



**A Company, 1st Battalion,
502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment
101st Airborne Division
(1941-1945)**



Rules and Bylaws

Effective 12 February 2015

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ARTICLE I Administrative Information and Organization of the Unit

A. Unit Designation

A Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, United States Army, (1941-1945).

B. Purpose

The purpose of this unit is to accurately portray the paratroopers of the 1st Battalion of the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. We intend to honor the traditions and history of the airborne. Our organization is that of a typical parachute infantry rifle company from 1941 to 1945.

C. Goals

A Company will educate the public regarding the actions and contributions of the paratroopers of the 502nd P/I. Through the use of public displays and public battle reenactments we intend to help the public better understand the life of a typical WWII paratrooper. From participating in tactical battle reenactments, A Company intends to better understand what the paratroopers of the 502nd possibly experienced in battle while liberating Europe. Unit members will maintain the highest standard of authenticity for all uniforms, weapons, and equipment.

D. Statement of Intent

Unit members will uphold the highest standards of authenticity to accurately portray the paratroopers of the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment. In order to maintain a safe environment for unit members, other reenactors, and the public, unit members we will follow the authenticity and safety guidelines established by the World War II Historical Reenactment Society, Article I, Section Q, Safety, and Article III, Table of Organization and Equipment.

E. Membership Requirements

1. Participation in Other Units

In order for A Company to maintain a high level of authenticity, a high level of dedication is expected from its membership. A Company will be the only WWII reenacting or living history unit with which a unit member is affiliated. This will prevent conflicts between units and events. Membership in another WWII reenacting or living history unit or organization is considered a violation of Rules and Bylaws.

2. Membership Process

Anyone wishing to join A Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd P/I, 101st Airborne Division (1941-1945) must obtain a membership application and must submit that application in writing to the Secretary with the appropriate information. Prospective members must be at least 17 years old and not have a felony or misdemeanor conviction involving violence that would prevent them from handling a firearm or conflict with the good order and discipline of the unit.

Upon receipt and review of the application, President and two other Board members will interview the prospective member. Once the interview is completed, the three Board Members will decide if the prospective member understands the goals of the unit, is committed to honoring veterans, and would be a contributing member of the unit.

After being accepted, the President will assign the Probationary Member to a duty position and provided the contact information for his assigned supervisor. The Authenticity Officer will assist the new Probationary Member assemble his impression.

Probationary Members not yet 18 years old are required to have a parent or guardian observe one event in which the Probationary Member participates to ensure the parent or guardian is cognizant of the activities and hazards related to WWII reenacting and living history. If a parent or guardian is not able to observe one of the first three events the Probationary Member will not be permitted to participate in future events until such time as a parent or guardian is present to observe.

Probationary Members are eligible for membership when they attain Equipment Level One, as verified by the Authenticity Officer, have attended three events, and are 18 years old or older. Probationary Member must receive three-fourths of the votes from the unit membership in order to be granted membership.

F. Membership Status

When a Probationary Member attains Equipment Level One, has attended three events in the same calendar year, and has been voted in as a member they become a Member in Good Standing.

All unit Members must participate in a minimum of three events annually in order to maintain their status as a Member in Good Standing. Deployed military personnel as well as unit Members recovering from a physical injury that prevents active participation are exempted from the three event annual requirement.

All Members in Good Standing are granted voting status in the unit to be exercised at all unit votes. A Company wishes to maintain a very high level of character and code of ethics. If a member commits a serious act that would tarnish the reputation of the unit the Board of Directors will convene as soon as possible and discuss the act and decide on an appropriate action. Examples of serious acts are: felonies under the criminal code, striking another person without cause, repeated or intentional safety violations, etc. The Board of Directors may suspended a Member or expel them from the unit if the infraction warrants such action. (See Article I, Section L, Reduction in Rank and Article I, Section M, Discharge of members).

Probationary Members are not granted voting status.

G. Annual Unit Meeting

The unit and the Board shall meet at least once a year at such other time and place as is determined by the board.

H. Administrative and Tactical Organization

The Unit will be organized on two levels: Tactical Organization, where commanders are chosen based on procedures outlined herein, and Administrative Organization, where unit officers are chosen by popular election. This election will take place at the time and place decided upon by the current Board of Directors, usually at the Annual Meeting of the unit, and offices will be held for one, one-year term. A simple majority vote will be sufficient to elect a particular office. In the event that no one candidate receives a simple majority, the two candidates receiving the most votes will face one another in a runoff; the majority vote earner being the candidate elected to office. The administration of the Unit will consist of the following elected officers, heretofore known as the Board of Directors.

1. Administrative Organization

a. General Information

The organizational and administrative business and affairs of the unit shall be managed and directed by a consensus of its officers.

b. Vacancies

Any vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the Board of Directors appointing an interim member. The interim member is to remain in office for the duration of the term.

c. Removal from Office

Any Board member may be removed from office for: Malfeasance, neglect of duties, willful disrespect of his own safety and that of others, misappropriation of goods or property belonging to the unit, flagrant disregard for the current Rules and Bylaws, or for conduct discrediting to the unit.

The process for removal of a Board Member is:

Anyone in the General Membership may submit a written statement of charges accompanied with documentation that substantiates such charges, to the Board of Directors.

Within forty-five (45) days of receiving the written statement, the Board of Directors then will convene a hearing to review the charges, interview all concerned and/or involved parties and make a decision as to what action should be taken.

If the action taken by the Board of Directors is not satisfactory to the charging member, he or she may present the charges of impeachment to the general membership.

