



Company I Poopsheet

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

August 2012

Mysteries solved for friends of those they knew In World War II

Harry Nivens, I-502, has been searching for the grave of his WWII friend, **Cornelius W. Owens**, I-502, kia, June 10, 1944, and James Edwards, in Tennessee has located it for him.



Cornelius W. Owens is buried at Calvary Cemetery 4902 Laurel Hill Blvd. Woodside, NY 11377 - SECTION: 49, PLOT: 186 His date of birth is 1918, KIA 11

June 1944. Reburied on 20 Oct, 1948.

Harry Nivens, St. Cloud, FL, has a rand-daughter living in Brooklyn, NY. Harry and family will visit her and visit the grave of his friend, Cornelius Owens with 19 members of the Owens family one day between Aug. 24-27, 2012. including a son, Steven Owens, niece, Mary Celentano, nephews, Neil Castronovo and Anthony Celentano.

Malone and Mitchell

With some of the I Company veterans, a mystery has surrounded the fate of **Loren L. Mitchell**, I-502, Some mixed reports were that in early October 1944 the Germans captured two I

Company men, Gerald B. Malone and Loren L. Mitchell from their foxhole in Holland and both men killed. The body of **Gerald B. Malone**, I-502, was found in the canal, his date of death listed as 16 October, 1944.

Jim Edwards also gathered from online the following information: Gerald Malone is buried near Central City, Kentucky not far from Ft. Campbell.

Loren L. Mitchell, Company I, 502, was reported captured by the Germans on 7 October, 1944 and was released in May 45.



Above: The marker at grave of Loren L. Mitchell He married Sarah in 1987, died at age 69 on 4 December 1993 in Marion, Ohio. The following is from his 1993 obituary.

Loren Lee Mitchell, 69, 10342 Windfall Road, LaRue, died Saturday evening, December 4, 1993 at Med Center Hospital. He was born Feb. 29, 1924, in Bainbridge, a son of the late Malin and Jessie (Haland) Mitchell. He was a self-employed rubbish hauler serving the LaRue area. The World War II U.S. Army veteran was a prisoner of war in Germany and was confined as a POW for eight months. Mr. Mitchell is survived by his wife, the former Sarah J. Chaney; and many nieces and nephews. Burial with military graveside rites by Richwood VFW Post 870 was in Mount Pleasant Cemetery near Mount Victory.

From a nephew of Cornelius C. Owens, I-502:

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to you and Mr. Edwards for all of the hard work you do. I feel that it is extremely important to keep the heroics of the 101st alive for future generations. They are all true American heroes. I am also pleased to tell you that my family has located Corneilus' son Steven and he is absolutely thrilled about this, since he never had a chance to meet his father. My family and I are very excited about meeting Mr. Nivens and his family and will welcome them with open arms. I really enjoy your website and particularly reading about your hero brother. I have to check, but I believe I have the original picture of the 502 PIR that is on the home page.

Once again, On behalf of my family, I thank you and Mr. Edwards for all of your efforts in organizing this meeting with my family and Mr.



Nivens and his family. I know this will be the beginning of a great friendship. Also, I have attached a picture of something very dear my family and it is proudly displayed. Anthony Celentano, Staten Island, NY,

=====

Our researcher

This is Chief Warrant Officer James Edwards when he served with the Tennessee National Guard in Afghanistan 4 years ago. For the past 20 years he also has been a teacher of Algebra, Art & Track & Field in a Shelby County High School in Tennessee. A hobby of his is research and helping solve mysteries for other veterans and families. He located the graves of Dodson



Mitchell and Boffo, and he also found the grave and Cornelius Owens' family for Harry Nivens. If you need to find the grave of a fallen soldier, or another mystery, we will enlist his help, just let us know...Jim is good at that!

On his tour 4 years ago, Jim said he worked with the Afghan people near Sarobi district, Kabul province about 70 miles east of the capital. He worked Intelligence, taught classes ranging from small arms to map reading, supervised the translation of documents both friendly and enemy, and helped assist the gathering Human intelligence from detainees (enemy), and provided intel for convoys on specific areas of travel.

He writes that these Afghan soldiers in the photo were in the process of building a forward operating base (FOB). Notice the backhoe in the background. These soldiers are a cross-section of various ethnic groups living in Afghanistan. The guy on the far right is Uzbek, the guy on the left is Tajik and the two in the middle are Pashtun. They lived in a dugout shelter made on dirt, stone, and logs all built by hand. It's probably a pretty decent place these days. We operated out of this area for a few missions with the Afghan Army and Police.

