



World War II

"The 101st Airborne Division...has no history, but it has a rendezvous with destiny..." Gen William C Lee - August 19, 1942







Colonel Robert F Sink CO 506th PIR

On July 20, 1942 the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment was activated and Colonel Robert F Sink was named regimental commander.

During WWII, Sink turned down two offers for promotion to brigadier general so he could remain with the 506<sup>th</sup>.

Colonel Sink was the only regimental commander in the 101<sup>st</sup> who remained in place throughout the war.



photo from the Currahee Scrapbook 506th PIR 20 July 1942 - 4 July 1945

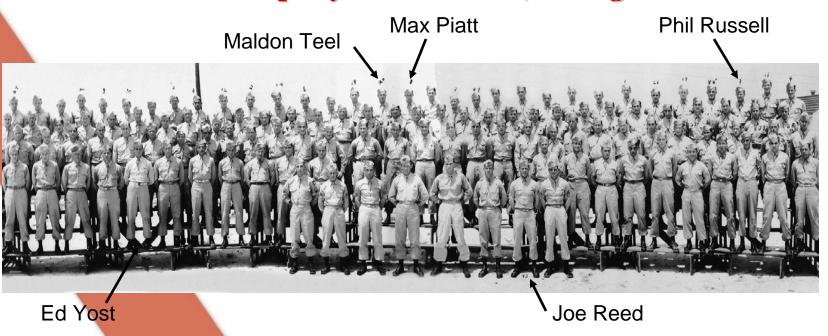


#### World War II

Training took place in Camp Toccoa, Georgia which was adjacent to the Currahee Mountains. Ironically, "Currahee" meant "stand alone" in the local Indian language and the troopers immediately adopted it as their regimental motto since that was their objective behind enemy lines.



#### C Company 1942 Toccoa, Georgia





#### World War II



Toward the end of November 1942, the 506<sup>th</sup> PIR was ordered to Fort Benning parachute training.



The 506<sup>th</sup> crossed the Atlantic on the S.S. Samaria during September, arriving at Liverpool, England, on 15 September 1943. In England, they were stationed in Wiltshire County with units in such villages as Aldbourne, Ramsbury, Froxfield, and Chilton-Foliat.



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#### England 1943 – Before D-Day MG Firing Range





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# **England 1943 Ramsbury Manor**

Pictured from L-R:

Bill Kennedy, Odie Wilson, Frank Stone, Sam Schutz, Al Hassenzahl

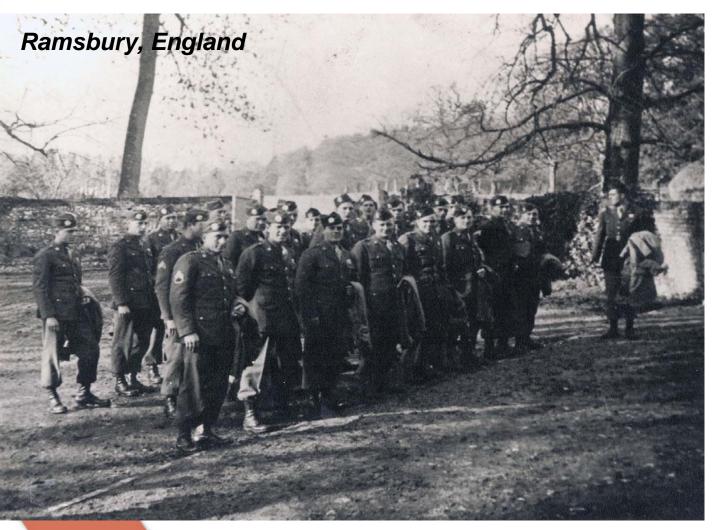




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#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon...Early March, 1944

Saturday AM before 48-hr pass to London at Courtyard









Pictured from L-R: Maxwell Taylor, COL Robert Sink, German Prisoner, 3 unidentified US Army Major Generals



Better known as "Wild-Willie", Bill Pyne was Al Hassenzahl's platoon leader = Stateside England – Normandy – Holland Company "C" Commander thru Holland.

Al followed Bill as 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon leader and later in Holland as company commander when he was badly wounded in Opheusden, Holland – October, 1944.

Bill was sent back to the states as a result of his wounds. After the war, Al & Bill resumed their friendship.