The final solution will be determined by a majority vote of the Unit members.

d. Rules of Succession

In the event the President cannot perform his or her duties, the Vice-President must take over the office of the President, vacating the office of Vice-president. The Vice-President's office will then be filled in accordance with the above.

e. Quorum for a Board Meeting

There must be three (3) Board Members present, either in person, via telephone, via e-mail, or other electronic means, in order to conduct a Board Meeting. A minimum of three Board Members, the President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer must be present to conduct a Board meeting.

f. Board Appointed Positions

The Board of Directors has the authority to appoint persons to the Non-Board Positions.

g. Emergency Powers Act

In the event of any unforeseen or unpredictable situation that may endanger the Unit, the officers of the Board of Directors are empowered to take whatever action is deemed necessary to protect the Unit and its Rules and Bylaws.

h. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of the following members:

i. Board Positions

President: The President is the unit's administrative executive. He is responsible for the overall organization and administration of the Unit. The primary duty of the President is maintain administrative control over unit operations and activities. All official communication to the public or any other unit must be originated or approved by the President. The President shall preside at all unit meetings. He can appoint committees and/or delegate the appointment of committees to the Board Member having jurisdiction over the function of said committee. He also chairs the Unit leadership team, acts as liaison with other Unit Commanders in planning, organizing, and conducting events and activities.

Vice-President: The Vice-President shall become the acting President in the event that the President becomes unable to exercise his office. The Vice President may also serve as the event coordinator and public relations officer, if so designated by the President. The event coordinator and public relations officer is responsible for planning and scheduling all unit activities and event notifications.

Secretary: The primary function of the secretary is to maintain and update all unit documents and records (except the unit ledger) in appropriate books as needed. This includes the unit roster, Rules and Bylaws, member records, and meeting minutes. The Secretary will maintain a current personnel file on each member of the Unit. This includes but is not limited to, current contact information, emergency contact information, medical information, event attendance, and firearms qualifications. The Secretary is responsible for administering and recording all votes in the unit.

Treasurer: The function of the treasurer is to keep an accurate accounting of all unit funds and bear the responsibility for reporting any member with unpaid dues to the Secretary. Additionally, he will collect unit dues and disperse funds that have met the approval of the Board. The Treasurer will prepare Treasurers Report as required detailing the unit's financial position and account activity and on a monthly basis will present that information to the President of the Board. The Treasurer shall maintain unit funds in an interest bearing account and will only draw on those funds when required to make unit purchases, as authorized by the Unit. The Treasurer will also assist the Quartermaster with distribution of equipment.

Board members may hold more than one board position at a time.

ii. Non-Board Positions

Field Commander: The Field Commander is the ranking officer or NCO in the Unit responsible for the command and conduct of all operations conducted in uniform, both those open to the public as well as private tactical events. In the absence of the Field Commander, the ranking officer or NCO present at an event will be designated as acting Field Commander for the purposes of that specific event.

Authenticity Officer: The Authenticity Officer is responsible to ensure that all equipment used by members is of the proper and correct type and is of the proper vintage. Each member will be required to have his equipment inspected prior to any unit activity by the Authenticity Officer. Members may be denied the privilege of participating

in a unit activity if the members checking authenticity deems that member is lacking in the minimum authenticity requirements. Any questionable item must be authenticated by no less than three documented instances in which the item was used by members of the 502nd P/I in WWII. The documentation must be from three separate events or instances. The member with the questionable item, not the Authenticity Officer, bears the burden of documenting the item in question. Deviations from authenticity must be decided by a majority of the Board of Directors.

Quartermaster: The Quartermaster is responsible for maintaining, storing, and transporting all unit property. His duties include locating and acquiring additional property that the unit deems necessary, and shall forward that information to the President. The Quartermaster is also responsible for distributing and cataloging all equipment that is loaned out to individuals at an event.

Safety Officer: The Safety Officer is responsible for checking the ammunition and blank adaptation equipment of all members during unit formation. He will record his findings and present them to the Field Commander who in turn will deliver them to the overall allied commander for the event. The Safety Officer will also collect information on vendors and gun smiths regarding the supply of blank ammunition and the blank adapting of weapons for distribution to the members upon request.

Webmaster: The Webmaster will be required to maintain an up to date Internet website for the purpose of recruiting, disseminating information, and public relations. The Webmaster must have access to all pertinent hardware necessary for maintaining the site and be able to update the web page within 72 hours of notification.

Board Members may also hold non-board positions concurrently. Any member in Good Standing may be appointed to a non-board position. Any person may hold more than one non-board position at a time.

iii. Tactical Organization

The Parachute Rifle Company consists of a company headquarters and three rifle platoons. Each rifle platoon consists of a platoon headquarters, two rifle squads, and a mortar squad. The priority for manning is rifle and mortar squads. Platoon and company headquarter sections are secondary to filling squads and platoons. The Unit will establish additional squads and platoons when warranted by unit size. (See ARTICLE III, Section A, Table of Organization)

I. Promotion Board

The Promotion Board will consist of the three senior ranking non-commissioned or commissioned officers in the unit. The President will announce the time and location of the board no less than four weeks prior to the event and notify the unit membership who are eligible for promotion based on time in service and the manning allocation authorized by the Table of Organization and Equipment and warranted by the current unit size. This will allow eligible personnel adequate time to prepare for the Promotion Board. The Promotion Board will evaluate the candidate and determine if he is qualified for promotion. The Promotion Board will ask questions regarding, but not limited to the following topics:

- Unit history
- Uniforms, equipment, and weapons
- Rules and Bylaws

The Promotion Board will vote to determine if the unit member is qualified for promotion. A majority vote by the Promotion Board will qualify the unit member for promotion. Once a unit member is qualified for promotion, a three-fourth-majority vote of the Unit Membership will authorize the promotion.

Time in unit requirements may be waived for promotions by unanimous vote of the Promotion Board.