Thanks Jim, for both your service and research

=====

Tidbits

Phone call to **Robert Hartzell** and **Earl Kelly**, both are doing fine, sounded great and send their love to everyone.

June and Joe Hennessey, Sarasota, FL, will be spending August with their family in CT.

New Address: Mrs. Charlotte (Marvin) Cartwright has moved. Her address is 1320 12th Ave. E. # 110, Menomonie, Wisconsin 54751

Returned Mail, the past 2 issues unable to forward or contact **Alfred Simmons**, I-502, Rotan, TX. So sorry cannot find out what happened.

Returned mail... May 7, 2012, The mail of Mrs. **Neal (Betty) Burkett**, Andover, OH has been returned marked "vacant" "Unable to forward."

=====

WWII correspondent, gets posthumous apology from the AP

Ed Kennedy was dismissed in 1945 by The AP after he became the first journalist to file a firsthand account of German officials surrendering unconditionally to Allied commanders at a former schoolhouse in Reims, France.

Sixty-seven years later, AP President and Chief Executive Officer Tom Curley said that Kennedy was right to stand up to the censors, and should have been commended, not fired. Cochran said

she was overjoyed that the AP had taken an interest in exonerating him. I think it would have meant a lot to him, she said.

In this March 1, 1944 file photo, Ed Kennedy, Chief of the Associated Press staff in North Africa, wears a metal helmet at the Anzio

beachhead in Italy. (AP Photo, Pool)

=====

Skinny Dipping...

An elderly man in Kansas had owned a large farm for several Years. He had a large pond in the back. It was properly shaped for swimming, so he fixed it up nice with picnic tables, horseshoe courts, and some apple, and peach trees.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond, as he hadn't been there for a while, and look it over. He grabbed a five-gallon bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. When he came closer, he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end. One of the women shouted to him, 'we're not coming out until you leave!'

The old man frowned, 'I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond naked.' Holding the bucket up he said, 'I'm here to feed the alligator.'

Some old men can still think fast.

=====

Garfield explains....

A lot of folks can't understand how we came to have an oil shortage here in our country.

Well, there's a very simple answer. ~~ Nobody bothered to check the oil. ~~ We just didn't know we were getting low. ~~ The reason for that is purely geographical. Our OIL is located in: Alaska ~~California ~~~Coastal Florida~~ Coastal Louisiana ~North Dakota -- Wyoming ~ Colorado~~ Kansas ~Oklahoma -- Pennsylvania and Texas ~~~ Our dipsticks are located in DC!!

=====

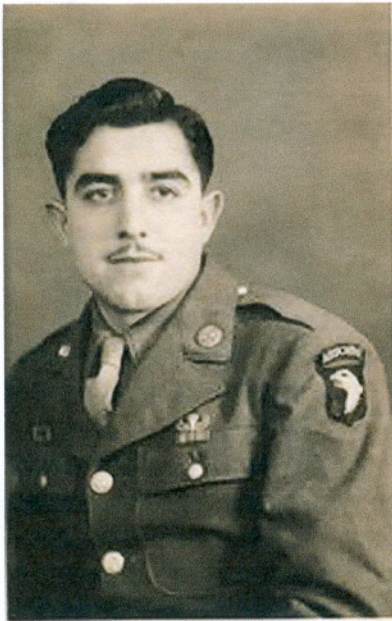
Drinking and Driving!!! Author Anonymous I would like to share an experience with you about drinking and driving, and you should all take heed. As you well know, some of us have been known to have had brushes with the authorities on our way home from the odd social session over the years.

A couple of nights ago, I was out for a few drinks with some friends at a downtown watering hole and had a few too many beers and some rather nice red wine. Knowing full well I may have been slightly over the limit, I did something I've never done before: I took a bus home.

Sure enough we passed a police road block, but, since it was a bus, they waved it past.

I arrived home safely without incident, which was a real surprise because I have never driven a bus before and am not sure where I got it.

=====



Private Fred "Alfredo" Cid, I-502, Bayard, Nebraska, was killed in action December 28, 1944. This photo appeared on the website www.memorial.com under "World War II Heroes". Military records indicate he is buried in Mexico.

