



# Company I Poopsheet

Company I, 502 PIR, 101st Airborne, US Army

June 209

## IN MEMORY

James S. Norris, Jr. Phoned to tell us of the passing of his father, James S. (Jim) Norris, Sr.. Jim was in the original 502 Parachute Battalion before he went into Company I, 502 PIR, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne:

**James S. Norris, Sr.,** 91, of Roanoke, Va. went to be



with the Lord on Monday, February 23, 2009. He is preceded in death by his wife, Frances, a brother and two sisters. He was retired from the Salem VAMC in the Engineer Dept. as a welder in 1972. He was a veteran of World War II and served as a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division and was in France on D-

Day and the Battle of the Budge, where he was a recipient of the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Jim was a long time member of the Northminster Presbyterian Church. For many years he raised vegetables in Cloverdale, where he raised his corn and cantaloupe, he had many loyal customers. He transported cars for many years for Rick Woodson Honda and other dealerships.

Surviving are his son, James S. Norris, Jr., of Roanoke; daughter and son-in-law, Carolyn and Tommy Stultz, of Roanoke; two grandchildren, Heather S. Fields and husband, Jason, Christy S. Stephan and husband, Matt. Flowers are appreciated or memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Disease Association.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the D.A.V, staff of the Salem VAMC, Gentle Sheperd Hospice and Priscilla Jones for their care and compassion.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday February 25, 2009 at Oakey's North Chapel. interment will be in Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday February, 24, 2009 at Oakey's North Chapel, 540-362-1237.

Published in the Roanoke Times on 2/24/2009

**Catherine Felice,** 114 Syracuse Avenue, Medford, NY 11736 phoned to tell us of the passing of her mother Teresa Callery wife of Patrick Callery, medic, I-502 who died in 2007 Teresa had been sick as we reported in the last newsletter and was waiting for surgery for an aneurism. She passed peacefully in her sleep.

### **Teresa (Demasco) Callery,**

CALLERY - Teresa (nee Demasco), of Medford, NY, formerly of West Hempstead NY on February 26, 2009. Beloved wife of the late **Patrick J. Callery,** Devoted mother of Patrick and Catherine.

Loving sister of Anthony J. Demasco and the late Dominick. Cherished grandmother of Christopher, Allison, Jessica, Lara, Sean, and five great-grandchildren.

Reposing Barnes-Sorrentino Funeral Home Inc., 539 Hempstead Ave., W. Hempstead (1 mile N. Exit 17N. S.S. Pkwy.) on Sunday 2-4:30 and 7-9:30pm.

Mass of Christian Burial Monday 10am at St. Thomas the Apostle R.C. Church, West Hempstead. Interment to follow at Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, NY. Published in *The New York Times*.

## Late photos from the Snowbird Reunion



L-R: Billy Palmer, Harry Nivens, Ellen Palmer, and Joan Nivens. The Palmers visited on Saturday of the Snowbird Reunion. Ellen is the niece of Pfc. Emmitt T. Nix, I-502, a close friend of Harry, who died June 10, 1944 on the causeway near Carentan.

## A GOOD FRIEND OF THE 101<sup>ST</sup> AIRBORNE



Shown above with Lori Novotni, (left) g-niece of Ed Sowder I-502, is Loretta Minotti, Easton, PA, at age 86 is a very devoted friend of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. Not having any immediate family members, her airborne friends are her "family". Loretta was injured in an accident at her church in late September 2008 and after 3 and ½ months in the hospital and nursing home recuperating and in therapy, she bravely made the trip from PA to Kissimmee, FL for the Snowbird Reunion. Loretta hasn't missed many National and Snowbird Reunion in several years. We admire her courage and devotion to the veterans of WWII and their families. It was an honor to sit with her at the dinner on Saturday night at the February reunion. She is also a great supporter of our newsletter. We thank you and love you Loretta. Sincerely, Betty Hill

**Mrs. Willford (Eva) Matte** has a new address:  
942 Grayson Dr. # 311, Springfield, MA 01119

*We appreciate everyone keeping us up-to-date with address changes.*

**Fonzie W. May**, Acworth, GA, A paratrooper in Item Company, 502, has mail returned to us with no forwarding address. All efforts to confirm his address have been unsuccessful.