Unit Members must progress in rank sequentially. The exceptions are as follows:

Staff Sergeant to First Sergeant, as there are no Technical Sergeants authorized in a Parachute Infantry Company;
or

When the need to fill a particular position arises and there are no unit members immediately below the vacant position that can be promoted in rank sequentially, as determined by the Board of Directors; or

Battlefield commission from non-commissioned officer or technician to commissioned officer.

J. Promotions

The unit will establish rank in the following manner:

Private: Probationary Members

Private First Class:

Unit member must participate in three unit events

Unit member must possess all equipment designated as Equipment Level One

Unit member must be a Member in Good Standing

Corporal or Technician 5th Grade:

Unit member must be a Private First Class with a minimum of two years in the unit.

The Table of Organization and Equipment must authorize allocation and warranted by the current unit size (See ARTICLE I, Section H, Paragraph 2, Tactical Organization)

Unit member must pass a Promotion Board (See ARTICLE I, Section J, Promotion Board)

Sergeant and Technician 4th Grade:

Unit member must be a Corporal or Technician 5th Grade with a minimum of two years in the unit.

The Table of Organization and Equipment must authorize allocation and warranted by the current unit size (See ARTICLE I, Section H, Paragraph 2, Tactical Organization)

Unit member must pass a Promotion Board (See ARTICLE I, Section I, Promotion Board)

Staff Sergeant and Technician 3rd Grade:

Unit member must be a Sergeant or Technician 4th Grade with a minimum of three years in the unit. The Table of Organization and Equipment must authorize allocation and warranted by the current unit size (See ARTICLE I, Section H, Paragraph 2, Tactical Organization).

Unit member must pass a Promotion Board (See ARTICLE I, Section J, Promotion Board)

First Sergeant:

Unit member must be a Staff Sergeant or Technician 3rd Grade with a minimum of three years in the unit.

The Table of Organization and Equipment must authorize allocation and warranted by the current unit size (See Article I, Section H, Paragraph 2, Tactical Organization).

Unit member must pass a Promotion Board (See ARTICLE I, Section J, Promotion Board).

2nd Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant, and Captain:

Unit member must be a Non-commissioned Officer, Technician, or officer with a minimum of two years in the unit.

The Table of Organization and Equipment must authorize allocation and warranted by the current unit size (See Article I, Section H, Paragraph 2, Tactical Organization).

Unit member must pass a Promotion Board (See ARTICLE I, Section J, Promotion Board).

K. Field Promotions

Any unit member may receive a “Field Promotion” during an event from the senior ranking unit member at an event. This Field Promotion is effective during the event and is not a permanent promotion.

L. Reduction in Rank

Violations which warrant reduction in rank include, but are not limited to:

A unit member who recklessly disregards the safety and well-being of other another person or property.

A unit member who willfully violates of the Rules and Bylaws of unit.

Any other egregious act agreed upon by a majority of the Board of Directors or unit members.

The event must be brought to the attention of the Board or Directors, through the chain-of-command as soon as practicable after the incident. The President will notify the violator that his action warrant a possible reduction in rank. The violator will have 14 days to submit a written explanation or justification for his actions. After reviewing the explanation or justification, the Board of Directors will vote to determine if the matter warrants a reduction in rank. A simple majority vote from the Board of Directors will result in a recommendation for reduction in rank. If the Board of Directors does not recommend reduction in rank the matter closes. After review by the Board of Directors, the unit members will receive the written explanation or justification and the written recommendation for reduction in rank from the Board of Directors. If the Board of Directors can resolve the occurrence that warranted the recommendation for a reduction in rank, the Board of Directors may not distribute the written explanation or justification and may close the matter.

In the event the Board of Directors cannot resolve the matter and they recommend a reduction in rank, the unit members will vote in person at a meeting called for that specific purpose, via e-mail, telephone, or other electronic means. The President of the Board will inform the unit member affected by the vote of the result. After the President of the Board informs the unit member of the results, he will inform the unit membership of the outcome.

M. Discharge of Members

Any member may be discharged from the unit by a majority vote of the unit members for conduct discrediting to the unit, unlawful acts, for threats of violence against any member of the unit, or for violation of Rules and Bylaws. The Board of Directors or any unit member may recommend any other unit member for any of the above reasons for discharge.

The discharge process is the same as that for Reduction in Rank with the difference being that the end result being the discharge of the unit member from the unit instead of a reduction in rank.

N. Amendment of Unit Rules and Bylaws

The Rules and Bylaws are the standards by which the unit and unit members will conduct themselves in order to affect the stated purpose of the unit. All Rules and Bylaws will be strictly upheld. If at any time the Officers, the Board of Directors, or unit members wish to amend the Rules and Bylaws, the proposed changes shall be submitted in writing to the President, who shall review the proposed amendment(s) with the Board or Directors. A majority vote by the Board of Directors will pass the proposal to the unit membership for a vote. A three-quarter majority vote by the unit membership will amend the Rules or Bylaws.

O. Unit Event

A Unit Event is defined as any event either designated by the Board of Directors to be a Unit Event or any event in which twenty-five percent of the Unit membership actively attend and participate.

P. Honorary Member

Any former member of the U. S. Military may become an Honorary Member of the unit. The person wishing to become an Honorary Member may either apply for Honorary Membership, or, any unit member can propose that a particular person be accepted as an Honorary Member. The person's information must be forwarded to the Board of Directors who will review the candidates' qualifications and thereafter, the Honorary Membership will be put to a vote of the unit membership. A prospective Honorary Member must receive three-fourths of the votes from the unit membership before he will be granted an Honorary Membership in the unit. Once accepted, the person shall become an Honorary Member in the unit, entitled to attend unit events; however, Honorary Members shall not be entitled to vote on any unit matters.

