

## What is Reenacting?

The re-enactors of A Company, 502<sup>d</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment (Reenacted) accurately portray the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division paratrooper of World War II. Through the use of displays, living history events, and reenacted battles, the unit strives to educate the public and preserve the proud history of the WWII paratrooper. We honor the gallantry and dedication of the veterans who served and scarified to liberate the oppressed.

## Unit Activities

Able Company is based in San Antonio, Texas. Members are from across Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. The unit uses a variety of vintage and accurately reproduced uniforms, equipment, vehicles, and weapons to depict the lives of WWII paratroopers.

Members of the unit practice some of tasks Paratroopers performed during WWII to better understand the lives of the men they portray. Many members choose to attend actual parachute training and jump from vintage WWII C-47 troop transport planes.

Able Company participates in both public and tactical battles. These events are in conjunction with other Allied units and battle Axis reenacting groups from across the country. Often battles include WWII era facilities, tanks, armored vehicles, trucks, and combat aircraft.

## Goals of the unit

- Accurately depict the WWII Paratrooper.
- Educate the public through displays and living history events.
- Preserving the history and sacrifice of the WWII Paratrooper for future generations.



**M1 Garand Rifle, M1 Thompson Submachine gun, and M1911 Pistol with M1C Paratrooper helmet, uniforms, and other equipment**

## Membership Guidelines

- Have an interest in preserving the history of the WWII paratrooper.
- Be able to acquire the basic paratrooper uniforms, equipment, and weapon.
- Become a member of the WWII Historical Re-enactment Society.
- Be at least 18 years old.



**An Able Company Officer prepares to engage approaching German troops with a Caliber .45 M1 Thompson Submachine gun**

## World War II Historical Re-enactment Society



Able Company is a member of the WWII Historical Reenacting Society. The HRS sponsors public demonstrations and tactical battles. HRS charges nominal annual membership fees and provides insurance coverage for members during sponsored events. The conduct of Able Company members is governed by the HRS bylaws. Individual membership to the HRS is mandatory for all Unit members.

Visit the WWII HRS website at:

<http://www.worldwartwohrs.org>

## We Want You



If you are interested in preserving the history of the WWII Paratrooper and becoming a member of Able Company or would like more information about WWII reenacting please feel free to contact us. We welcome your inquiries.

Visit our web site at:

<http://www.ablecompany502pir.org>

Contact us at:

[info@ablecompany502pir.org](mailto:info@ablecompany502pir.org)

## Able Company History

The 502<sup>d</sup> Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941, as the 502<sup>d</sup> Parachute Battalion, an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assault. On 2 March 1942, the unit was redesignated as the 502<sup>d</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment. The 1st Battalion, 502<sup>d</sup> Infantry Regiment was activated on 1 July 1941, at Fort Benning, Georgia, and joined the 101st Airborne Division in August 1942.

The "Five-Oh-Deuce", under Colonel George Van Horn Moseley. After the Division arrived at Ft Bragg, North Carolina, the 502<sup>d</sup> conducted numerous parachute practice jumps and intensive training. The Deuce sailed to England in September, 1943.

After Arriving in England, the 502<sup>d</sup> settled in the Chilton-Foliat and Hungerford areas, living in a combination of Nissen huts, tents, and English houses. After seemingly unending training in the cold, bleak English countryside, the Deuce finally received its orders for the D-Day Invasion. Their primary mission was to secure the causeways of St Martin de Varreville and Audoville la Hubert across swampy ground, behind Utah Beach.

On 6 June 1944, the Deuce landed by parachute in France to find that air bombardment had destroyed their primary objective. Adapting to the situation, the 502<sup>d</sup> established roadblocks to halt enemy traffic. On 10 and 11 June, 1944 the 502<sup>d</sup> spearheaded the drive south along the Carentan Causeway. Day and night, the Deuce, fought along the single, elevated road, doggedly advancing down "Purple Heart Lane". On 11 June, in a cabbage patch south of the Ingouf farm, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn fought the 3d Bn of the German 6th Parachute Regiment. After conducting security duties near Cherbourg in late June, the 502<sup>d</sup> returned to England.

On 17 September, 1944, the 502<sup>d</sup> landed by parachute on Zon Drop Zone in Holland. 1st Battalion moved north from the DZ to capture St Oedenrode. When the 101<sup>st</sup> moved north to hold positions on the "Island", SW of Arnhem, the 502<sup>d</sup> was the reserve near Dodewaard. While in reserve the Deuce conducted patrols that resulted in only limited direct contact, however German landmines caused a number of casualties.

After a brief rest period at Camp Mourmelon le Grand, France, the 502<sup>d</sup> rushed north in trucks with the rest of the 101<sup>st</sup> to hold the crucial road and rail junction of Bastogne Belgium. Surrounded there, the 502<sup>d</sup> held positions on the north and northwest portion of the lodgment. Enemy probes began hitting them after failing elsewhere in the circular defense line. A Christmas morning fight at Champs, Belgium, followed by the repulse of an armored attack on the command post at Rolle, were memorable events. The following week saw bloody fighting along the railroad line running NE through the Bois Jacques forest.

After Bastogne, the Deuce traveled to the 7<sup>th</sup> Army front in Alsace with the rest of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne in mid-January. After holding a line along the Moder River for over a month, they traveled in boxcars to Mourmelon le Petit, France. In April 1945, the Deuce was near Dusseldorf, helping to close the Ruhr Pocket along the Rhine River. In May, the Deuce followed the rest of the 101<sup>st</sup> to Berchtesgaden.

Members of the Deuce with high points sailed home in the summer of 1945, while others, awaiting discharge were absorbed into the Deuce in the interim. Returning to France, this time the Joigny-Auxerre area, the Deuce made one final 'pay jump' in September, 1945. The regiment and the division were deactivated in December 1945.



## A COMPANY, 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 502<sup>D</sup> PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT (REENACTED)