### EMAILS FIND THE BURIAL SITE OF PVT. EUGENE O. GAUKEL, I CO. 502 PIR,

In early March we heard from Mark Bando that Morgan and Mary Insua who live in California were looking for information regarding Mary's great uncle, **Pvt. Eugene O. Gaukel, SN 37315267**, who served in I Company, 502 PIR, 101st Airborne during WWII.

Our I Company records indicated that Eugene died June 11, 1944 along the causeway near Carentan and at that time he was serving as a Medic.

We immediately wrote to Morgan and Mary Insua via email and learned that Eugene's siblings and immediate family have passed away. They had recently found some pictures and papers in family archives.

They had also read on an internet website the memoirs of **Eldon Abrahamsen, I-502**, (photo right) years ago by Kurt Barickman, historian, in Albert Lea, Minnesota. We printed these in the January 2006 Popsheet. In there Eugene Gaukel was mentioned several times. Kurt remembered that Eugene might be buried in Brookings, South Dakota.



We passed this information along to Kris Polley in France who is very adept in internet searches, Remember? Kirs found Troy W. Norris' gravesite in north Texas for us last year. so within a few days, was in touch with Barbara Behrend, in Brookings, South Dakota. Barbara, now 85, related us that her husband served in the Navy in WWII. He was a D-Day Survivor with the Naval 11th Amphibious Force supporting the landing forces on Omaha Beach 6 June 1944. Later he served in the South Pacific. Barbara provided the exact location of Eugene's gravesite in Block 7, Lot 15 in the Greenwood Cemetery, Brookings, SD and also his obituary. Our thanks go to these people for their efforts.

His g-niece, Mary Insua, has written a profile of Eugene O. Gaukel, that follows:

### Great Uncle Found - -PVT Eugene O. Gaukel "I" Company, 502nd PIR 101st Airborne Division

"My search for my great uncle Eugene Gaukel started with a family story that he was involved in D-Day. Sadly, the passing of time had only preserved this small bit of information. With the help of many across this country and abroad in France and Belgium, I have been able to discover the heroic service performed by Eugene. Thank you all who directly and indirectly assisted me in preserving this important family and military history. What follows is a brief biography on my great uncle Eugene Gaukel. Eugene was born in Beroun, Minnesota on February 14, 1922 and was the youngest of 10 children. Eugene's parents were South Dakota framers who had moved to Minnesota to continue farming. Eugene's childhood was spent on the farm and



enjoying the outdoors.

In 1942, at the age of 20, Eugene enlisted in the service and joined the paratroopers in Fort Benning, Georgia. After basic training, jump school, and earning his paratrooper wings he was sent to England in the early months of 1944. By this time he was a member of the PIR 502 Company "I" and was stationed in the small town of Chilton Foliat located in Southwest England.

On D-Day, Eugene (Photo left) was flying over the English Channel on a C-47 waiting for the jumpmaster to give the go ahead. At approximately 1:00am, Eugene was parachuting over the French countryside. As with many who jumped that day he landed far off his intended drop zone. His activities during that day have been lost to history but, we know that by the evening of June 6<sup>th</sup> he was near the town of St. Come du Mont and doing the night watch in a nearby cemetery.

The next day was spent advancing their position and engaging in several combat encounters. By nightfall Eugene was under the command of Lt. John Painschab, (KIA 6-10-44) who had given him various patrol and combat assignments. During one particular exchange with German infantry it was reported that a mortar round exploded close enough to Eugene to have his helmet fly off.

During the days between June 8th and 10th, Eugene moved steadily to Company I's primary objective, the town of Carentan. The advancement along the causeway to Carentan was extremely difficult, resulting in very high casualty rates. Late in the evening of June 10<sup>th</sup>, two German dive bombers, coming from the direction of Carentan and flying at treetop level along the road, unloaded AP bombs all along the causeway.

Eugene was wounded during this attack. He gave his full measure of service as this was his final action in World War 2. He died in the early morning hours of June 11.

