we enjoy having her. Best regards, see you in Feb. Harry Nivens, (Donation enclosed)

**Barbara Mobley Slover**, daughter of Ed Mobley, Lawty, FL, Hello, We are all doing well. Dad and Clara are both in good health, this week. Anyway, we never know how we will be from day to day. We just enjoy what we have and keep on on keeping on. This way we can avoid most of the stress life has to offer. Florida has been pretty hot these last few weeks, but now the much needed rain has come. We send our love and prayers to all of you. Cecil & Barbara Slover, Ed and Clara Mobley

**Betty Taylor Hill**, September 15 - 25, 2006, **Dr. Kathleen Moe Hagan**, daughter of **Lillian Moe** and the late **Glenn Moe**, Yakima, WA, and myself, along



with 10 other people with similar WWII connections will be touring Holland and Belgium with the Screaming Eagles Foundation of Holland. Petra Wendstedt-Pulles and her family organized this tour several months ago. We are very much looking forward to seeing many of the places where Item Company, 502, fought so gallantly in 1944 and 1945. Hopefully, Kathy and I will have some nice pictures to share for a future Poopsheet.

Of importance to me, on September 19, we will be in the town of Best. This will be very special as this is the exact anniversary of my brother, Lester A. Taylor's death Sept. 19, 1944 near Best.

I had asked Marvin Cartwright about a map he shared with me, and below is his response. A map, the Christmas Eve Battle at Champs is in here also.

**Marvin and Charlotte Cartwright**, Box 212, Elk Mound, WI 54739 Hi there! Sorry it takes me so long to answer some of your E-Mails. No, Marv doesn't know what book the map (BATTLE AT CHAMPS) was taken from. We just can't remember if someone sent the map--have had it many years.

I Co. Was near Longchamps; maybe 1/4 mile or so north, Marv thought. Part of I Co. Was in the woods (machine gunners, etc.) and some were out in the open. The mortar which Marv & John Sanders had, was in the open, but very near the woods. They were tied in with E Co. On their left.

Marv says there was a 2-story stone house in the woods & that is where the Co. Commander, telephone operators, platoon runner and maybe the medics stayed.

It was in this area where the 2nd platoon shot at the 1st platoon, thinking they were Germans. No one had let the 2nd platoon know that the 1st platoon was in the area.

Maybe you have heard this before, but Marv has said that he and Everett Hoskinson had a small foxhole - in fact, so small they touched shoulders. The opening was about 2 feet wide and just a little longer. They were snuggled down in the foxhole when the Germans started shelling them again. Clifford Malaterre came down into their foxhole head first, and straddled on his rifle. Not knowing if the safety was on, they had quite a tussle getting Clifford off his rifle and straightened up.

Just one of the many more comical (not so funny then) situations they got into.

Our love, Marv & Charlotte

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## EXPENSE REPORT

Balance before the last issue	\$266
Expense of the last Poopsheet	121
Donations Received since last report	200
Balance before printing this issue	\$345

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WE HOPE EVERYONE IS PLANNING FOR THE SNOWBIRD REUNION IN FEBRUARY 2006. USUALLY THE FIRST WEEKEND, WE SHOULD HAVE MORE IN THE NEXT ISSUE ON THE EXACT DATE, PLACE AND REGISTRATION.

GREAT TO HEAR SEVERAL PEOPLE ALREADY PLANNING TO ATTEND THE SNOWBIRD IN 2006.

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## Avenging Eagles

by Ben Gear HQ/3 502 PIR

Bobbing low and flying high  
Motors thunder through the sky  
Prop blasts over strut and wing  
Maddened demons howl and sing  
And out of this, we are set to fall  
With a handful of silk and God, that's all.

A small red light gleams at the door...  
throws blood red pools on metal floor.  
Beyond is space, vast dark and deep...  
awake ye screaming ones from sleep!  
For out of this you've got to fall,  
With a handful of silk and God, that's all.

But our hearts beat high for the land we love,  
and our courage comes from the one above.