Back at the Texas Highway Patrol Headquarters in Corpus Christi the Patrol Captain fired off a complaint to the U. S. Naval Base Commander in Kingsville for shutting down his equipment. The reply came back in true USMC style:

"Thank you for your letter . . .

"You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Hornet had detected the presence of, and subsequently locked on to, your hostile radar equipment and automatically sent a jamming signal back to it, which is why it shut down."

"Furthermore, an air-to-ground missile aboard the fully armed aircraft had also automatically locked on to your equipment's location."

"Fortunately, the marine pilot flying the Hornet recognized the situation for what it was, quickly responded to the missile system alert status and was able to override the automated defense system before the missile was launched to destroy the hostile radar position on the side of Highway 77, south of Kingsville."

"The pilot suggests you cover your mouths when swearing at them, since the video systems on these jets are very high tech."

"Sergeant Johnson, the officer holding the radar gun, should get his dentist to check his left molar. It appears the filling is loose. Also, the snap is broken on his holster." SEMPER FI

=====

Afternoon Delight!

The only way to pull off a Sunday afternoon "quickie" with their 8-year-old son in the apartment was to send him out on the balcony with a Popsicle and tell him to report on all the neighborhood activities.

"There's a car being towed from the parking lot," he shouted. He began his commentary as his parents put their plan into operation:

"An ambulance just drove by!"

"Looks like the Andersons have company," he called out. "Matt's riding a new bike!" "Looks like the Sanders are moving!" "Jason is on his skate board!" After a few moments he announced, "The Coopers are having sex!!"

Startled, his mother and dad shot up in bed. Dad cautiously called out, "How do you know they're having sex?"

"Jimmy Cooper is standing on his balcony with a Popsicle."

=====

=====

A SPEEDING TICKET IN KINGSVILLE, TX

Two Texas Highway Patrol Officers were conducting speeding enforcement on Highway 77, just south of Kingsville, Texas. One of the officers was using a hand-held radar device to check speeding vehicles approaching the town of Kingsville. The officers were suddenly surprised when the radar gun began reading 300 miles per hour and climbing.

The officer attempted to reset the radar gun, but it would not reset and then it suddenly turned off. Just then a deafening roar over the mesquite tree tops on Highway 77 revealed that the radar



had in fact, locked on to a USMC F/A-18 Hornet which was engaged in a low-flying exercise near this, its Naval Air home base location in Kingsville, Texas.

A friend of the 101st Airborne Association has passed on. **Anna Dotson**, daughter of **George H. Dotson, 327 GIR** was among the first children of veterans to attend airborne reunions and made many friends there. Our thanks to Bonnie Downs for bringing to our attention:

Anna Louise Dotson, age 62, of Newark, (Ohio) passed away on Friday, April 13, 2012 at The Ohio State Medical Center. She was born May 7, 1949 in Alexandria, Ohio to the late George Dotson and Stella (Kreager) Williams Dotson Giles. Anna, a lifetime resident of Licking County, was a 1967 graduate of Northridge High School and retired from the Newark Air Force Base. A member of Heath Christian Union Church, she was also a member of the Red Hat Society, NARFE and was a forty-four year member of the Alpha Beta Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority where she participated in volunteer activities including nursing home visits. She was a lifetime member of the 101st Airborne Division Association. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, April 18. Burial in Wilson Cemetery, Newark.

=====



In Calvary Cemetery, Queens NY - the marker of **Sgt. Jerry A. Boffo**, I-502, Maspeth, NY, KIA June 10, 1944 Normandy. The marker also contains names of Nicholas, Josephine, and Andrew Boffo.

P-40 Fighter plane from World War II found in Western Desert of Egypt

Taken from article By Claudine Zap | The Upshot
A fighter plane from World War II that crashed in the Sahara 70 years ago has been unearthed, and holds clues to a missing pilot.

The Telegraph reports that the intact American-made Curtiss Kittyhawk P-40, which had remained untouched since its crash landing in 1942, was discovered by a Polish oil company worker, Jakub Perka, who was exploring a remote region of the Western Desert in Egypt, about 200 miles from the nearest town.

It is believed that the airman, Flight Sergeant Dennis Copping, 24, initially survived the crash, because a parachute found at the scene looks to have been used as a makeshift shelter. But no trace of the body was found, leaving experts to believe the pilot walked away from the flight, then walked to his death in a hopeless attempt to find civilization.