Eugene's body was buried in France until he was returned home in 1949 and buried in Brookings, South Dakota next to his mother and brother. I nk you Uncle Gene for your service." Mary Insua

## KIA's Item C., 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., 502 PIR, 101<sup>st</sup> Airbrne Division 1944-1945, WWII

(Listed by Date: Exact day unknown shows '00')

Compiled by Robert Hartzell, I-502

Pfc. Charles W. Hugi	44-06-00
Pfc. John M. Morgan	44-06-00
Pvt. James A. Dodson	44-06-00
Pvt. William E. Foley	44-06-00
Pvt. Herman Addleson	44-06-06
Pvt. Roy J. Sherrod	44-06-06
1st Lt. George A. Larish	44-06-10
1st Lt. John P. Painschab	44-06-10
2nd Lt. Benny J. Klemantc	44-06-10
Pfc. Emmitt T. Nix	44-06-10
Pfc. Stanley W. Tkaczyk	44-06-10
Pvt. Eugene O. Gaukel	44-06-10
Sgt. Jerry A. Boffo	44-06-10
Cpl. Cornelius W. Owens	44-06-11
Pvt. Edward R. Sowder	44-06-11
Pvt. John C. Norton	44-06-11
Pfc. William A. Nesbit	44-09-17
Sgt. Everett D. Dye	44-09-18.
Cpl. Lester A. Taylor	44-09-19
Pvt. John R. Clark	44-09-19
Pvt. Leslie B. Nussbaum	44-09-19
Pvt. William E. Baker	44-09-19
S/Sgt. Julius J. Sovak	44-09-19
Pfc. Paul B. Gentle	44-09-26
Cpl. Jerry A. Sevier	44-10-05
Sgt. Joseph A. Miller	44-10-06
Pfc. Charles A. Delong	44-11-15
Pvt. Gerald B. Malone	44-11-16
Pvt. Jack R. Plumb	44-12-00
Pvt. Joseph M. Burke	44-12-00
S/Sgt. Troy W. Norris	44-12-00
Pvt. Ernest F. Bruno	44-12-27
Pvt. Fred Cid	44-12-28
Pvt. Lorain o. Westenhav	44-12-28
S/Sgt. Harold E. Waller	44-12-28
Pfc. Claude A. Wilson	44-12-29
Pvt. Benigno G. Salazar	44-12-29
1st Lt. Edward G. Tyree	45-01-03
Cpl. Frank J. Pilwallis	45-01-03
Pfc. Leonard E. Bruce	45-01-03
Pvt. Andrew T. Hroma	45-01-10
Pvt. Clarence C. Eckert	45-01-10

KIA's I-502 (total 42)

## US experts in Germany to search for missing WW2 GIs

*A team of American experts has arrived in Germany to search for the remains of GIs who died fighting the Nazis in World War Two.*

By Our Foreign Staff

Last Updated: 16 Sep 2008



78,000 Americans are still officially classified as missing in WW2

Tens of thousands of American troops fell in the Eifel Mountain region as the forces of Hitler made them fight for every inch of ground.

Many of them have never been found, their corpses lost on the battlefields.

The Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command of the US Department of Defence (JPAC) is "now combing the killing fields for the remains of those warriors".

Unlike Britain, which buries its war dead at the sites where they fell, America's tradition is to bring every soldier it can home to a hero's funeral. In recent years the focus has been on more recent wars, such as Vietnam and Korea.

But now, with an annual budget close to £30m the decision has been taken to comb Germany for some of the 78,000 Americans still officially classified as missing in WW2.

The job of Denise To, who heads the team, is to find the remains, ship them to laboratories back home and have them firmly identified before they can be released for burial or cremation to relatives.

Currently they are trying to find remains of soldiers and airmen in the Huertgen Forest, scene of a devastating clash of arms in 1944 that cost 32,000 American lives.

Americans and Germans fought at close quarters, often in hand-to-hand combat, as heavy guns tore up the forest around them. The dead were buried where

they lay or interred by the high explosive shells of both sides.

Huertgen is something of a "forgotten" battlefield to Americans. It never achieved the immortality of the breakout from Normandy or the Battle of the Bulge but was deadlier than both.

Now, in a bid to bring home the remains of the dead, To and her team hope that Huertgen will become more of a household name in the consciousness of Americans.

Much of their activity occurs after speaking to elderly local residents who remember planes crashing and tanks blowing up. Last week a crash site of a P-38 Lightning fighter which crashed killing its pilot was identified thanks to such local knowledge.

Deep in the forest walkers find helmets, shrapnel, bullet cartridges and the other detritus of war on a daily basis.

"We are working with local people and historical groups intently to bring these boys home after so long," said To.

More than 2,000 are missing in the Huertgen forest.

Realistically, the teams searching in the area over the next six months will be lucky to find a dozen bodies.

