



Company I Poopsheet



Company I, 502 PIR, 101st Airborne

March 2007

Mrs. Ann (Ivan Ray) Hershner, 5427 37th St. N., Arlington, VA 22207 Dec. 21 – To wish you blessings throughout the coming year.... Thanks for your card. I was pleased to hear from the Poopsheet that Ray's (and Joe Hennessey's) trees are doing so well. They saw them planted. I hope my children can see them some day. Ann

(Note: Ann is speaking of the trees in the Peace Forest in Belgium, begun at the 50th liberation anniversary.)

Marvin and Charlotte Cartwright, Elk Mound, WI, December 30, 2006, Hi, Betty--Just can't wait to tell you that Patrick Burns and his sister Sarah came to visit this afternoon. Such nice people and we so enjoyed their visit. Marv was on Patrick's camcorder for maybe close to 2 hours and he just talked & talked. I will E-Mail you a picture of them right away. Now they are on their way back up to the Cities. It was probably a much better day to travel than it would have been tomorrow. Sounds like we are supposed to get 1 to 3 inches of sloppy snow tomorrow. For now our ground is bare. Originally, Patrick was going to come tomorrow afternoon. I am sure the weather forecast changed his mind. Love, Charlie (Patrick is the grandson of LT. **Robert Burns**, I/502)

Patrick Burns writes via email: January 3, 2007 My sister and I really enjoyed visiting Marvin and Charlotte. I took an hour and a half video of our conversation with Marv. Very kind folks. Good banana cream pie too!

Mrs. Robert (Estelle) Molesberry, c/o Kathleen Dossy, 957 Golden Gate Terrace, Grass Valley, CA 95945. Phone: 530 273 1698.. In a phone call January 6, 2006 Estelle conveys her best to friends in Item Company. She hasn't moved, but due to the distance to the mailbox at her home, the mail goes to her daughter's address (above). She is in good health and said the airborne is an integral part of her life since she and Bob were married for a year before he went into the Army and then the paratroopers.

June and Joe Hennessey, Southbury, CT/Saratoga, FL, in a phone call Jan.14, June and Joe visited with

Pat and Teresa Callery in their new home in Connecticut, just 20 minutes from th Hennessey's. Pat is back on line now, his email is pcallery@optonline.net Pat had been sick the previous week, but on the mend and emailing again. June and Joe will be at their place in Florida for the remaining winter months.

Domingo Cantu, 6902 Biscayne Dr., San Antonio, TX Ph. 210-355-3599. January 26th phone call Domingo, age 82, has been diagnosed with lung cancer and is undergoing chemo treatments, said he feels pretty good. He recalled his serious neck and chest wound in Normandy from which he spent several months in the hospital and eventually was sent home, not participating in the Holland jump. Doctors tell him that rust residue found in his lung from that wound may have contributed to his condition today. He sends greetings and love to others of Item Company.

Update February 27, 2007: One month later, The phone number above is no longer working. Anyone with information about Domingo, please contact Betty Hill at 281-277-3787.

Robert (Bob) Hartzell, 313 Wentz St., Tiffin, OH, Ph 419 447 4448. From a recent early February phone call, Bob sends his love to all. He was enduring a snowstorm that day. Another phone call February 28, Bob is elated that the snow is melting, he is doing okay!

Floyd Taylor, 304 N. Lawson Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73130, Ph 405 737 3896 Feb. 26... Betty phoned him and enjoyed very much that Floyd remembered her brother, Lester Taylor so well, along with other men, such as, Glenn Moe, Paul Cooney, Beverly F. Hollingsworth, Robert Tripp and Ed Mobley to name a few. Floyd send best wishes to you all.

Warren Shook, 1811 Union Grove Rd., Lenoir, NC 28645, Ph 828 728 9577

Phone call Feb. 26: Warren is recovering from serious foot problems, aggravated by the frozen conditions in the winter of 44 during the Battle of the Bulge. He send his best wishes to everyone.