When down from the clouds with our  
weapons of Hell,  
we drop to avenge our friends who fell.  
Thus all we need when we get the call,  
is a handful of silk...and God...that's all.

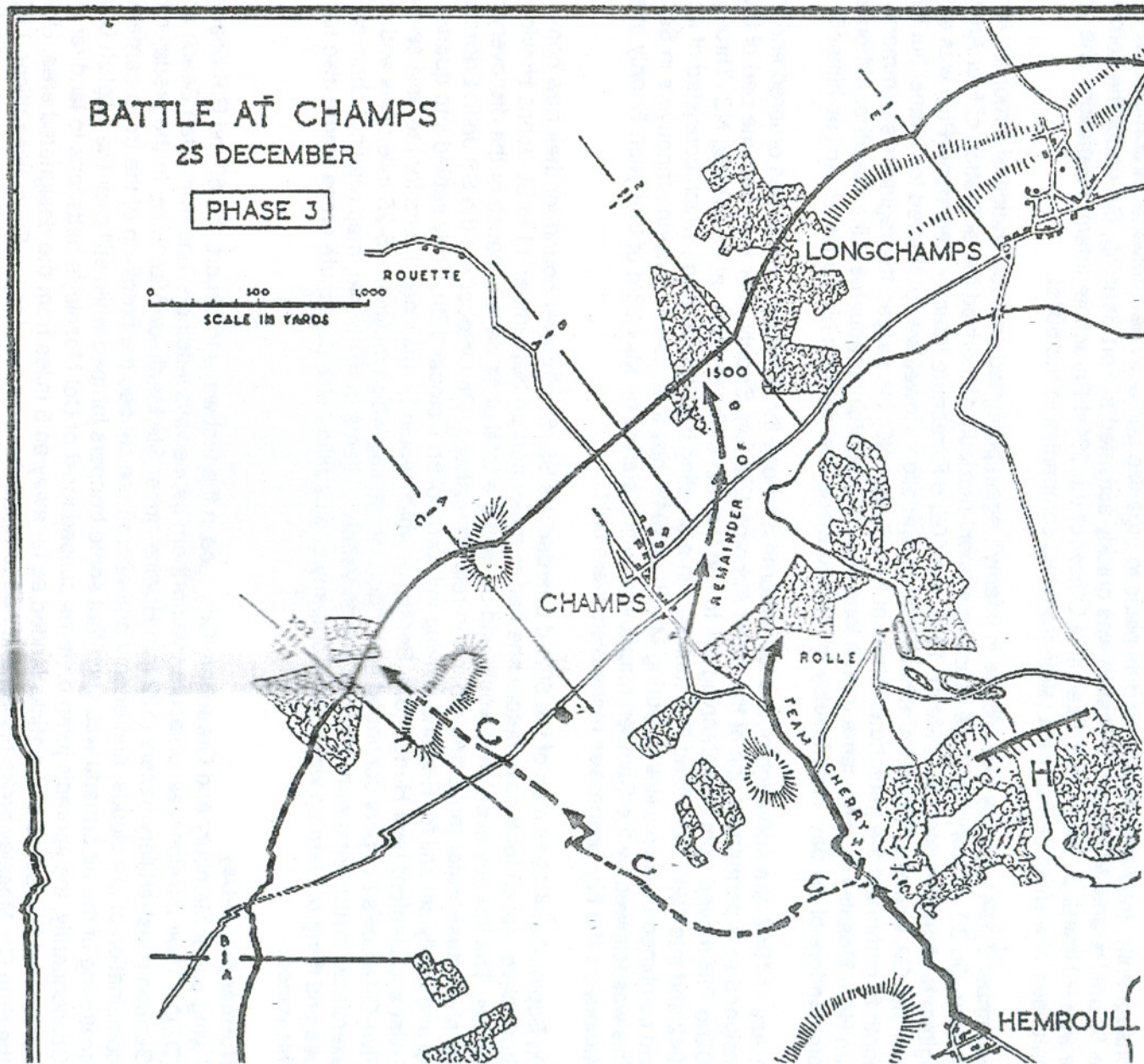
Poem copied from the website of Mark Bando  
<http://www.101airborneww2.com>



This map is incomplete, but all we have.....