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## NEW LEADERS

March 26, 2009, Major General John F. Campbell has been named to replace MG Schloesser as the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division CG. He is currently the Deputy Director of Regional Operations for the JCS since Feb 2008. He has been in the J-3 Operations Directorate in the Pentagon Commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> Bde, 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn Div. Deputy CG for the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. Previous assignments include the 5<sup>th</sup> SFG at Ft Bragg. He has served in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sam Bass, Executive Secretary and Treasurer  
101st Airborne Division Associatio  
[www.screamingeagle.org](http://www.screamingeagle.org)

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March 26, 2009 From Past President Johnny Velasquez  
[www.screamingeagle.com](http://www.screamingeagle.com)

CSM Grippe (photo left) called me the other night informing me that he was on his way to Iraq. He has now been there two days. He wanted me to inform all, and he

sends his regards. May God bless him and all the Troops, and may they come home safely. CSM Frank Grippe was the speaker the 2008 Reunion in

Reno, NV. CSM Frank Grippe is currently serving with 1 Corps from Ft. Lewis, WA. He will be in charge of all the soldiers in Iraq.



SM Grippe was the speaker at the 2007 Snowbird Reunion in Kissimmee, FL February 2007, Snowbird Reunion: Photo above: L-R, Tedi Schmoll, MN, Kathy Moe Hagen, WA, CSM Grippe, Banquet Speaker, Elaine Smith, FL, Betty Taylor Hill, TX.

April 10, 2009, email to Dick Winters and Brice Bickerton, CSM Grippe writes:

*Team Screaming Eagle.....HooooAhhhh from Baghdad....In between patrols so will make this short. Thanks for all your energies as you each take care of our Troopers and Families. Hope to see you all in October at the AUSA convention.....Enjoy the photo's... Airborne / AASLT.....Frank.*

Frank A. Grippe

Multi-National Corps-Iraq CSM

ATTN: Office of the Command Sergeant Major APO AE 09342

VOIP: 318-485-2189

SVOIP:708-242-0103

frank.grippe@iraq.centcom.mil

frank.grippe@s-iraq.centcom.smil.mil

#### **Frenk Derks van de Ven, Son, Netherlands,**

I have been reading the I/502 Poopsheet every time you have emailed it and maybe now I have something that is worth to be mentioned in it. We have a foundation now to start of projects in this region. We will be holding exhibitions this year because of the 65th anniversary of Market Garden. Also we will be placing a new monument in the town of Mook in the 82nd area to honor the 505th that liberated that town. If you want to know more just read our website: [www.rememberseptember1944.com](http://www.rememberseptember1944.com) ..... Frank

The foundation 'Remember September 1944' has the purpose keeping the memory alive of all things that

happened during operation Market Garden in World War II in the Netherlands.

The foundation wants to achieve this goal by:

- Holding exhibitions
- Informing veterans, family or any other person with a World War II interest
- Doing school projects for primary and secondary schools
- Expanding our knowledge by investigation

The foundation is a non-profit organization. All donations will be invested in achieving these goals and keeping the memory of the veterans alive.

#### **Foundation Events - Exhibitions September 2009 (Netherlands)**

##### **Tavern, restaurant 't Zwaantje**

Groesbeekseweg 106  
6585 KH Mook, Netherlands,  
Phone: +31(0)24-6961434

Email: [info@t-zwaantje.nl](mailto:info@t-zwaantje.nl)

Website: [www.t-zwaantje.nl](http://www.t-zwaantje.nl)

##### **Hotel, restaurant La Sonnerie**

Nieuwstraat 45  
5691 AB Son en Breugel, Netherlands  
Phone: +31(0)499-460222

Email: [info@sonnerie.nl](mailto:info@sonnerie.nl) Website: [www.sonnerie.nl](http://www.sonnerie.nl)

#### **SEARCH FOR INFORMATION ON I CO. TROOPER:**

April 13, 2009, Mark Bando, author/historian, sent us this message he received from Robert E. Young.

If you could help me, I'd greatly appreciate it. My cousin was in the 101st 502nd PIR Co I, during WW2. He was killed during Operation Market Garden 17 Sept, 1944. His name is **William A. Nesbit**, ID# 33762197 . He was from western Pennsylvania. He's buried at the Cambridge American Cemetery in Cambridge, England. His father was William Nesbit (WW1 vet). His mother was Elizabeth (Young) Nesbit. Elizabeth was my aunt. When William enlisted in 1943, he was living in either Sykesville, PA. or Reynoldsville, PA.