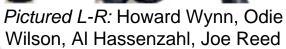


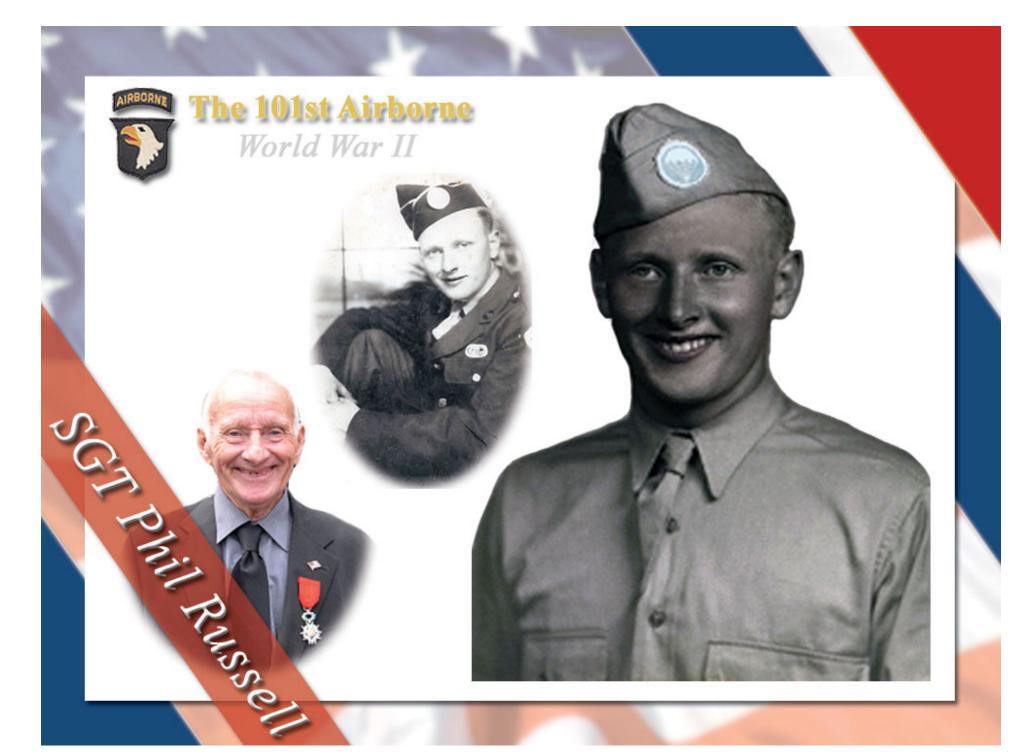


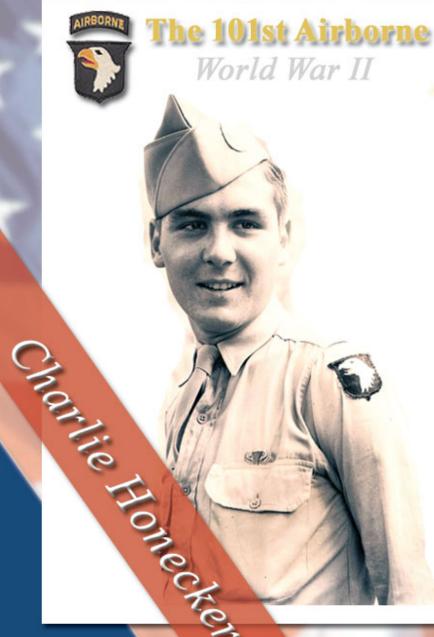
Joe Reed had the best time in the battalion running Currahee Mountain obstacle course.

Recognized for courage & leadership, Joe was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt with a battle field commission after D-Day.

Al Hassenzahl credits Joe Reed for much of his leadership success.







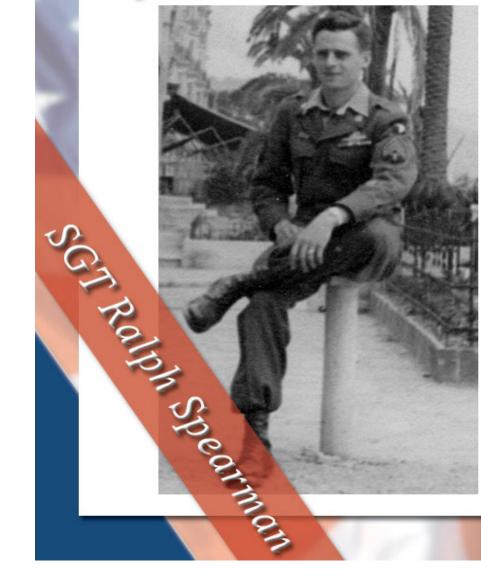


"Over Holland, our plane was hit by a 20mm gun and we were forced to jump. The plane was burning at the tail. Shot in the back of the head and in the right shoulder as he was trying to get out of his chute. Captured and beaten by the Germans, he spent the next 7 months as a prisoner of war until May 1, 1945."