# CHRISTMAS EVE

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## The 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment Unit History

Although the airborne assault on Crete on 20 May 1941 sounded the death knell for the German airborne, the American military planners were oblivious to the unacceptably high casualty rate suffered by the Germans. Instead, they focused on the tactical and strategic successes of the operation noting that Crete had been captured entirely by an airborne force.

Consequently, the Army accelerated its plans to organize and activate additional airborne units. On 1 July 1941, the 502nd Parachute Infantry Battalion was quickly activated at Fort Benning, GA under the command of Major George P Howell Jr, the former Executive Officer of the 501st Parachute Infantry Battalion. The unit was initially comprised of a small detachment taken from two companies of the 501st.

December 7, 1941, "a day that will live in infamy", again prompted an acceleration of airborne planning and strategy. On 30 January 1942 the War Department hurriedly authorized the activation of four Army parachute regiments. A month later, on 2 March 1942, the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR) was activated at Fort Benning, GA from the 502nd Parachute Infantry Battalion. Howell was promoted to Colonel but left that same month to command the parachute school at Fort Bragg, NC. He passed the regiment's command to Col George Van Horn Moseley Jr. who came from a long line of West Point graduates. Like the other airborne regimental commanders of his day, Col Moseley made enormous demands on his troops as well as himself.

In July of 1942, the activation of two full airborne divisions the 82nd and 101st was ordered and the 502nd was assigned as a permanent unit of the 101st Airborne Division. Shortly after they became part of the 101st the 502nd PIR moved from Fort Benning GA to join the rest of the division, at Fort Bragg NC. Throughout the rest of 1942 and into 1943 the 502nd PIR took part in a grueling training program, which consisted of individual, unit, and combined division training. During March of 1943 they took part in division maneuvers in Southern Pines. This was followed by the Camden maneuvers which started on May 23rd of that year. Shortly after the Camden Maneuvers the big Tennessee maneuvers were held.

On September 4 1943 men of the 502nd boarded the SS. Strathnaver bound for their new home in England. The Strathnaver sailed for 6 days before she had to make port on September 11 in St. Johns Newfoundland for repairs. The journey eventually would end up taking a total of 44 days because of the discovery of salt water in the ships fresh water tanks and other non-related mishaps. On October 4th the SS John Ericsson picked the men up and finally set sail for England arriving in Liverpool on October 18th. They settled into quarters in the Chilton Foliat and Denford near Hungerford, Berkshire which would be their new home for the next seven months. The Five-O-Deuce's troopers continued their rigorous training which included 15-25 mile hikes and daily close combat exercises. Instructions were given in a wide variety of items from 1st-aid, map reading, chemical warfare and the use and firing of German weapons. Company and battalion size parachute drops where also rehearsed during this period.

### Normandy - D-Day

Flying out of Membury and Greenham Common in the first wave to depart, the 502nd PIR headed for drop zone (DZ)A. Their mission was to secure two northern causeways leading inland from Utah Beach and destroy a German coast-artillery battery (122 mm Howitzer) near Ste Martin-de-Varreville. In the predawn hours of D-Day a combination of low clouds, and enemy anti-aircraft fire caused the break-up of the troop carrier formations. The scattering of the air armada was such that some troopers jumped while still over the English Channel and drown. Consequently, the sporadic jump patterns caused most of Col Moseley's battalions to land far afield of their designated DZ. Some of the sticks landed as far away as 5 miles from the designated area. Unfortunately during the drop Col Moseley broke his leg and had to relinquish command to his Executive Officer, Lt Col John H Michaelis (picture left) . Meanwhile, the 3rd Battalion led by Lt Col Robert G Cole was responsible for securing the two causeways. Undaunted by the confusion, Lt Col Cole gradually collected his men and achieved his objective.