The Canadian website Vintage Wings of Canada said the plane was in "incredible condition," but worried about looters to the site, which happens to be on a dangerous smuggling route between Sudan and Libya.

A search is planned to locate the missing pilot's body, but officials don't believe that any remains will be found. Eventually, the aircraft will be moved to London's Royal Air Force Museum.

=====

Expense Report

Cash on hand before last issue	\$499
Donations Received	150
Cost of last issue May 2012	175
Balance on hand before this issue	\$474

Thank you for your contributions and support of the Company I Poopsheet. Your articles and information are needed and appreciated.

Betty T. Hill, 2222 Settlers Way #194, Sugar Land, TX 77478 Phone 281 277 3787

Note from Poopsheet Editor: September 8 to 22, 2012, I am looking forward to visiting with friends in Holland and attending the events celebrating the 68th anniversary of the country's liberation. My nephew and his wife, David and Deborah Lasseter from Tennessee will first visit Normandy and then join me in Eindhoven on 14th of September. Betty

=====

**American National Military Cemetery and Memorial, Margraten, Netherlands,
Memorial Day 2012.**
Two photos by Ronald Stassen.



wanted to visit the grave of their uncle at Henri Chapelle. I also took them to Margraten and they were very impressed and emotional by everything they saw in those two days. And they were so surprised by the large number of people who came to pay their respects. They found it heartwarming and they said to me 'It is better for our uncle to rest here than in the USA'.

I like the picture of the father and his little daughter, who kneel in front of their adopted grave (nr. 2077). They were there for at least ten minutes, while he told her the story of that soldier,

Best wishes from Holland! René van Slooten



Dear Betty,
I witnessed two Memorial Days at the cemeteries 'Henri Chapelle' in Belgium and 'Margraten' in Holland. Two beautiful and emotional days, with the most perfect weather!
It was very impressive and it seems as if ever more people come every year, also bringing their children, taking them to the adopted grave and telling them the story of that soldier. I had two American guests from Nashville (TN), who

Anne Frank's diary turns 70

By Dylan Stableford | The Outline



Seventy years ago, on her 13th birthday, Anne Frank received what would become the world's most famous diary.

The red-checked notebook was given to Frank by her father, Otto, on June 12, 1942—22 days before Frank and her German-born Jewish family went into hiding

during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands.

"I hope I will be able to confide everything to you, as I have never been able to confide in anyone," Frank wrote in the diary on the same day. "And I hope you will be a great source of comfort and support."

Frank died in 1945 in a German concentration camp—crazy to think that Frank would've been just 83 today had she survived.

The diary was published posthumously in 1947 by her father. The Anne Frank Museum in Amsterdam is asking young people to celebrate her birthday by reflecting on her story. And they have: Frank's name was trending on Twitter early Tuesday, June 12.

Frank's diary, Rosemary Jean-Louis wrote on GPB.org "is an example of rudimentary social media that in the end made a tremendous impact."



Dutch Holocaust Survivor dies

July 11, 2012, Amsterdam (AP) — Dutch Jewish author Berthe Meijer, whose life intersected with Anne Frank's, has died. She was 74. Her husband, Gary Goldschneider, said

Wednesday that Meijer died of cancer July 10. Before the war, Meijer lived on the same Amsterdam street in a Jewish neighborhood where Frank attended a Montessori school. Their families both attempted to hide during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, but were caught and deported. They were imprisoned in Bergen - Belsen at the same time, though Meijer was years younger.

While Anne Frank died just two weeks before the camp was liberated in 1945, Meijer survived. In 2010, Meijer published a memoir titled "Life After Anne Frank," with the intention of comparing her own post-war fortunes as perhaps resembling what might have happened to Frank, had she lived..

The cell phone user....

After a very busy day, a commuter settled down in her seat and closed her eyes as the train departed Montreal for Hudson. As the train rolled out of the station, the guy sitting next to her pulled out his cell phone and started talking in a loud voice:

"Hi sweetheart it's Eric, I'm on the train - yes, I know it's the six thirty and not the four thirty but I had a long meeting - no, honey, not with that floozie from the accounts office, with the boss. No sweetheart, you're the only one in my life - yes, I'm sure, cross my heart" etc., etc.