Q. Safety

1. Unit members will:

- a. Abide by all local, state, and federal firearms laws.
- b. Handle all weapons as though they are loaded at all times.
- c. Keep their weapons on safe unless actively firing the weapon.
- d. Only use authorized blank ammunition as to not injure a unit member or damage his weapon through the sharing of ammunition.
- e. Present all weapons and ammunition to the Safety Officer for inspection prior to use at unit events.
- f. Wear helmets at all times while actively participating in "battles".
- g. Ground guide vehicles in congested areas and assembly areas.
- h. Follow guidance and direction from unit leadership.

2. Unit members will not:

- a. Bring any live ball ammunition to any unit activity unless specifically authorized.
- b. Directly fire blank ammunition at an individual closer than 50 feet.
- c. Throw or launch any ignitable devices at vehicles.
- d. Fix a bayonet to a weapon or unsheathe a knife except when authorized by the Field Commander and then only under controlled conditions for the purposes of demonstration or photography.

ARTICLE II. History and Awards of the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division

A. History of the 502nd P/I

Constituted 14 March 1941 in the Army of the United States as Company A, 502nd Parachute Battalion

Activated 1 July 1941 at Fort Benning, Georgia

Constituted 24 February 1942 in the Army of the United States as the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment (less 1st Battalion) activated 2 March 1942 at Fort Benning, Georgia

Assigned 15 August 1942 to the 101st Airborne Division

Inactivated 30 November 1945 in France

The 502nd Infantry Regiment originated in July 1941, as the 502nd Parachute Battalion, an experimental unit formed to test the doctrine and tactics of parachute assault. The 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment was activated on 1 July 1941, at Fort Benning, Georgia. The 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment (P/I) or “Five-Oh-Deuce”, as they became known, was activated as a regiment on 2 March 1942 under the command of Lt. Col. George P. Howell. Unlike other early Parachute Battalions, the 502nd retained the same unit designation and personnel when increased in size from a battalion to a regiment. Shortly after the formation of the 502nd, the recently promoted Col. Howell relinquished command of the 502nd to assume command of the Parachute school at Fort Bragg. Lt. Col. George Van Horn Moseley, 502nd Executive Officer (EXO), assumed command of the regiment.

Intense training began as soon as the 502nd was activated as a battalion. By the time the 502nd joined the 101st Airborne Division on 15 August 1942, the troopers had undergone extensive training. The 502nd was the original TO&E Parachute Infantry Regiment in the 101st Airborne Division. The 377th Parachute Field Artillery (PFA) Battalion, the only PFA battalion in the 101st, provided artillery support to the 502nd. After joining the 101st, the 502nd moved from Fort Benning, Georgia to Fort Bragg, North Carolina to join the rest of the division. While at Fort Bragg the 502nd conducted numerous practice jumps from Maxton & Pope Airfields and participated in war games near Evansville, Indiana.

On 4 September 1943 the 502nd boarded the SS Strathnaver bound for England. Once at sea, the crew of the ship discovered salt water in the ship’s fresh water tanks. The Strathnaver sailed for six days before making port on 11 September in St. Johns, Newfoundland for repairs. The 502nd was in port from 11 to 26 September. During this time in St. Johns the men took part in foot marches, inspections, and physical conditioning. On 26 September, the ship headed back out to sea only to return again after striking rocks in the harbor. On the 27 September she made another attempt to leave but returned to port after taking on 28 inches of water. The troopers remained stranded in St Johns until the arrival of another ship. On 4 October the SS John Ericsson loaded the troopers and equipment of the 502nd and set off for England. On 18 October 1943 the SS John Ericsson finally arrived in Liverpool. The journey took a total of 44 days. Meanwhile the 506th and much of the 327th Glider Infantry Regiment (GIR) had already reached England on another transport ship.

The 502nd established operations around the Chilton-Foliat and Hungerford areas, living in a combination of Nissen huts, tents, and in the homes of local English residents. Under the command of Captain Richard Davidson, Able Company resumed tough training and rehearsed company and battalion sized parachute drops. This rigorous training regime would not have been possible without the Able Company officers; Lt. Samuel B. Nickels, Jr., the Able Company Executive Officer, Lt. Wally Swanson, Lt. George R. Cody, Lt. Delmar D. Idol, 2nd Lt. Joseph P. Smith, and others.

The Troopers of the deuce participated in a number of full-scale exercises; Exercise Beaver in March, Exercise Tiger in April, and Exercise Eagle in May, which was the rehearsal for the D-Day invasion of Fortress Europe. Each time the men rehearsed capturing key bridges leading inland from the shore and the destruction of mock gun positions. After seemingly unending training in the cold, bleak English countryside, the Deuce moved from their

base camps to the marshaling areas of Membury and Greenham Common to await invasion orders and conduct final preparations.

When the orders came for Operation Overlord, the 502d was tasked drop on Drop Zone "A" and secure the two northerly exits, behind Utah Beach. The 3d Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Robert Cole, was tasked to secure Exit #4, near the village of Saint Martin de Varreville and Exit #3, near the village of Audoville la Hubert. The 1st Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Patrick Cassidy and 2d Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Steve Chappuis were responsible for destroying four concrete blockhouses with German 122 mm artillery pieces located southwest of Saint Martin de Varreville.

On the evening of 5 June 1944, the Troopers of the 502d boarded transport aircraft and lifted off into the evening sky. In the early morning hours of 6 June 1944 over France, four battalion serials came in ten minutes apart led by the 2d Battalion and Regimental Headquarters. The leading planes, scattered by low clouds and German anti-aircraft fire dropped the majority of the 2d Battalion outside of their drop zone and scattered them across the French countryside. The Paratroopers of the 377th PFA Battalion only recovered one of their six 75 mm howitzers after the drop. The fifty men of the 377th PFA Battalion who assembled during the day fought as infantry in scattered actions. Troopers from two sticks of Able Company received the green jump light too late and exited the aircraft over the English Channel. Some of the Troopers laden with heavy equipment drown. One of these unfortunate Troopers was Capt. Richard L. Davidson the commander of Able Company. Col. Moseley suffered a badly broken leg during the drop. Shortly after the drop he relinquished command of the 502d to Lt. Col. Michael H. Michaelis, the Regimental EXO.