Would you possibly have a photo of him in uniform, or any info on him? I'm trying to put together his military history for our family. I'm very proud of him for serving in the 101st and giving the ultimate sacrifice for his Country. Thank You, Robert E. Young ([obyoung510@comcast.net](mailto:obyoung510@comcast.net))

Editor's Note: Bob Young, PA, has called several veterans of I Company, some remembered Nesbit.

**Marvin and Charlotte Cartwright**, April 16: Bob Young called Marv and I think they chatted for nearly

an hour! Marv did know William Nesbitt, and told him just what happened. But they weren't in the same plane. Marv knew him while they were in England. He was in a machine gun squad, and had red hair! He was jumping with his machine gun was why he was first man in the door, ready to jump when he was killed. He was kept on the plane and returned to England where he is buried in the Cambridge National Cemetery..

**Earl Kelly**, I-502 remembers that Nesbitt was in the bunk Earl had occupied when Earl reported back to I Company after his injuries in Normandy.

*In Bob's search for information, he contacted several veterans of I Company or their family... he writes:*

Thanks Betty for the photos and info!!

I talked to **Bernard Stephens** wife. She said Mr. Stephens died May 5, 2001. I asked if she wanted me to let you know. She said yes.

**Ervin Boone** is in the hospital. I talked to his grandson. He said his granddad was dehydrated due to diarrhea. He got e-coli somehow. Hope he gets through it ok.

**Richard Snow's** Ph# may be incorrect. When I called, some guy told me there was no one there by that name. Just thought I'd let you know."

Bob Young

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**Don Groth, Yakima, WA April 23, 2009,**

A four page article published in the current issue of the Air Force Association's *Air Force* magazine can be activated from the link on the last line. Some information new to me, such as: the right wingtips cleared the carrier's island by only six feet.

**Doolittle Raiders Gather:** Five of the nine surviving Doolittle Raiders gathered April 16-18 in Columbia, S.C., for the group's 67th reunion. Thousands of people attended the event to meet the living legends, who on April 18, 1942, led by then-Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, carried out a daring bomber attack on Japan, launching from the USS *Hornet*. With hundreds of spectators present on April 17, four of the Doolittle Raiders—retired Lt. Col. Richard Cole, retired Lt. Col. Robert Hite, retired Lt. Col. Edward Saylor, and retired Maj. Thomas Griffin—participated in a ceremony during which the official Doolittle Raiders' crest, which reads "Toujours au Danger" or "Always into Danger," was passed to the aircrew of the 34th Bomb Squadron's flagship B-1B bomber. The bomber unit is assigned to Ellsworth AFB, S.D. Brig Gen. James Kowalski, commander of Air Force

Global Strike Command (Provisional), took part in the ceremony. The Celebrate Freedom Foundation organized the event. (Defense Media Activity report by Navy Lt. Jennifer Cragg) (For more, read Doolittle's Raid from the April 2009 issue of *Air Force Magazine*.)

<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123145188>



A 467-foot ribbon commemorating the take-off distance the Doolittle Raiders had on the USS *Hornet*, leads from a hangar door to a B-1 Lancer. It was part of the celebration at Columbia Metro Airport in Columbia, S.C., during the 67th Doolittle Raider Reunion. The 34th Bomb Squadron bomber was flown in from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. (U.S. Air Force Photo/Senior Airman William Coleman)

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### **Gravesite of Troy W. Norris, I-502**

**Marla Cooper (Walter G. Presley's niece)**

My wonderful family bought me a new (to me) handicap accessible van, so T.J. and I drove in the old one to Ft. Worth to pick it up. On the way home we stopped at the Roscoe, TX cemetery to see if we could find T.W. Norris's grave.



Heading West on I20, when the road splits to go to the right on state highway 84 or left to continue toward El Paso, to get to the Roscoe cemetery, take

the split going right on Highway 84 toward Roscoe. Off to the right you can see a stand of trees that look like cemetery trees...cedars and such. A road crossing the railroad tracks will take you there. The turn on to that road comes up pretty fast, but it's easy to see where you're going. We drove around in the cemetery looking for the Norris name and we found it just a few plots South of the Northwest corner.



It was late in the day and because his marker faces East, everything is in shadow. Still, the marker is readable. The whole weekend had been stormy and what wind! A freshly plowed field surrounds the cemetery, so there was a lot of dirt flying around. I couldn't help but think of what Uncle Dub told me about the first time he met T.W. - "Like me, he was from the country." I assume they both came off farms...I know Uncle Dub did. Dub said T.W.'s place was about 14 miles Northwest of Roscoe, and once we got back on I20 heading for Odessa, it wasn't long until we crossed "Norris Road." I like to think it went right straight to T.W.'s childhood home.