Fifteen minutes later at St. Anne de Bellevue he was still talking loudly, when the young woman sitting next to him, who was obviously angered by his continuous diatribe, yelled at the top of her voice: "Hey, Eric, turn that stupid phone off and come back to bed!"

My guess would be that Eric doesn't use his cell phone in public any longer.

The Annual 101st Airborne National Reunion

August 14-17, 2012 in Nashville, TN. Registration and Information available online at www.screamingeagle.org and in the Screaming Eagle magazine.. At the same time is the "Gathering of Eagles" at Fort Campbell.



James H. Patton Jr., 91, passed away on June 12, 2012. He was born December 8, 1920 in Dubois, PA, and was a longtime resident of Volusia, Flagler, and Lake Counties. James served in World War II, in the 101st Airborne Division 501 PIR, D Day Veteran, and in the Korean War in the 8th Army Headquarters. His

post war service was in the 82nd Airborne Division 505 PIR in Japan and Philippines. James was a decorated soldier, 2 time Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and many more. He was the past President and Executive Secretary of 101st Airborne Division Association; past President of Sunshine State Chapter of 101st ADA Member Local VFW Post 1590. He is also a lifetime member of American Legion Post 267. Survivors include, loving wife Virginia P. Patton; eight daughters; three sons; 22 grandchildren; and many great grand children. Funeral services will be at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL on July 6th at 2:30 pm with full Military Honors. Published in Daytona Beach News-Journal on June 24, 2012



Rene Beam Wilson, Nagadoches, TX shares photos and description from her trip to Normandy June 2012 where her father, James Beam, HQ 3/501 served with the 101st Airborne in WWII. The first mile marker noting the trail of liberty. It followed Patton's army from the day they arrived to Bastogne. Rene



A German bunkers on the beach in Normandy.

=====

Highly decorated WWII soldier from Texas



Audie L. Murphy, born June 20, 1924 in Kingston TX, died May 28, 1971, age 46, Roanoke, VA is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

In WWII during twenty-seven months in action in the European Theatre in the US Army he received the Medal of Honor, the U.S. military's highest award for valor, along with 32 additional U.S. and foreign awards (medals, ribbons, citations, badges.. including five awards from France and one from Belgium. Murphy portrayed the role of himself in the 1955 movie of his military career titled "To Hell and Back."

=====

George Vujnovich, former OSS Agent, dies at 96; leader of daring World War II rescue

Taken from various articles in the press...



In 1944, as head of the Office of Strategic Services (forerunner of the CIA) in Bari, Italy, George Vujnovich guided a team of agents who worked with Yugoslav guerrilla leader Draza Mihailovich to airlift more than 500 airmen from a makeshift runway carved on a mountaintop in Nazi-occupied Yugoslavia.

The World War II air rescue mission, "Operation Halyard," was relatively obscure until the 2007 release of "The Forgotten 500," a book by Gregory Freeman.

We didn't lose a single man. It's an interesting history. Even in Serbia, they don't know much about it," Vujnovich told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in 2008, when he accepted an award from the OSS Society.

Vujnovich died April 24 at his home in New York City. He was 96 and had spent most of his life running an aircraft supply business in the city's borough of Queens and living quietly in its Jackson Heights neighborhood.

The son of Serbian immigrants, Vujnovich was born in Pittsburgh in 1915. After high school, he received a scholarship to study at the University of Belgrade, where he met his future wife, Mirjana Lazich

In 1941, he witnessed the bombing of Belgrade by the Germans. He and Mirjana fled to Budapest, Hungary, then Turkey and Jerusalem and finally to Cairo as Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps approached.

In Egypt, Vujnovich found a job with Pan American Airways, which sent him and his new wife to a U.S.-controlled air base in Ghana. When the U.S. entered the war and militarized Pan Am, Vujnovich was commissioned into the Army and transferred to an air base in Nigeria, where he became base commander.

Because of his experience in Yugoslavia and service as an air officer, OSS recruited him to help resistance forces in the Balkans. After training in Virginia, he was sent to Bari, Italy. There he orchestrated "Operation Halyard."

In the summer of 1944, U.S. bombers attacked the Romanian oil fields in Ploesti that supplied the German war machine. They flew from Italy and across Yugoslavia to get there, but many were shot down. About 1,500 crewmen bailed out over Serbia and were taken in by local villagers and protected by Mihailovich's forces. Vujnovich devised a plan to get them out, which included secretly building an airfield without any tools, and assembled a team of Serbian-speaking agents to parachute in and lead the effort.