Harry and Joan Nivens, 1130 Monroe Ave., St. Cloud, FL 34769 Ph 407 957 0098, February 26, Harry has been visiting family in North Carolina, and now preparing for guests from France for first two weeks of March, so it's off to sea World, Disney World, theCape and other Florida sites with their houseguests.

Harry told that his eldest son, Ted, is named for a couple of Item Company men who were Harry's good friends, **Cpl. Cornelius W. Owens** and **Pfc. Emmitt T. Nix**. Both died at Carentan. Harry and Joan send their love.

Walter and Kay Murdock, 7220 Quartz Hill Rd., Placerville, CA 95667, Ph 530 626 7073, February 28 phone call with Kay. They had planned to attend the Snowbird Reunion, even bought airline tickets, but as the time approached, Walter was feeling so bad they had to cancel. In early November he suffered a heart attack and it's been "downhill" since. Hospice is assisting in his care at home now. He celebrated his 87th birthday in January. Our love and prayers go out to Walter and Kay.

Alfred Simmons, 411 E. Sixth St., Rotan TX 79546, Ph. 325 735 2697, February 28 phone call, Alfred is well and send best wishes to Item Company friends. His wife is recovering from knee replacement surgery on February 20th.

Meredith E. Smith 9879 W. Tams Dr, Baton Rouge, La 70815 Ph 225 924 5521 March 1 phone conversation with Meredith, he is doing okay, sends best wishes to Item Company friends.

Frank Walker, 623 Shell Beach Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601 In phone call attempt on March 1, the phone number we have 337 477 2597 is not accepting incoming calls.

James S. (Jim) Norris, 452 Richardson Dr., Roanoke VA 24019, Ph 540 992 1846. March 1 phone call to Jim's home, spoke with James (Jr.) his son. Jim has Alzheimer's and doesn't understand things or know the people around him most days. Physically, he is doing okay and is living at home and has family there with him.

Earl R. and Virginia Kelly, 3 Morgan Lane, Aberdeen, MD 21001, Ph. 410 272 3330, March 1, phone call with Earl found him doing well, staying close to home with Virginia. He wanted everyone at

the Snowbird Reunion to know he was sorry he could not be there and sends love and good wishes to all.

IN MEMORY: George F. Cruz, 829 N. West, Flagstaff AZ 86004, Ph.928 774 229. George passed away April 26, 2006. March 1, 2007, phone call with Leonor Cruz. She enjoys the newsletter and send best wishes to Item Company.

SPRING FORWARD - The time change is 3 weeks earlier this year, **March 11**, move forward 1 hour.

THE NEW CARENTAN HISTORICAL CENTER

EDITOR'S NOTE: D-Day, and Normandy, and their importance in our lives is huge. If you have any photo, story or memorabilia to contribute, please consider doing so.

When I learned about the plans for the museum, I contacted the Director, and provide here some information from the Director of the Museum, Michel de Trez. I hope we all will respond with any help we can to make Item Company an integral part of this museum.

After some discussion with a few veterans, I have taken the liberty to provide Mr. de Trez him with the postal addresses of our veterans and the available family contact of the officers of Item Company in Normandy. Thanks and with love, Betty



December 23, 2006, Dear Betty, My name is Michel de Trez, I am the director of the Carentan Historical Center. Your mail came as a "God send". US Airborne history is my passion

(I authored & published 10 books on that subject www.d-day-publing.be). 3rd Battalion, 502nd is our favorite outfit and we are working on honoring the brave paratroopers of this battalion more than any other in our future historical center. There is more related to 3/502 that I haven't got time to put on the website yet.