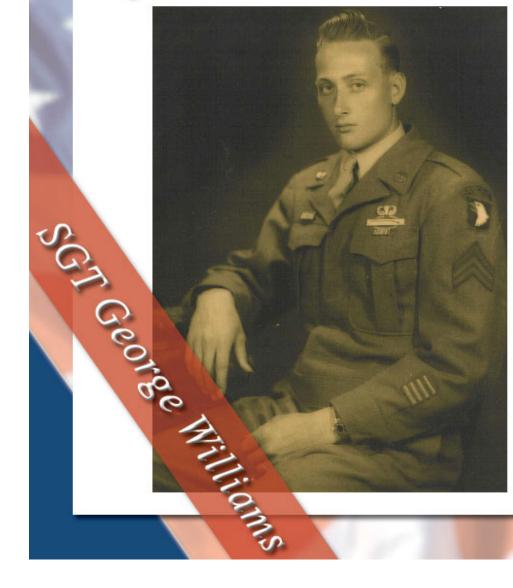




























Pictured with wife Rosa







Elvin and Rosa had 5 children;

1 daughter and 4 sons

His son-in-law served in the army

1 son served 4 years in the Navy

3 sons retired from the Air Force with 20 years each

1 daughter-in-law served 4 years in the Air Force

1 grandson is currently in his 16th year in the Air Force

1 granddaughter is currently in the Army serving in Afghanistan

1 granddaughter is currently in the Army preparing to go to Afghanistan



Family crest that Elvin's grandson designed for our family. It has a lot of meaning to it.

The Eagle represents Elvin, the head of the family,

The Rose represents Rosa, his wife, and heart of the family.

The 5 stars represents their 5 children

The four claws represents the 4 wars our family has served in

The wings represent the spreading growth of our family

The colors the army that he served in.



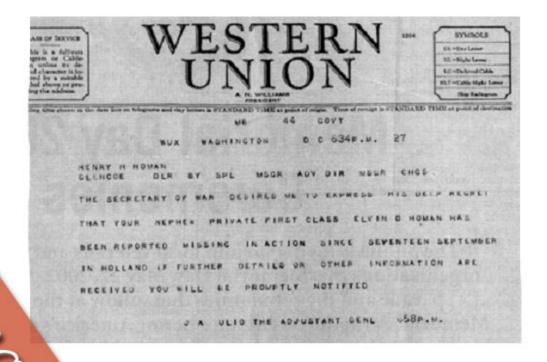
### The Elvin "Speed" Homan Story

### Jumping into Trouble

Elvin Homan is one of seven paratroopers of his 17-man unit who survived the shoot-down of his C-47 troop-carrier aircraft during the Market Garden operation. Captured by the Germans, he spent the next 5 months as a prisoner of war. Freed from the prison camp by a Russian tank unit, he, with companions, on their own, made a harrowing journey from captivity that took them through Poland, Russia, Egypt and Italy in their efforts to rejoin their assigned units.



"My incarceration lasted a total of about 5 months. When I hit the ground I weighed about 140 pounds. During that 5 months, I dropped to about 90 pounds."