Despite these difficulties, the Deuce consolidated elements of 1st and 3d Battalions and continued on task. The commander of the 3d Battalion, 502d, Lt. Col. Robert G. Cole, dropped east of Ste. Mère-Eglise. He made his way toward St. Martin de Varreville. In the darkness, Paratroopers snapped toy "crickets" to identify themselves as US Paratroopers and began assembling in small groups. The groups were generally mixed and often far from their intended DZs. The men assembled groups for leadership and safety in numbers. Seventy-five men, including some paratroopers from the 82d Airborne Division, gathered in this way under Lt. Col. Cole and moved steadily toward the coast. Except for an encounter with a small enemy convoy on the way, in which several German Soldiers were killed and ten taken prisoner, the group had no trouble reaching its objective. Discovering that the guns of the St. Martin coastal battery had been removed and that the position was deserted, Cole went on to Audouville-la-Hubert where his men established positions at the western end of the causeway without a fight. About two hours later, at 0930, the enemy began retreating across the causeway from the beach. The paratroopers, lying in wait, shot down fifty to seventy-five retreating German Soldiers and at 1300 hours made contact with elements of the 4th Infantry Division. They had suffered no casualties. Cole, having completed his mission, remained in the area to collect and organize his battalion. By the end of the day he had about 250 men. With this group he was ordered into regimental reserve near Blosville for the next day's operations.

Lt. Col. Cassidy, leading 1st Battalion, landed in the center of the battalion zone near St. Germain-de-Varreville. He collected a small force mostly of his own men and moved toward the stone buildings on the eastern edge of Mésières which were thought to be occupied by the German unit manning the St. Martin de Varreville coastal battery. Without opposition the battalion secured the crossroads west of St. Martin near which the building stood. Taking stock of his position, Lt. Col. Cassidy found that both the northern exits for which the regiment was responsible were clear. He then made contact with a group of forty-five men of the battalion who had assembled north of his own position and ordered them to establish a defensive line at Foucarville. The situation to the west of St. Martin de Varreville, however, remained obscure. Lt. Col. Cassidy kept a portion of his force in reserve to block any enemy attempt to break through from the west to the beaches. A group of about fifteen men were sent to clear the buildings on the eastern edge of Mésières. Ssgt. Harrison Summers rushed the buildings one by one, kicked in the doors, and sprayed the interiors with his Thompson Submachinegun. On occasion he had the assistance of another man, but it was his drive and initiative that kept the attack going. About 150 Germans had been killed or captured when the last building was cleared in the afternoon. Lt. Col. Michael H. Michaelis arrived near the close of this action with 200 men. This

allowed Lt. Col. Cassidy to complete his D-Day mission of covering the northern flank of the regiment and tying in with the 82d Airborne Division on the left. While the fight near Mésières was in progress the men of the 1st Battalion whom Lt. Col. Cassidy had sent to Foucarville in the morning had succeeded in establishing four roadblocks in and around the town and had trapped and largely destroyed a four-vehicle enemy troop convoy. Despite this early success the roadblocks were threatened all day with being overrun by a superior enemy force that occupied prepared positions on a hill to the northwest.

The American situation was not immediately improved by Cassidy's move north, since he came up west of Foucarville in order to carry out the plan of tying in at Beuzeville-au-Plain with the 82d Airborne Division. The company ordered to Beuzeville-au-Plain mistook the hamlet of le Fournel for its objective and became involved in three separate platoon fights which created some confusion until dark. The Troopers then withdrew to the south where they remained under enemy pressure during the night. Since Lt. Col. Cassidy was unable to make contact with the 82d Airborne Division, he committed the reserve company on the left and moved up some spare riflemen to fill the gap between le Fournel and the roadblocks around Foucarville. Even so the whole line remained very weak and the regimental commander, having already decided to pass the 2d Battalion through the 1st on the following day, ordered Lt. Col. Cassidy to pull back and dig in. During the night the Germans facing the battalion's right flank at Foucarville unexpectedly decided to surrender, apparently because the increasing volume of American machine gun and mortar fire led them to overestimate the battalion's strength. Eighty-seven Germans were taken prisoner and about fifty more killed as they attempted to escape.

With the occupation St. Côme-du-Mont the 101st Airborne Division began clearing the enemy north of the Douve and east of the Merderet. Preparations began at once for an all-out attack on Carentan from the north. In preparation for that attack on 8 June, the 101st Airborne Division grouped three regiments along the Douve with a fourth regiment assembled in reserve near Vierville. The 502d Parachute Infantry was in line on the right flank from the junction of the Douve and Merderet Rivers to Houesville.

The causeway over which the 502d Parachute Infantry was to attack was banked six to nine feet above the marshlands of the Douve and crossed four bridges over branches of the river and canals. One of the bridges was destroyed by the Germans. Difficulties in repairing this under fire forced postponement of the right wing of the division attack, first scheduled for the night of 9-10 June. It was the middle of the afternoon of 10 June before the 3d Battalion, 502d Parachute Infantry advanced over the causeway single file. The men moved in a low crouch or crawled, and it took three hours for the point to cross three of the bridges. Then the enemy opened fire from a farmhouse and hedgerows, methodically searching the ditches with machine guns. At the fourth bridge a Belgian Gate had been drawn so far across the road that only one man at a time could squeeze by it. Under cover of artillery fire, which all afternoon worked on enemy positions, this maneuver was tried. Six men made it; the seventh was hit, and the attempt was abandoned in favor of building up additional fire. Mortars were brought forward. The stalemate, however, lasted until midnight while enemy fire and a bombing and strafing attack after dark took heavy toll of the thin battalion line stretched across the causeway. After midnight, resistance slackened and three companies were able to filter men through the bottleneck and across the last bridge where they could deploy on either side of the highway.