Anyway, the first picture is of the Norris Family plot marker. To the upper right, near the brick plot border, you can see T.W.'s grave. Maybe that will give some perspective. The somewhat round medallion-looking thing that's sticking up above the grave, we could not get a good picture of at all. But T.J. said it was T.W.'s "badge." I'm not sure what that means. I staid in the car while T.J. Ballinger, my guy, took these pictures.

**Lt. Col.. Robert Cole Monument to be unveiled in Holland September 18.**

April 29, Tom timmermans, Eindhoven, Netherlands writes::



(Photo left: Robert Cole, West Point) The monument to Lt. Col. Bob Cole, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Commander, 502 PIR, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division and Medal of Honor recipient, will be unveiled on September 18th 2009 at 14.00 at the

location where Colonel Cole was killed. That is on the North corner of Sonseweg and the dirt road named Schietbaanlaan in Best. There will be a demonstration jump by jumpers from a vintage Dakota with jumpers in US Army WWII uniforms and equipment (but with newer round canopy 'chutes!).



The field above where Col. Cole was killed in action on September 18, 1944.

**SEPTEMBER 8 -22, 2009 - TOUR**

Time is running out to sign up for the 2009 Market Garden Operation Torch Tour. Details were the March 2009 Poopsheet and can be seen at [www.screamingeagles.nl](http://www.screamingeagles.nl).

**Contact: Joseph M. Bossi (CSM Ret),**  
**2231 Pendleton Dr., Clarksville, TN 37042-5618**  
**Cell Joe at: 931-624-8060**  
**Email: [jmbossi@peoplepc.com](mailto:jmbossi@peoplepc.com)**



**Windmill at Eerde - (currently under restoration)**  
**501 PIR battle area, as seen in 2006 Operation Torch Tour and included again this year, Sept. 17.**

## WEB PAGES HONORING ITEM COMPANY, 502 PIR, 101<sup>ST</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION

Webmaster, Donald van den Oort, is currently constructing pages honoring I Company. This site is at [www.pararesearchteam.com](http://www.pararesearchteam.com). Click on the quick main menu "I Co. 502<sup>nd</sup> PIR"..., leading to several pages of pictures and profiles of various members of I Company. If you will include your I Co. veteran in this site, please send a photo(s) and brief profile to Betty Taylor Hill at [bjth23@yahoo.com](mailto:bjth23@yahoo.com) or by US mail, 2222 Settlers Way # 914, Sugar Land, TX 77478.

We would like to include as many as possible in this permanent site. Donald has spent many many hours building a memorable site to honor I company, we thank him for his time and devotion.

Once the pages are up for viewing, please check it out to see if your I Company veteran is there. The Pooosheet editor has provided as many as possible to Donald for inclusion, however, many are missing.

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## Hidden Auschwitz message hailed as rare find

By MONIKA SCISLOWSKA Associated Press Writer

May 6, 2009 **The Herald newspaper, Monterrey, CA**



Waclaw Sobczak, former  
Auschwitz-Birkenau prisoner in  
photo left.

(We have excerpts here from the  
news article)

Photo/Alik Keplicz)) OSWIECIM,  
Poland—A note hidden in a bottle

by Auschwitz prisoners 65 years ago in a desperate attempt to preserve a small piece of themselves was added Wednesday to the archives of the Polish state-run museum dedicated to the memory of the former Nazi death camp's victims. Museum Director Piotr Cywinski hailed the document—a list of the names of seven camp inmates that was discovered last month—as a rare discovery and a cause for celebration, given that at least three of the prisoners are still living today.

The note, written in pencil on a scrap from a cement bag, was discovered by a construction crew renovating a cellar that was used by Nazis during World War II as a bunker and place to store food. The building is now on the grounds of a vocational school in Oswiecim, a town the Nazis called Auschwitz, whose director handed the note over to Cywinski in a ceremony.

One of the survivors, Waclaw Sobczak, recalled that

he and his fellow inmates never expected to survive the camp and wanted to leave behind a trace of their lives.