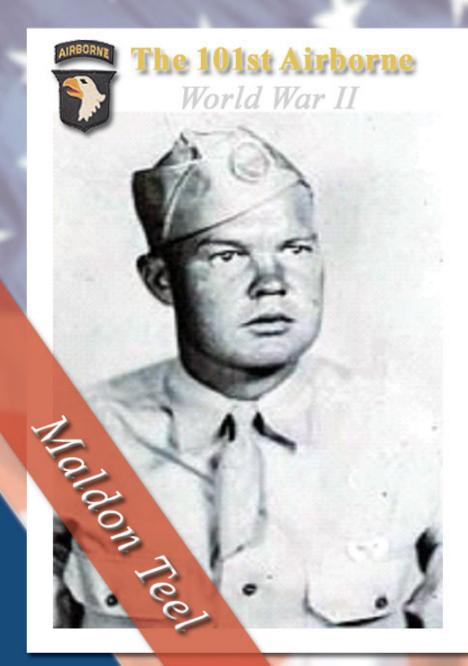










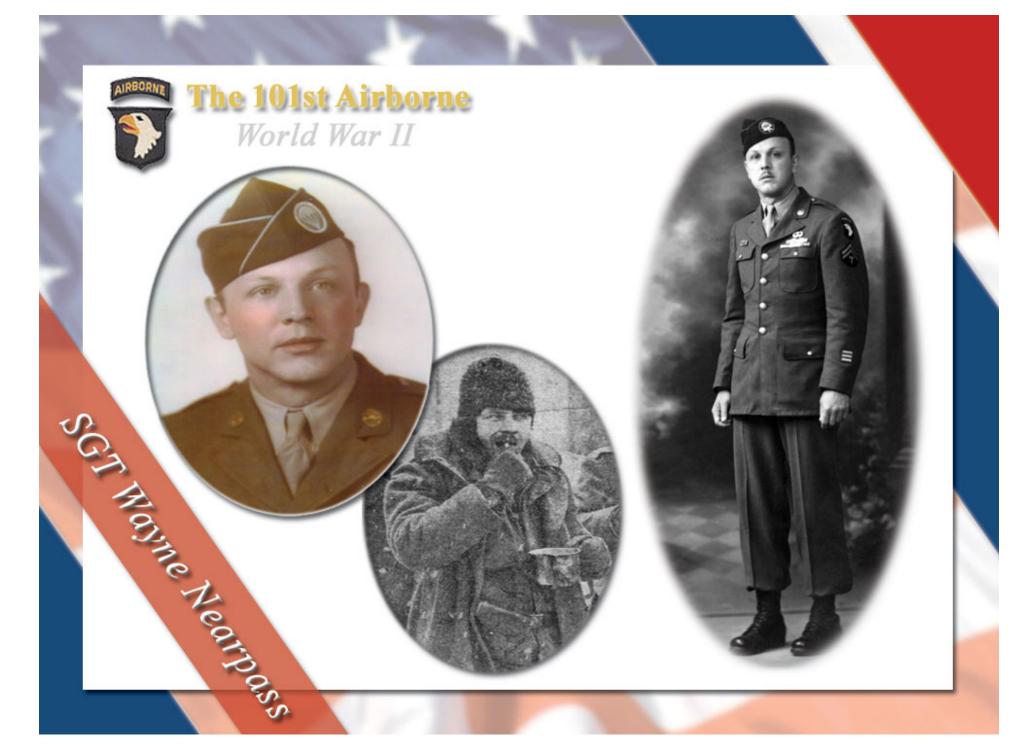


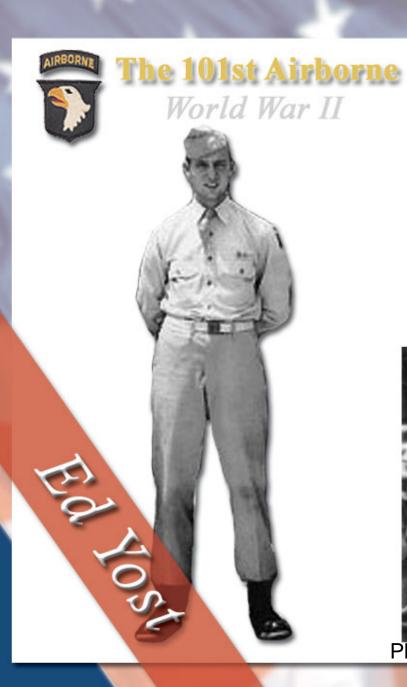


Thomas, Wood, Teel



Wood, Thomas, Teel



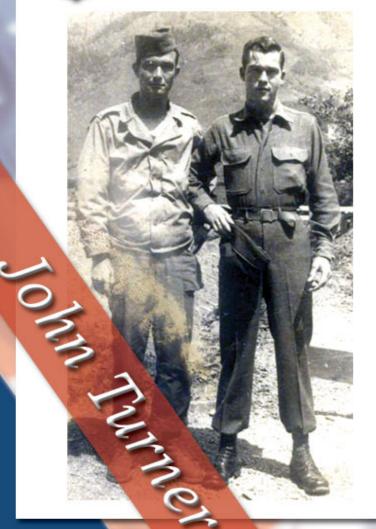






Phil Russell, Ed Yost, Wayne Nearpass, Mac Hall











#### **FOUR GENERATIONS SERVING AMERICA**

Fred

- Fred's Father was in WWI. Serving 4 years in the Navy and 3 years in the Army.
- Son, Brian served 4 years in the Navy during the Vietnam War.

#### **THREE GRANDSONS SERVED AMERICA**

- Troy served in the Army and the Marines.
- Brian served in the Marines.
- Todd is currently serving in the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander in Iraq.



### June 5, 1944 Day before D-Day





# General Eisenhower with 101st Airborne Troops





#### Normandy D-Day



The 506<sup>th</sup> PIR took off for their first combat jump at 0100hrs, 6 June 1944. 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 only nine of the 81 planes scheduled to drop their men on the Drop Zone (DZ) found their mark.