The rest of June found the airborne troops fighting as infantry. After regrouping the 101st received the new objective of seizing the city of Carentan. It was during this operation that Lt Col Robert Cole received the Medal of Honor for leading his battalion in a five bayonet charge on the Incauf farm house, a German stronghold



defending one of the bridges over the Carentan Causeway. His Executive Officer, Maj John P Stopka, led the charge on Cole's left and received the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC). Lt Col Cole never got the chance to wear it since he was killed by a sniper's bullet 3 months later in Holland. Maj Stopka was killed two weeks after receiving his medal at Bastogne.

On 29 June the 101st was relieved from the VIII Corps and sent to Cherbourg to relieve the 4th Infantry Division. The 502nd PIR returned to England shortly thereafter for rest and training. At about the same time General Eisenhower called for a headquarters that would oversee the Allies' airborne troops. In August 1944 he established the First Allied Airborne Army, controlling elements of the American and British (and Polish) Armies. Concurrently, the 17th, 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions were assigned to the newly created U.S. XVIII Airborne Corps under the command of Gen Matthew Ridgway. The new army was put to the test in September 1944 during the Allied thrust in northern Europe: Operation Market-Garden.

### **Operation Market Garden**

This was an audacious plan concocted by British Field Marshal Montgomery that would be the first major daylight air assault attempted by a military power since Germany's attack on Crete. Similar to the Germans' assault of four years earlier, the Allies' initial plan for September 17, 1944 was to use the paratroopers and glidermen of the 82nd and 101st U.S. Airborne Divisions and England's First Airborne Division in a daring daylight drop into Holland. The airborne Allied troops were to seize roads, bridges and the key communication cities of Eindhoven, Nijmegen and Arnhem, thus cutting Holland in half and clearing a corridor for British armored and motorized columns all the way to the German border.

The 101st mission was to secure the fifteen miles of Hell's Highway stretching from Eindhoven north to Veghel. After less than three months in England, the 502nd was to make its second combat jump. Still under the command of Col Michaelis the unit was to land in Holland on DZ C, seize the small highway bridge over the Dommel River north of Saint Oedenrode and the railroad and road bridges at Best. The 502nd was also given the mission of guarding DZs B & C for the subsequent glider landings. Shortly after 1315 hours on the afternoon of 17 September 1944, after a n uneventful daylight drop, the men of the 502nd gathered up and headed for their objectives.

First Battalion went north to capture the little town of St Oedenrode. Third Battalion sent patrols through the Zonsche forest, trying to move toward the town of Best and the bridge. German resistance was tough in the vicinity of Best but the 502nd fought their way to within 100 yards of the bridge before the Germans blew it up. In fierce fighting around the bridge, Private Joe Mann who was seriously wounded twice during the fighting, was killed when he threw himself on a German grenade to save his fellow soldiers who were in the same foxhole with him. Mann was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for this act of selfless heroism. Ironically, the only other Medal of Honor recipient of 101st during the war, Col. Robert Cole, was shot and killed by a sniper's bullet in the action around the Zonsche Forest. The fate of the third battalion was now in the capable hands of its executive officer Maj. John Stopka. On 22 September, Lt Col Michaelis and three of his staff were seriously wounded by an artillery shell outside of his headquarters. Command of the 502nd passed to 2nd Battalion commander, Steve Chappuis.

After securing their hard-won objectives, the men of the 502nd moved north with the rest of the 101st to take hold of defensive positions on 'The Island', south west of Arnhem. It was here that the 101st would fight some of its toughest battles during its time in Holland.

### **The Ardennes - Battle of the Bulge**

On 16 December, 1944, The Germans had launched a major offensive at dawn on 16 December, west through the Ardennes Forest, in the lightly held sector of our VII Corps. Their goal was the port town of Antwerp where they hoped to choke off the allied supply lines. At that time Shaef's Reserve consisted of the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions. The 101st was ordered to the vitally important town of Bastogne which was the key to the German counteroffensive. From Bastogne radiated several roads that were essential to the German juggernaut. The 101st was jammed into trucks for an overnight rush to Bastogne in Belgium on Dec. 18th. The defense of Bastogne by the 101st presented a formidable obstacle to the surging Fifth Panzer Army of Hasso von Manteuffel. In the ensuing days the encircled 101st engaged in vicious fighting. The 502nd held positions on the north and northwest portion of the envelopment.