Dated Sept. 20, 1944, the note bears the names, camp numbers and hometowns of the seven prisoners—six Roman Catholics from Poland and one Jewish inmate from France. It says that all were between the ages of 18 and 20 and assigned to build an anti-aircraft bunker for camp commanders.

"We agreed that we may not survive and that we will make this message in the bottle, and that we will put down our names and camp numbers and we will leave it in the bunker wall," Sobczak recalled in a brief speech at the handover ceremony.

He said he was "happy and satisfied" to hear the bottle was found, even though it brought back sad memories of the suffering that he endured and witnessed during 18 months as an Auschwitz inmate. He said he either placed it in the wall himself or covered it in cement, but can't remember exactly anymore.

The other two known survivors are Albert Veissid, a French Jew, and Kazimierz Czekalski, a Pole from the city of Lodz.

The others on the list are Bronislaw Jankowiak and Stanislaw Dubla, who both died after the war, while nothing is known of the fate of two more, Waldemar Bialobrzeski and Jan Jazik.

Our thanks to Mike Assting for sharing us this article.  
And a few days later the story continues below:

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## Mystery of message in a bottle found at Auschwitz solved



By Stanislaw  
Waszak Stanislaw  
Waszak –  
Sat May 9, 2009  
(We have excerpts  
here from the news  
article)  
WARSAW (AFP) –  
Sixty-five years ago  
Waclaw Sobczak

hid a message in a bottle between the bricks of a wall in a building of the Nazi German Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, a last sign of life as he prepared to die.

"I put the bottle in the wall," Sobczak, 84, who survived Auschwitz but still bears the ID number – 145664 – the Nazis tattooed on his forearm, told AFP via telephone from his home in Wrabczyn, western Poland.



"It was an attempt to leave a trace of our existence as we thought we were going to die," said Sobczak, sent to Auschwitz in 1943 as a slave labourer.

"We were taught how to be masons by engineers and master masons, primarily French Jews," said Karol Czekalski, 83, another of the Poles named on the list, which was formally handed over to the Auschwitz-Birkenau museum in southern Poland, this month.

"From the spring of 1944 some of the apprentices were deemed ready to work," he added. "They joined the 'Luftschutzbunkerbau' responsible for building anti-air raid bunkers."

"We were used for various jobs: plastering, laying tiles... Finally we were chosen to construct this building. It took 8 or 15 days. I vaguely remember some faces. I am certain there was a Frenchman among us," Sobczak recalled, but admitted he cannot remember who came up with idea to write the message.

"Someone found a bottle. I put it in the wall," he said. The Frenchman on the list was Albert Veissid, now a sprightly 84 and living at Allauch in southeastern France. "It's incredible. I remember everything from the camp, from A to Z. As I speak to you now, I can see the images before my eyes," he told AFP after the bottle surfaced. "But this bottle business is an enigma. The biggest surprise of my life," said the former fairground worker, who was arrested by collaborationist French authorities in 1943 and deported to Poland the following year.

Veissid said that while it was a mystery to him how his name appeared on the list, he remembered meeting the six Poles in question while working as a builder at the camp. "It's true I did them some favours. There was food supplied upstairs and they used to steal tubs of marmalade, which I would hide downstairs," he said. "Maybe they wrote my name in the bottle as a way of thanking me."

After news of the bottle's discovery spread, a Swedish woman identified the man who wrote the list -- Bronislaw Jankowiak, Auschwitz ID number 121213 -- as her father. Told about the discovery of the bottled message by relatives in Poland, Irene Jankowiak, 49, said she was stunned.

"I recognised the handwriting. It must be my father's handwriting," Jankowiak told AFP by telephone from her home in Uppsala, north of Stockholm.

"We have compared it to other things he has written, we have old letters and things that he wrote in 1945 in a diary so I'm 100 percent sure actually," she said after seeing photos of the list in published in the local media.

Born in 1926 in Poznan, Bronislaw Jankowiak, a

Catholic Pole who was sent to the camp in 1943, fled to Sweden in 1945 where he worked in a factory for typewriters and calculators in Aatvidaberg, in southern Sweden, and died in 1997. "I think it made him suffer, he wanted to forget it. We asked our parents to write, to leave testimony, but they never wanted to," Irene's sister Margareta told AFP.

Nazi Germany systematically killed more than one million people, mostly European Jews, at the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp located in the then Nazi-occupied southern Polish town of Oswiecim between 1940 and 1945.