The nub of the opposition seemed to be a large farmhouse to the west of the road on ground that rose sharply from the marshes. In the morning of 11 June after attempts to knock this out with artillery had failed, Lt. Col. Cole, battalion commander, ordered a charge which he and his executive officer, Maj. John P. Stopka, led. Followed at first by only a quarter of their 250 men, Cole and Stopka ran through enemy fire. The charge gathered momentum as more men saw their officers charging toward the enemy with fixed bayonets and ran forward to join the assault. The farmhouse was not occupied but the Germans had rifle pits and machine gun emplacements in hedgerows to the west. These were overrun and the Germans manning them were killed with grenades and bayonets.

The heavy casualties and disorganization of the battalion prevented Lt. Col. Cole from following up his advantage. Instead he sent word back to have the 1st Battalion of the regiment pass through and continue the attack south. The

1st Battalion, which was near the fourth causeway bridge when request came to move forward, reached Cole's position through heavy fire. But since it was as hard hit and disorganized as the 3d Battalion it was in no better condition to move on. Both battalions set up a defensive line and held on during 11 June against determined German counterattacks, which on one occasion threatened to break through. The 2d Battalion took over the line during the night, but the 502d Parachute Infantry was too exhausted to renew the attack and the 506th Parachute Infantry was sent to its relief. After the attack on Carantan, the 502d relocated outside Cherbourg to conduct security duties. In late June, the 502d sailed back to England in July to absorb replacements, retrain, and await another mission.

Operation MARKET-GARDEN had two major objectives: to get Allied troops across the Rhine and to capture airborne divisions, to drop in the vicinity of Grave, Nijmegen, and Arnhem to seize bridges over several canals and the Maas, Waal (Rhine), and Neder Rijn Rivers. They were to open a corridor more than fifty miles long leading from Eindhoven northward to Arnhem. Operation GARDEN, called for ground troops of the ninety-nine miles. The main effort of the ground attack was to be made by the British XXX Corps. On either flank the British VIII and XII Corps were to launch supporting attacks.

The 101st Airborne Division was responsible for a 15-mile segment road of narrow concrete and macadam ribbon stretching northward and northeastward from Eindhoven in the direction of Grave. The men of the 101st would soon call that segment of road the nickname Hell's Highway.

The objectives vital for subsequent passage of the British XXX Corps were located at intervals along the entire 15-mile stretch of road. The division commander, Maj. Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, later compared the situation to the early American West, where small garrisons had to contend with sudden Indian attacks at any point along great stretches of vital railroad.

Recalling dispersion that had plagued the division in Normandy, General Taylor insisted upon drop zones fairly close together, no matter how scattered the objectives. Two regimental drop zones and the division landing zone were located near the center of the Division sector, west of Hell's Highway in a triangle marked by the villages of Zon, St. Oedenrode, and Best. The 501st P/I, commanded by Col. Howard R. Johnson, would drop to the north of the other regiments near Veghel onto Drop Zone "A" in order to seize rail and road bridges over the Willems Canal and the Aa River. Gen Taylor ordered the 506th P/I, commanded by Col. Robert F. Sink, to drop close to Zon onto Drop Zone "C", secure the highway bridge over the Wilhelmina Canal a few hundred yards south of Zon, and then march south on Eindhoven. Gen. Taylor tasked the 502nd P/I, commanded by Col. John H. Michaelis, to land just north of the 506th onto Drop Zone "B", guard both drop zones and secure Landing Zone "W" for gliders, and to capture the road bridge over the Dommel River at St. Oedenrode. Additionally, General Taylor tasked the 502nd to secure bridges over the Wilhelmina Canal south of Best, four miles from Zon off the west flank of Hell's Highway in order to strengthen the over-all position of the 101st. In order to meet Gen. Taylor's intent, Col. Michaelis sent a company to these bridges.

Beginning three minutes after H-Hour, at 1303, men and equipment began to descend upon the parachute and glider landing zones. Despite flak and small arms fire, only one Pathfinder plane and two of the other parachute aircraft of the 101st Airborne Division failed to reach the drop zones, although some planes went down after the paratroopers had jumped. In an hour and one half 6,769 men were on the ground. Only 1st Battalion, 501st P/I and 1st Battalion, 502nd P/I failed drop on their planned drop zones.

The mission called for the entire 502nd P/I to drop on Drop Zone "B" which was the northernmost of the two drop zones between Zon and St. Oedenrode; 1st Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Patrick Cassidy, came down two miles away on the neighboring drop zone. Although delayed by this misadventure, by nightfall had brought a persistent bunch of rear echelon Germans to heel in St. Oedenrode and thereby secured both a main highway and an alternate bridge over the Dommel River. After deploying troopers to defend the village, Lt. Col. Cassidy sent a patrol northeast along Hell's Highway which contacted the 501st Parachute Infantry at Veghel.