There is a new French law which prohibited building on ground standing below sea level. The ground at La Barquette, Carentan (first place selected for the Carentan Historical Center building) is below sea level so had to switch location. Just recently, the Carentan city council voted the purchase of the land located at Bridge #4 on Purple Heart Lane, Carentan as the new

location for the Carentan Historical Center. This land is the field from which Col. Cole started his famous bayonet charge. Cole's charge will be even more present in this complex. We are currently thinking on erecting a huge monument in honor of LTC. Cole, his men and the heroic charge. Soon, I will be able to send you pictures of the proposed monument. I just wanted to touch base with you, tell you that I am very excited that you contacted me. What we are doing is labor of love and knowing that veterans from Item Co and their families know about what we are doing is the best reward we could get. I wish you a very merry Christmas and I will write again when back from holiday. Warmest regards

Carentan Historical Center
Michel de Trez
103-105, Rue Marcellis
B-1970 Wezembeek-Oppem Belgium

Phone: 011 - 32 21 731.3224

EMAIL: d-day@skynet.be

Visit us on the web at:

Airborne Museum www.paratrooper-museum.org

Book Store www.d-day-publishing.be

January 1, 2007, I'd like to wish you a very good year 2007. I would like you to do an introduction of the museum and the Cole Monument we are working on, in the next "Poopsheet", would you do that?

For the museum, we are specifically looking for any photos from I/Co that might have been taken in Normandy and pictures and recollections of troopers who took part at the bayonet charge. We want to video tape any survivor of this particular action for a film we will be showing in the museum. Can you help us finding out if any of the veteran on your list participated at the Carentan bayonet charge and is willing to talk about it.

For a book I am working on, I am looking for any I/502 pictures taken in Holland or on the tarmac prior the operation, to your knowledge does any veteran or family member have these kind of pictures?

If you know about any I/502 vet or family visiting Normandy make sure to let us know about it so we can make arrangements to show them places they wanted to go to and help with anything that might make their trip easier. Michel de Trez

February 07, 2007, announcement:

Cole's Bayonet Charge National Monument

For gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty

SAINT-COME-DU-MONT

CARENTAN

Normandy France

11 June 1944

The battle for Carentan was one the bloodiest of the U.S. Airborne's history. After five days of fierce combat at the edge of Carentan, LTC obert G. Cole, while pinned down by intense enemy fire, searching desperately for an ultimate way to seal the fate of the opposing German paratroops and break into Carentan, lead a desperate bayonet charge upon the enemy. The battlefield at Carentan has not changed much since 1944. Today, othing stands there to recall one of this most decisive battles ever waged by US paratroopers on French soil and the terrible losses suffered.

Cole's Bayonet Charge National Monument commemorating the sacrifices made during this decisive victory will stand as a symbol of a grateful region's esteem for the honored dead of the U.S. Airborne. The site selected to erect the monument is the same pastoral beauty that was witness to such violence and heroism on that day of June 11, 1944.

The plan calls for a giant bronze four character statue to be standing in the heart of the battefield, at Bridge # 4, at the end of Purple Heart Lane, on the very land where the famous bayonet charge took place. This is on the hearth of the Natural Park Des Marais, at the city limit of Carentan, overlooking the Ingouf farm house where the German paratroops set up their defensive line, the monument commemorating this pivotal battle will vanguard the entrance of the new Carentan Historical Center devoted to honor and recall the event of June 1944.

The artists designing the giant bronze monument are the Carentan Historical Center and Toccoa Concept.

The statue captures a glimpse of the most significant moment of the bayonet charge extracted from Cole's Medal of Honor citation - with utter disregard for his own safety and completely ignoring the enemy fire, LTC Cole rose to his feet in front of his battalion and with drawn pistol shouted to his men to follow him in the assault. Catching up a fallen man's rifle and bayonet, he charged on and led the remnants of his battalion across the bullet-swept open ground and into the enemy position.

The statue depicts three World War II paratroopers

from the 101st Airborne Division during the dramatic moment lead by LC Cole.

LTC Robert G. Cole, Commander 3rd Bn., 502nd, was awarded the Medal of Honor for leading the charge. Cole's face as well as uniform and equipment he wore are sculpted from photographic records.