"I taught these agents they had to take all the tags off their clothing," Vujnovich told the New York Times in 2010, when he received the Bronze Star for his efforts. "They were carrying Camel and Lucky Strikes cigarettes and holding U.S. currency. I told them to get rid of it. I had to show them how to tie their shoes and tuck the laces in, like the Serbs did, and how to eat like the Serbs, pushing the food onto their fork with the knife."

The team jumped on Aug. 2, 1944, met with Mihailovich and got to work directing the airmen to build the airstrip. It was only 700 feet long, barely enough for the 15th Air Force's C-47s to use, but between Aug. 9 and Dec. 27, the rescuers spirited 512 airmen to freedom under the noses of the Nazis.

After the war, Vujnovich settled with his wife in New York City and pursued a career as an independent aircraft parts supplier. He retired in the 1980s and sold the business but continued to work as a consultant until he was 92. His wife died in 2003.

=====

CO. I, 502 PARACHUTE

INFANTRY



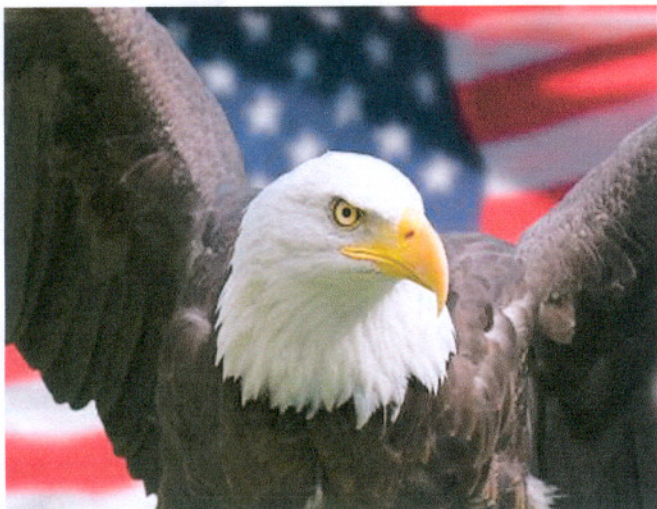
ROBERT HARTZELL

In care of: :

Betty T. Hill
2222 Settlers Way # 914
Sugar Land, TX 77478
Phone: 281-277-3787
bjth23@yahoo.com

FIRST CLASS

www.bettysipage.com



Reminder:

August 16 is National Airborne Day

August 16, 1940 marked the first official Army parachute jump, validating the innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind a battle line by parachute.

On August 14, 2002 President George W. Bush issued the following proclamation: The following is a portion of that proclamation:

The history of airborne forces began after World War I, when Brigadier General William Mitchell first conceived the idea of parachuting troops into combat. Eventually, under the leadership of Major William Lee at Fort Benning, Georgia, members of the Parachute Test Platoon pioneered methods of combat jumping in 1940. In November 1942, members of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, conducted America's first combat jump, leaping from a C-47 aircraft behind enemy lines in North Africa. This strategy revolutionized combat and established airborne forces as a key component of our military.

During World War II, airborne tactics were critical to the success of important missions, including the D-Day invasion at Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, the invasion of

Southern France, and many others. In Korea and Vietnam, airborne soldiers played a critical combat role, as well as in later conflicts and peacekeeping operations, including Panama, Grenada, Desert Storm, Haiti, Somalia, and the Balkans. Most recently, airborne forces were vital to liberating the people of Afghanistan from the repressive and violent Taliban regime; and these soldiers continue to serve proudly around the world in the global coalition against terrorism.

The elite airborne ranks include prestigious groups such as the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, "Sky Soldiers," 82nd Airborne Division, "All American," and the "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Airborne forces have also been represented in the former 11th, 13th, and 17th Airborne Divisions and numerous other Airborne, glider and air assault units and regiments. Paratroopers in the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps, the 75th Infantry (Ranger) Regiment and other Special Forces units conduct swift and effective operations in defense of peace and freedom.

Airborne combat continues to be driven by the bravery and daring spirit of sky soldiers..... George W. Bush
On August 3, 2009 the Senate recognized National Airborne Day with Senate Resolution 235.