The majority of the 502nd moved to an assembly area near Zon as the Division reserve. At the same time a H Company, 3rd Battalion reinforced by a light machine gun section from battalion headquarters and 3rd Platoon, C Company, 326th Engineer Regiment .proceeded upon a separate mission, to capture the rail and road bridges over the Wilhelmina Canal southeast of Best. Although these bridges were not assigned objectives for the 101st Airborne Division, General Taylor considered them valuable for three reasons: first, as an outpost protecting his glider landing zone and his main positions along Hell's Highway; again, as alternate crossings of the Wilhelmina Canal should the Germans destroy the bridges at Zon; and again, as control of a main highway (between Eindhoven and Hertogenbosch) by which the Germans otherwise might feed reinforcements to Eindhoven. To do the job, Col. Michaelis sent Company H.

En route to the bridges, the H Company Commander, Capt. Robert E. Jones, lost his way in the densely wooded Zonsche Forest. Emerging near a road junction southeast of Best, the company came under fire from a small group of Germans. The Germans gained the upper hand when infantry reinforcements and several small cannon arrived by truck from the direction of Hertogenbosch.

Goaded by radio messages from Lt. Col. Cole to secure the bridges over the Wilhelmina Canal, Capt. Jones organized a reinforced patrol. Lt. Edward L. Wierzbowski took his rifle platoon, the attached engineer platoon, and attached light machine gun section to the bridges.

Lieutenant Wierzbowski found in turn that casualties and disorganization had left him with only eighteen riflemen and twenty-six engineers. Lt. Wierzbowski's reinforced patrol was picking its way through the Zonsche Forest toward the bridges when night came with a cold, penetrating rain.

Based on stiff resistance north of Best encountered by H Company, Col. Michaelis directed Lt. Col. Robert G. Cole to take his 3rd Battalion to Captain Jones's assistance. The remainder of 3rd Battalion started toward Best at 1800, but darkness fell before they could establish physical contact with Captain Jones.

In the meantime, Lieutenant Wierzbowski and his men had crawled the last few yards on their bellies to reach the Wilhelmina Canal several hundred yards east of the highway bridge. Slithering along the dike, the men approached the bridge, apparently undetected. While the lieutenant and a scout crawled ahead to reconnoiter, the main body of the patrol slid down the embankment to await their return.

A barrage of "potato masher" hand grenades came suddenly from the darkness on the other side of the canal. Scared, a couple of men scrambled up the bank of the dike. Others followed. The night erupted with the fire of machine guns and rifles. Some of the men stampeded back toward the forest.

When he heard the firing, Lt. Wierzbowski was within sight of the bridge and found it covered by German sentries. Scurrying back, he discovered he only had 3 officers and 15 men remaining, and 3 of these were wounded. Collectively they had their individual weapons, a machine gun with 500 rounds of ammunition, a mortar with 6 rounds, and a bazooka with 5 rockets. As the cold rain fell, the men dug in for the night.

As these events developed, the 101st Airborne Division's D-Day glider lift began to arrive. Although not as immune to mishap as the parachutists, a total of 53 out of 70 gliders landed successfully with 32 jeeps, 13 trailers, and 252 men. Of those that failed to make it, 1 fell in the Channel, 1 crash-landed on the landing zone, 2 collided in the air above the landing zone, 2 were unaccounted for, 4 landed in friendly territory, and 7 came down behind enemy lines.

In Zon, the 506th P/I failed to secure the highway bridge over the Wilhelmina Canal before the Germans demolished the bridge. Destruction of the bridge over the Wilhelmina Canal in Zon increased the importance of the 502nd P/I's mission of securing alternate bridges in Best.

On early D plus 1, 18 September, Col. Michaelis committed 2nd Battalion to the Best fight. The fight for the bridges near Best developed into the 101st Airborne Division's stiffest fighting on D plus 1 and 2.

Behind an artillery barrage that began an hour after the first troop carrier aircraft passed over the British lines, the XXX Corps had attacked on schedule with tanks in the lead. Against five German battalions, including two SS battalions that XXX Corps intelligence had failed to detect, the spearhead Guards Armoured Division made steady progress. The woods and marshy ground along the highway limited the attack to a front not much wider than the width of the highway leading to Eindhoven. As night came, the British stopped in Valkenswaard, their "formal" objective. Eindhoven remained six miles to the north.

The 506th Parachute Infantry fought through ineffective delaying actions by small enemy groups and pressed the advance on Eindhoven early on D plus 1, 18 September. By midmorning, the lead battalion knocked out a nest of two 88-mm guns and pushed deep into the heart of the city. Col. Sink expected to find at least a regiment of Germans in Eindhoven; he actually encountered no more than a company. Having taken four bridges over the Dommel River and a canal in the city by noon, the paratroopers spent the rest of the day rounding up enemy stragglers and clearing the southern outskirts in preparation of the Guards Armoured Division. As they performed these tasks, Eindhoven went on a binge. As if by magic the city blossomed with the national color. "The reception was terrific," said one American officer. "The air seemed to reek with hate for the Germans"

In the carnival atmosphere the paratroopers failed for a long time to hear the fretted clank of tanks. At 1130 the first direct radio communication with the Guards Armoured Division revealed that the armor was still five miles south of Eindhoven, engaged in a bitter fight. At 1230 hopes rose when two British armored cars appeared, but these had gone around the German flank to reach Eindhoven from the northwest. About 1900 the paratroopers spotted the head of the main British column.

The Guards Armoured Division pushed through Eindhoven without pause. When the column reached Zon, British engineers immediately began construction of a Bailey bridge to replace the destroyed bridge over the Wilhelmina Canal. At 0645 on D plus 2, 19 September, the armor rumbled across. Although the advance of XXX Corps proceeded swiftly it was at least thirty-three hours behind schedule.

General Poppe's 59th Division was the German unit defending Best. The First Parachute Army's General Student sent the bulk of the 59th Division to secure the bridges near Best. In the meantime, three companies reinforced by two replacement battalions and a police battalion were sent to cut Hell's Highway at St. Oedenrode.