The men fought valiantly in small groups, and as others joined them, they moved towards their objectives. Just prior to the landing of seaborne forces, the high ground overlooking the beaches was seized and held by the men of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment.





























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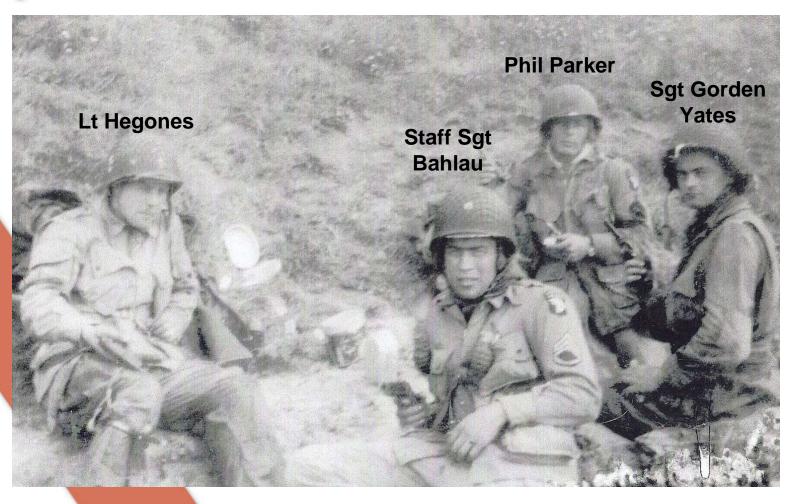


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### **D-DAY +6**







S/Sgt C-Company 506 101st Airborne Division KIA Normandy, June 1944

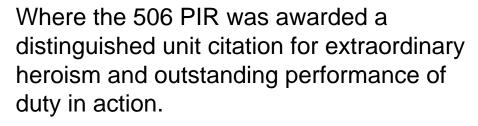


Representing all C Company KIA

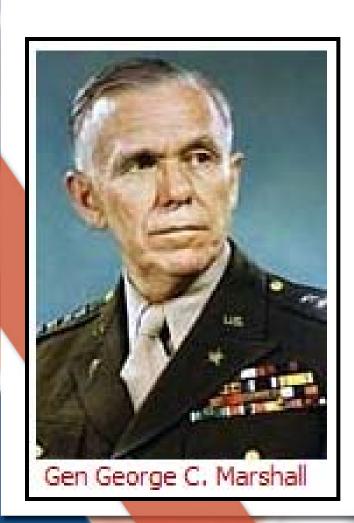


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## **Distinguished Unit Citation Battle Honors**



Just prior to the landing of the sea borne forces the high ground overlooking the beaches was seized and held by the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Immediately thereafter, in the face of determined and fierce enemy resistance, the regiment seized and kept open the main causeway leading to the beaches. This action led to the successful and rapid advance inland of the sea-borne forces and assured the establishment of the beachheads in Western Europe.



## Rosie The Riveter









Over 6 million women from all backgrounds, and from all over the country, worked at industrial jobs that challenged traditional notions of women's capabilities and ensured American productivity that helped to win the war. The sight of women outfitted in overalls and welding industrial tools became an icon that was popularized in the 1942 song, "Rosie the Riveter," providing a nickname for all women who worked in wartime industries. Across the nation, women worked in defense industries, support services, and the armed forces.



Betty notes: the following were prices of food during World War II, if available at all.

Rialto Restaurant, Johnstown Roast Loin of Pork dinner, .45¢

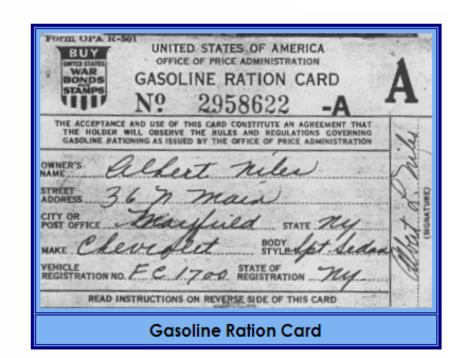
Maze Hotel, Fonda Turkey dinner and Halloween Party \$1.00 includes cocktail

At the Mohigan Market, groceries on special:

Potatoes, .65¢ a bushel Cabbage, .01¢ per pound Italian bread, .05¢ per loaf

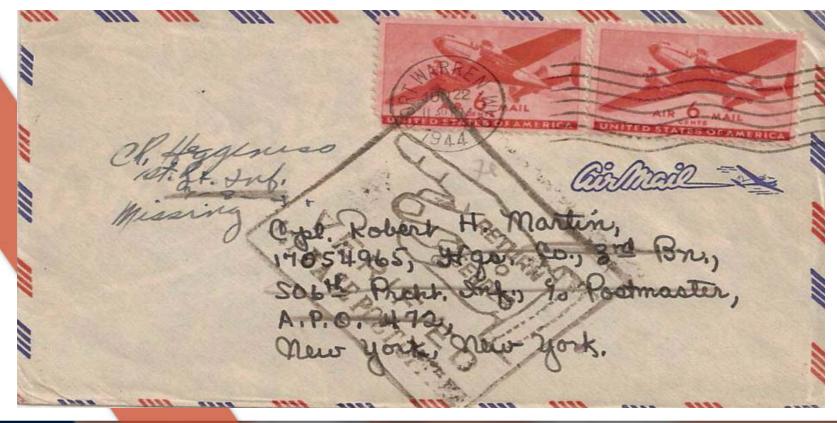
Apples, .59¢ per bushel Veal Chops, .17¢ per pound Hamburg, two pounds for .25¢ Mackeral, two pounds for .25¢ Pot Roast Beef, .14¢ per pound

Butter, 3 pounds for \$1.03 (when available) Pork Roast, .12¢ per pound Donuts, .12¢ a dozen Oysters, .29¢ a pint







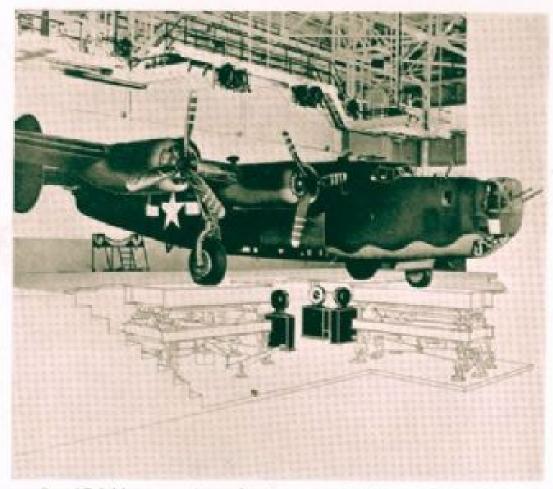




### World War II

	V···- MAIL	Sea (cultura (rina (rina )
FOLD HERE	V-mail service provides a most rapid means of communical addressed to a place where photographing service is not the original letter will be dispatched by the most expedition.  IN STRUCTIONS  (1) Write the entire message plainty on the other side with fines.  (2) PRINT the name and address in the two spaces providenses of members of the Armed Forces should show complete military or novel address, including grade or number, unit to which assigned or attached, and Army in one of the appropriate postmester or appropriate office.  (3) Fold, seal, and deposit in any post office letter drop as box.  (4) Inclosures must not be placed in this envelope.  (5) V-mail letters may be sent free of pustage by mem Armed Forces. When sent by others, postage must be domestic rates [3c ordinary mail, for if domestic aire is desired when mailed in the U.S.)	in marginal ided. Ad- full name, rank, serial post effice effect post street letter bers of the prepaid at

### Advertisement for Toledo Scale



One of Toledo's many scartime applications . . . swighing Liberator Bombers leaving the production lines at the Ford Motor Company's Willow Ran plant.

#### TOLEDO SCALES

Toledo Scales, in weighing and force measuring, control the quality and quantity of most every kind of product... both in peace and war. When the need no longer exists for their part in the production of war planes, explosives or tanks, Toledo's fund of weighing "knowhow" will serve all industry... and food stores... with even greater accuracy, speed and dependability.

Toledo Scale Company. Toledo, Ohio.



### World War II

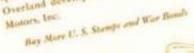
U. S. MARINES CRASH SOLOMON ISLES

N the shares of Cauadalcanal and on the O beach at Tulage Bay, the fearless, bardboiled U. S. Marines speeded their anack with modern Jeeps built by Willys-Overland. In the hands of men like these, the rough fighting Josp now adds new drive and our below to a striking power already famous throughout the world. The jubbering Jupa in the Solomons found this out when husky U.S. Marines charged up the beaches with their rugged Jesps and cleared the enemy out of those strategic bases needed for our

advance in the far Pacific. The Jeep from Willys-Overland is out-

standing among the various types of superior equipment being produced for our bighting forces and those of our allies by American manufacturing genius.

Willys-Overland civilian engineers assisted the U. S. Quartermaster Corps in designing and perfecting the Jeep adopted by the U.S. Army. The amering, world-resowned GO. DEVIL engine that drives it with such power. speed and flexibility, is an exclusive Willys-Overland development. Willys-Overland





WILLYS





## 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 armoured and motorized columns all the way to the German border.