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## D-Day, June 6, 1944

*The Allied Invasion of Europe at Normandy*

### General Eisenhower's Message Sent Just Prior to the Invasion

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force! You are about to embark upon a great crusade, toward which we have striven these



many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers in arms on other fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world. Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle hardened, he will fight savagely. But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man to man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our home fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory!

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessings of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

-- Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower

## Airborne Assault

The AIRBORNE ASSAULT into Normandy as part of the D-Day Allied invasion of Europe was the largest use of airborne troops up to that time. Paratroopers of the U.S. 82d and 101st Airborne divisions, the British 6th Airborne Division, the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, and other attached Allied units took part in the assault. Numbering more than 13,000 men, the paratroopers were flown from bases in southern England to the Cotentin Peninsula in approximately 925 C-47 airplanes. An additional 4,000 men, consisting of glider infantry with supporting weapons and medical and signal units, were to arrive in 500 gliders later on D-Day to reinforce the paratroopers. The parachute troops were assigned what was probably the most difficult task of the initial operation -- a night jump behind enemy lines five hours before the coastal landings.

To protect the invasion zone's western extremity and to facilitate the "Utah" landing force's movement into the Cotentin Peninsula, the U.S. 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions descended on the peninsula by parachute and glider in the early hours of D-Day. The paratroopers were badly scattered. Many were injured and killed during the attack, and much of their equipment was lost. But the brave paratroopers fought fiercely, causing confusion among the German commanders and keeping the Germans troops occupied. Their efforts, hampered by harsh weather, darkness and disorganization, and initiative of resourceful soldiers and leaders, ensured that the UTAH BEACH assault objectives were eventually accomplished. The British and Canadian attacks also accomplished their primary goal of securing the left flank of the invasion force

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*From the WWII Poster Gallery*



## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

*June 21, 2009*

### The History of Father's Day

The first known celebration of Father's Day was on July 5, 1908 in Fairmont, West Virginia, where it was commemorated at William Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church South – now known as Central United Methodist Church. Grace Golden Clayton is believed to have suggested it to her pastor after a deadly explosion in nearby Monongah in December, killing 361 men.

It was also during a sermon in 1909 that Sonora Smart Dodd became inspired by Mother's Day. After the death of her mother, Sonora and her siblings were raised by their father William Jackson Smart, a Civil War veteran. Sonora wanted to show how thankful she was to her father and, because William was born in June, she worked to have the first Father's Day celebrated on June 19, 1910.

In 1924, President Coolidge recommended that Father's Day become a national holiday. President Johnson designated the third Sunday of June to be Father's Day in 1966. It was not until 1972 that President Nixon instituted Father's Day as a national observance.

**Did You Know** – Roses are the official flower on Father's Day, red for fathers who were still living and white for those who have passed on.

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### Poopsheet Expense Report

On hand before last Issue	\$353
Contributions Received	95
Cost of last issue (March 09) and Supplies	\$194
Balance BEFORE THIS ISSUE	\$254

Editor's Note: We will continue the newsletter as the fund will permit. As you can see it will be very low after this issue. My special thanks to Lori Novotni who has agreed to assist me because of my vision loss. In the past month, I had cataracts removed in both eyes. However, the Macular Degeneration is still raging. Wwe plan to continue as long as possible.. It is a labor of love and appreciation. Betty Taylor Hill, 2222 Settlers Way # 914, Sugar Land, TX 77478, (281) 277-3787 email: [bith23@yahoo.com](mailto:bith23@yahoo.com)

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Nelly and Francois van Loo and Kris Polley shares their photos taken in Normandy on Sunday May 3, 2009.



(left) St. Mere Eglise



Grave of Ed Sowder, I-502, kia June 11, 1944

Below, Nelly places flowers at Colleville Cemetery



(left) Utah Beach with Museum



Left: Francois and Nelly at Omaha Beach

Below: Iron Mike Monument at La Fiere (82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne)



CO. I, 502 PARACHUTE

INFANTRY



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**I asked the Lord to bless you  
As I prayed for you today.  
To guide you and protect you  
As you go along your way....  
His love is always with you,  
His promises are true,  
And when we give Him all our cares,  
You know He will see us through.**



Photos courtes [www.pararesearchteam.com](http://www.pararesearchteam.com) Now and Then Photos: Marker of The first American Cemetery, France  
**NOW** **THEN**



This little Monument Commemorates the First American Cemetery in France.  
Omaha Beach Road (Vierville - St Laurent)