Charging at Cole's right stands 1SGT Kenneth Ned Sprecher. Ken Sprecher, 1st Sgt of "H" Co., 3rd Bn. was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism during the charge. Sprecher's face as well as uniform and equipment he wore are sculpted from photographic records.

Charging at Cole's left stands PVT Allen Emery, a mortar man from "HQ" Company, 3rd Bn. 502nd PIR, awarded the Bronze Star for exemplary conduct in combat at Carentan. Emery's face as well as uniform and equipment he wore are sculpted from photographic records.

On the ground, passing his bayoneted rifle to LTC Cole, lays a paratrooper from "I" Company, 3rd Bn., 502nd PIR.

On the imposing stone pedestal fiercely displaying the Screaming Eagle of the 101st Airborne Division, one will be able to read on bronze plaques the official citations awarded to these valorous paratroopers. These four men selected to represent the instant of history commemorated in the monument will forever stand as the stunning symbol of bravery and heroism of the United States Army Paratrooper.

The timetable for completion is June 2009, the 65th anniversary of D-Day.

Assistance from any individual or organization desiring to help make this monument a reality is welcomed. Michel de Trez

POOPSHEET EXPENSE REPORT

Balance before last issue:	\$337
Printing, mailing last issue	165
Ink	25
Balance <u>before</u> this issue	\$147

AS YOU SEE, FUNDS ARE LOW. AND AFTER THIS ISSUE, EXPENDED. WE CAN CONTINUE THE POOPSHEET AS FUTURE FUNDS PROVIDE. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$ AND NEWS KEEP US GOING.

Send to: Betty T. Hill, 2222 Settlers Way, # 914, Sugar Land, TX 77478

PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY NAME, ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER CHANGE

EDITOR'S NOTE: I HAVE TALKED TO MANY IN RECENT DAYS, BUT IF THERE ARE OTHERS WHO KNOW OF AN ITEM COMPANY MAN WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE BAYONNET CHARGE AT CARENTAN, PLEASE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY. CONTACT: Betty Hill, 281-277-3787, at the address above, or email bjth23@yahoo.com

TOUR NORMANDY OR HOLLAND AND BELGIUM: UPCOMING HISTORICAL TOURS

G-2 Associates conducting leadership training, seminars and historical tours where the stage of history becomes a classroom for today. Among their other scheduled tours is a **historical tour of Normandy in June 2007**, that information is at <http://www.g-2associates.com/> We know these people as respected, knowledgeable historians and tour directors. Betty Hill enjoyed a half day with some of this group last September in Holland.

OPERATION TORCH TOUR - September 2007:

An Operation Market Garden tour for any family member or friend of the airborne. Two Item Company members, Kathy Moe Hagen and Betty Taylor Hill were on the 2006 tour and will highly recommend it. Email or phone Petra Wendstedt p.wendstedt@chello.nl Ph 011-31 40 212 2856 Full details and Register at their website www.screamingeagles.nl

The USA contact for Operation Torch is CSM (Ret) Joseph M. (Joe) Bossi, Cell Ph. 931 624 8060, Clarksville, TN email jmbossi@peoplepc.com

Event Information

What: Gathering of Eagles

When: March 17th, 2007

0700-1600 (7 AM to 4 PM)

Where: The Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall, Washington D.C.

Why: To stand silent guard over our nation's memorials, in honor of our fallen, and in solidarity with our armed forces in harm's way today.

Read more about this organization and their mission statement at <http://gatheringofeagles.org/>



**SNOWBIRD REUNION
KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 1-2-3, 2007**

Left: Ed Mobley purchasing the book, "Avening Eagles" from author, Mark Bando.

The book is available only from Mark Bando. To order, send check \$33 to Mark at:

PO Box 40715, Bedford, MI 48239.

It contains stories heretofore untold in previous books and relates several stories from Item Company experiences.