A paratrooper leaving the drop zone is welcomed by the local people



A defeated German Panther tank



'Screaming Eagles' in combat in the Eindhoven area







Fighting till the bitter end



Paratroopers on their way to the battle



#### THE ARDENNES

#### **Battle of the Bulge**

On 16 December, 1944, The Germans had launched a major offensive as dawn on 16 December, west through the Ardennes Forest. The 101st was ordered to the vitally important town of Bastogne, which was the key to the German counteroffensive.

The 101st was jammed into trucks for an overnight rush to Bastogne in Belgium on Dec. 18th. In the ensuing Days, the encircled Currahees, and the entire 101st engaged in vicious fighting. The Screaming Eagles suffered heavy casualties including the Currahees highly regarded 1st Battalion Commander, It Col James L LaPrade. The 506th fought with what they had and prayed that the C-47's would get through with the vital supplies necessary to sustain them. Finally, on December 26th, Patton's 4th Armor Division broke through the encirclement and the lifting of the siege of Bastogne began.

On 15 January, 1945, the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment took the town of Noville, Belgium, a longtime Division objective.

On 23 February, the men of the 506th 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.



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The 101st Airborne Division moving through the streets of Bastogne enroute to launch a counter attack against the Germans.



World War II





Pictured from Left to Right:

Cpl. Wayne Nearpass, Terre
Haute, Pfc. Mack McNeil, and Pfc.
Herman E. Caldwell. They are
pictured taking coffee and doghnuts
during operations in Bastogne.





#### "NUTS!" Revisited

On December 16, 1944, the Germans launched their largest offensive of the war on the Western Front. The primary goals of the offensive were to capture the Belgian port of Antwerp and to drive a wedge between the British and American armies. This offensive is often referred to as the "Battle of the Bulge." It's failure was due largely to American resistance around St. Vith, on the northern shoulder of the Bulge, and by American forces holding Bastogne on the southern shoulder of the Bulge. The town of Bastogne is strategically located at the center of the road network of the Ardennes. The Germans referred to it as a "road octopus" since the majority of roads in that region of the Ardennes pass through the town. The town's strategic location made it vitally important to the outcome of the offensive. The Allies realized its importance and General Eisenhower dispatched the 101st Airborne Division to hold the town at all costs. This victory resulted in the first full Army Division Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation. This interview focuses on the story surrounding the German's request for the American forces at Bastogne to surrender and the American General's response as witnessed by Lt. General

Harry Kinnard, at the time of the siege of Bastogne, a Lt. Col. and Division G-3. These are some of his personal recollections.

McAuliffe receives the D.S.C. from General George S. Patton in late December of 1944 at Bastogne.



General Anthony McAuliffe Photo taken December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1944







Foy, Belgium Mid January 1945





The 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division received a special Division Citation from the war department and General Eisenhower...

Awarded to units of the Armed Forces of the United States and allies for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December, 1941. The unit must display such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions so as to set it apart from and above other units participating in the same campaign. The degree of heroism required is the same as that which would warrant award of the Distinguished Service Cross or Navy Cross to an individual.

#### It reads in part:

"It is a great personal honor for me to be here today to take part in a ceremony unique in American history. Never before has a full division been cited by the War Department, in the name of the President, for gallantry in action.

## The PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION





It happened to be one of those occasions when the position itself was of the utmost importance to the Allied forces. You in reserve were hurried forward and told to hold that position. All the elements of drama-battle drama-were there. You were cut off, surrounded. Only valor, complete self-confidence in yourselves, and in your leaders, a knowledge that you were well trained, and only the determination to win could sustain soldiers under those conditions.



May 18, 1945, Col Sink (Center) accepts the surrender of the Germans from the Commanding General, LTG Theodor Tolsdorff (right of center).



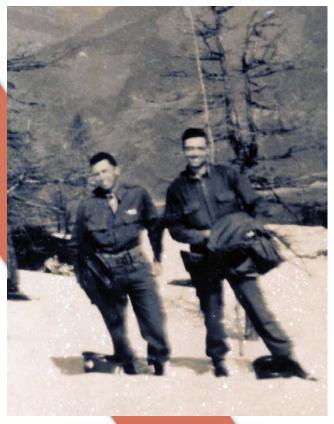


On the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, the 506<sup>th</sup> received and carried out its final wartime mission – the capture of Berchtesgarden, Hitler's Eagles Nest.





May – 1945
Bertschesgarden, Austria
We walked up the mountain to
Hitlers "Birds Nest."