After the Germans had failed to break through in other sections of the circle, they sent probes, which attempted to penetrate the areas defended by the 502nd. In an attack that took place on Christmas morning in the Hemroulle area of Belgium, numerous German tanks penetrated the line. Simultaneously farther north strong German infantry elements infiltrated the town of Champs. Two of the German tanks which drove north from Hemroulle attempted to bypass the 502 Regimental C.P. at the Rolle Chateau. In this attack Sky Jackson of the 502nd won the Silver Star for single handedly hitting the two tanks with bazooka fire knocking out one. The other tank escaped only to be destroyed at Champs by another 502nd member John Ballard of A Company who was killed on January 3 1945 in another action. Finally, on December 26th Patton's 4th Armor Division broke through the encirclement and the lifting of the siege of Bastogne began.

On 3 January 1945 the 2nd Battalion engaged in heavy fighting around Longchamps, Belgium. The Germans pressed forward and as many as forty jumpers, mostly from F company, were rounded up and taken prisoner that day. On January 14, 1945 3rd Battalion 502 would again suffer the loss of its commander. Lieutenant Col. John Stopka and some of his troopers were advancing through a pine forest along an elevated rail line. Enemy Tanks were advancing along the other side. Someone called in for air support and the planes strafed too close to the friendly positions, resulting in the death of Col. Stopka and thirty other soldiers near Michamps. With that unfortunate incident, the command of the 3rd Battalion was given to Cecil L Simmons who would lead the unit until the end of the war.

The 101st Airborne held a line along the Moder River for over a month as part of the US 7th Army. On 23 February, the Screaming Eagles were relieved and returned to Mourmelon, France. Here General Eisenhower spoke to the 101st Airborne Division when the unit was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation for its stand at Bastogne. This was the first time in the history of the United States Army that an entire Division had been so honored.

As the war in Europe was nearing its end, the 502nd moved to the Ruhr Pocket on 2 April to help in mop-up operations. Here the 502nd went on the line facing the Rhine River south of Dusseldorf, Germany. On the 4th and 5th of May, the 502nd received and carried out its final wartime mission - the capture of Berchtesgaden, Hitler's Eagles Nest.

The 502nd spent the summer of 1945 on occupation duty near Mittersill, Austria. Returning to France in September, the soldiers continued waiting for transport stateside. The 101st Airborne Division was deactivated in December of 1945.

( Sources: " Paratroopers" by Gerard M. Devlin & Deuces Are Wild, The 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment in WW II.)

Website: <http://www.ww2-airborne.us/units/502/502.html>

Photo of members of the 1st Stick of D-Day Pathfinders - 502<sup>nd</sup> PIR (Capt Lillyman's Stick).

1st Lt Reed Pelfrey is kneeling in the front row extreme-left. (Photo courtesy of [Gordon Stewart](mailto:gstewart@cox.net) </ym/Compose?To=gstewart@cox.net>: WW II Airborne Demonstration Team)

NOTE: Sadly, we cannot identify all the men in the full page photo.

In addition to the name mentioned above,

Standing, second from left, according to labeling on the photo is Capt. Frank Lillyman.







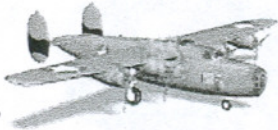
CO. I, 502 PARACHUTE



ROBERT HARTZEL

Care of:  
Betty T. Hill  
2222 Settlers Way Blvd. # 914  
Sugar Land, TX 77478

First Class Mail



**PLAN FOR THE SNOWBIRD REUNION FEBRUARY 2006. DETAILS LATER....**

**We are happy to get your notes to everyone. They keep us united and the Poopsheet alive.  
You can send them to Betty at the address above.**

**Knock, Knock**

I have knocked at heavens door this morning, God asked me...  
My child what can I do for you?  
And I said, Father, please protect and bless the person reading this message...  
God smiled and answered...Request granted