The crowd was smaller this year, 240 people registered, but the their spirit was great. Everyone seemed to enjoy the fellowship and promised to return again. The banquet speaker, 101st Airborne Div. Command Sergeant Major Frank Grippe was impressive and interesting.

L - R: Joe Hennessey, Ed Mobley and Harry Nivens.



L-R Clara Mobley, June and Joe Hennessey, Ed Mobley, Harry and Joanie Nivens, Kathy Moe Hagen, Betty Taylor Hill



Left: Ed Mobley's family, daughter Barbara and her husband, Cecil Slover, Ed and Clara.

Right: Susan Lillyman Hyland and George Koskimaki, author of Hell's Highway and other WWII books.



L - R: Susan Lillyman Hyland, daughter of Frank Lillyman, and her husband, Frank Hyland with Joan and Harry Nivens.

First time we've seen Susan at the reunion. June & Joe and Joanie & Harry talked with her about their time with she and Mrs. Lillyman at the Hershner's home in DC for a dedication ceremony some years ago.



L - R:
Joe Hennessey,
Ed Mobley and
Harry Nivens,
Item Company
502 veterans at
the Snowbird
Reunion,
February 2007.

January 1945



*The 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment
at Longchamps (Bastogne).*

Represented to be a photo poster of two troopers of the 502 Parachute Infantry at Longchamps, January 1945. Some items seen in the snow are a rifle, bazooka, machinegun, k-ration. Seller says they are 2/502 as identified on the helmets? That is a heart on one helmet.

Easy to see how cold it must have been.

Copied from sale item on eBay....sold for \$171.



Operation Torch

14 - 25 September 2007

11-day trip through the
Operation Market Garden area

Including hotels, meals and day trips
(Airfare and drinks not included)

\$ 2.375,00

(based on double occupancy hotel room)



Preliminary Programme

- 14 September - arrival Amsterdam
Get-acquainted party in WWII style
- 15 September - dropping Ginkelse Heide
- 16 September - "The Island"
- 17 September - Eerde/ Veghel/ Heeswijk Dinther
- 18 September - Eindhoven
- 19 September - Arnhem (British and Polish)
- 20 September - Best/Son St. Oedenrode
- 21 September - Nijmegen 82nd Airborne
- 22 September - Margraten / Bastogne
- 23 September - Bastogne
- 24 September - Henri Chapelle
- 25 September - Departure

Registration form and more information available through:

www.screamingeagles.nl

Screaming Eagles of WWII Foundation

Petra Wenstedt-Pulles (Secretary)

Jan van Eyckgracht 197

5645 TH Eindhoven

The Netherlands

Email: p.wenstedt@chello.nl

Phone: (011) - 31 40 212 2856

CO. I, 502 PARACHUTE

INFANTRY



ROBERT HARTZELL

Care of:
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Sugar Land, TX 77478

First Class Mail



MEMORIAL DAY 2007 - WASHINGTON D.C.

The National Capital Area Chapter will be hosting our annual Memorial Day tribute to our fallen Screaming Eagles. A comprehensive program is planned for the weekend, and all Screaming Eagles, relatives and friends of the 101st Airborne Division are invited to participate

Visit the Screaming Eagles website for more information, detailed events and registration.

www.screamingeagle.org (reunions)

2007 (62nd Annual) Reunion - Omaha, Nebraska

The 2007 101st Airborne Division Assn. will be held in Omaha. More information will follow in the future, please mark your calendars now -

The dates will be August 8-11, 2007

The reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn Central, 3321 South 72nd Street, Omaha, NE 68124. Telephone (402) 393-3950

Room rates are \$89 for single and double occupancy.

Plans are underway for a golf tournament, a riverboat cruise, a trip to the Henry Doorley Zoo, and a trip to the Air Space Museum.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON REUNIONS -

Media contact: Sam Bass Tel: (270) 439-0445 Fax: (270) 439-6645 E-mail sambass101@comcast.net