Pictured from left to right: Odie Wilson, Al Hassenzahl, Bob Robinson

Pictured from left to right: Major Hestor, Captain Al Hassenzahl



Left: Lt. Don Zahn – Battlefield Commander Right: Cpt. Al Hazzenzahl





# The 506<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment



Bottom Row 1<sup>st</sup> on the left: **Lt Joseph R Reed**Bottom Row 4<sup>th</sup> from the right: **Capt Al Hassenzahl**Bottom Row 1<sup>st</sup> on the right: **Lt Frederick A Bahlau** 



World War II



Zell am See, Germany July 4, 1945







#### **Last Regimental Parade**

Zell am See, Germany July 4, 1945





#### World War II

#### Alaugh ...

C. O .: "Sergeant, where did you file that new list of discharges? They're not under 'D'! Sqt: "Oh, no sir, I filed them under 'C' - for congratulational"



and a thought.

It is as difficult to live up to a brightfuture as it is to live down a dark past.

Justice Pecora

JUNE 29, 1945

AUSTRIA

VOL. 1, No. 3

### Farewell

It is with mingled feelings that your regimental commander observes the departure of you fine officers and men. He is happy for each of you You have worked and fought and won the right to return to your homes and to your friends.

I am sorry to see you go, because you are friends and comrades-at-arms.

Most of you have caught hell at one time or another from me. I hope you considered it a just hell and fair. It was never intended that it be other-Wise.

I told you people to get those presidential citations and you did. It will forever be to your credit and honor.

Then Godspeed you on your way! May the same Fellow that led you by the hand in Normandy, Holland, Bastogne an Germany look kindly upon you and guard you until the last great jump.

R. F. Sink. Colonel, 506th Parachute Infantry, Commanding.



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### **Aboard Ship Going Home!**



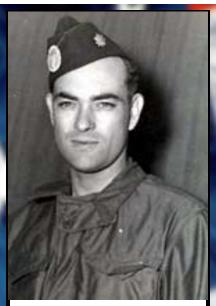
Pictured from left to right: Mitch Mitchell, Al Hassenzahl, Joe Reed



Maj Salve H Matheson 506<sup>th</sup> PIR RHQ S-3



Lt Col Clarence Hester 506<sup>th</sup> PIR CO 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion



Lt Col Robert Harwick 506<sup>th</sup> PIR CO 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion



Pfc Thomas W Brayton 506<sup>th</sup> PIR Co C 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion



Capt Albert M Hassenzahl 506<sup>th</sup> PIR Co C Commanding Officer

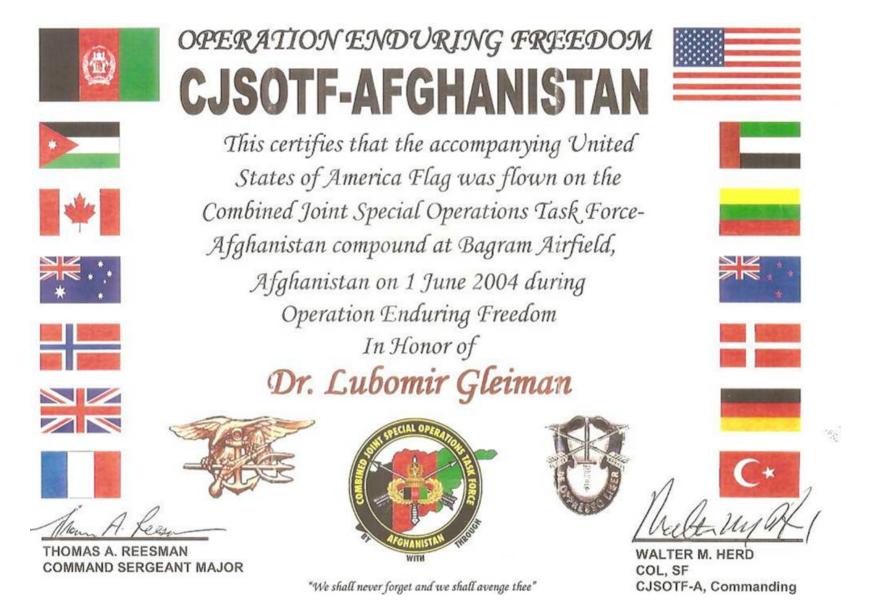
"Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won be men. It is the spirit of the men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory."

~ General George S. Patton Jr ~



### World War II





Dear Gerald (Evers), I am attaching this US Flag and the citation that is very dear to me, as the symbol of a new life that you and the C-Co to a great extent made possible for me. ~ Lubomir