The 2nd Battalion, 502nd P/I tried to push to the bridges over the Wilhelmina Canal but had to fall back to a defense with Col. Cole's battalion on the edge of the Zonsche Forest. A timely strike by a flight of P-47s held the Germans back. During this action, a German sniper killed Lt. Col. Cole as he hastened from his covered position to direct the emplacement of identification panels for the P-47s which initially strafed 3d Battalion's positions.

All through the day of D plus 1 the sound of firing had fanned hope of relief in the minds of Lieutenant Wierzbowski and his group of fifteen men along the dike near the highway bridge. Then, at 1100, the hundred-foot concrete span over the Wilhelmina Canal trembled and lifted with a violent explosion. The objective for which the 502nd Parachute Infantry continued to fight the rest of the day was no longer of value.

The experiences of Lieutenant Wierzbowski and his little group were a testimonial to the kind of hardship small, isolated units sometimes are called upon to endure. In midafternoon their troubles increased when a small German force attacked. Two German bullets hit the platoon's lead scout, Pfc. Joe E. Mann, who already had incurred two wounds; now both his arms hung useless. Though an engineer lieutenant and a sergeant tried to break through for aid, the lieutenant was captured and the sergeant wounded.

Hope stirred again during the late afternoon and early evening. First, a British armored car and a reconnaissance car appeared on the opposite bank of the canal. The British tried to raise headquarters of the 101st Airborne Division on their radio, but to no avail. They provided fire support until later in the evening when a platoon of paratroopers who had gotten lost stumbled onto Lieutenant Wierzbowski's position.

Although this platoon agreed to defend one of Lieutenant Wierzbowski's flanks, the men fell back during the night in the face of a small German attack. Again Wierzbowski and his little group were alone. Lt. Wierzbowski sent word of his situation back with a small patrol from 2nd Battalion that stumbled into his position. Though the lieutenant sent word of his plight with this patrol, the report did not reach Lt. Col. Chappuis until the next morning. Distorted in transmission, the message said only that the bridge had been blown.

As a misty daylight began to break on D Plus 2, 19 September, Lieutenant Wierzbowski spotted a small German force bearing down on his position. Though the lieutenant yelled an alarm, the Germans already were too close. Two German grenades rolled down among the wounded. Although the men tossed these out before they exploded, another hit the machine gun and blinded the gunner. A moment later another grenade rolled into this man's foxhole. One eye blown out entirely, the other blinded, the soldier groped wildly for the grenade. He found it and tossed it from his foxhole only a split second before it exploded.

Another grenade fell behind Private Mann, who was sitting in a trench with six other wounded. Mann saw the grenade come and felt it land behind him. Helpless, his arms bound and useless from the wounds incurred the day before, he yelled: "Grenade!" Then he lay back to take the explosion with his body.

"Shall we surrender or fight?" the men had asked persistently. As the Germans made a final charge, Lieutenant Wierzbowski gave them a succinct answer: "OK. This is the time." Only three of his men had gone unscathed. They had exhausted their supply of ammunition and grenades. One man put a dirty handkerchief on a rifle and waved it.

In the meantime, a stalemate had developed in the fighting along the edge of the Zonsche Forest. Though 2nd and 3rd and Battalions held their own, Col. Michaelis, could not reinforce them without neglecting defense of St. Oedenrode, which was one of his primary missions.

The solution came at last in the juncture with the British ground troops, whereby a squadron of British tanks and a modicum of artillery support became available. Arrival by glider in the afternoon of D plus 1 of two battalions of the 327th Glider Infantry under Col. Joseph H. Harper also helped. Because of rain and mist along the southern air route, this glider lift had come in via the northern route and brought successful landing of 428 out of 450 gliders of the 101st Airborne Division. A total of 2,579 men, 146 jeeps, 109 trailers, 2 bulldozers, and some resupply had arrived.

General Taylor ordered his assistant division commander, Brig. Gen. Gerald J. Higgins, to take over-all command of the two battalions of the 502nd Parachute Infantry near Best, contingents of the 327th Glider Infantry, a squadron of British tanks, and elements of British artillery and to reduce all enemy east of the highway between Eindhoven and Hertogenbosch and north of the Wilhelmina Canal. Though the destruction of the Best highway bridge had eliminated the original purpose of the Best fighting, the job of protecting the west flank of the 101st Airborne Division remained.

The British tanks made the difference in an attack that began at 1400 on D plus 2. Within German ranks, a festering disintegration by late afternoon became a rout. "Send us all the MP's available," became the cry as hundreds of Germans began to surrender. For almost three days a bitter, costly, and frustrating fight, the action at Best was now little more than a mop-up. By the end of D plus 2 the prisoners totaled more than 1,400 with more than 300 enemy dead. Some of the prisoners came in with Lieutenant Wierzbowski and the survivors of his little band. They had been taken to a German aid station and there had talked their captors into surrender.

Best itself remained in German hands, and much of the territory taken was abandoned as soon as the mop-up ended. Now the battle of Hell's Highway was developing into the Indian-type fighting General Taylor later was to call it, and these men from Best were needed at other points. The engagement near Best had been costly and had secured neither of the bridges over the Wilhelmina Canal, yet it had destroyed the 59th Division which could have affected the security of Hell's Highway if left intact.

While the fight raged at Best on D plus 1 and 2, the rest of the 101st Airborne Division maintained defensive positions at Eindhoven, Zon, St. Oedenrode, and Veghel. From Eindhoven, Col. Sink's 506th Parachute Infantry sent a battalion to both flanks to widen the base of the MARKET-GARDEN corridor, but in both cases Sink recalled the troops before they reached their objectives. On the west the battalion returned because the XII British Corps had begun to advance along the left flank of the corridor and was expected soon to overrun the battalion's objective. The battalion on the east returned because Col. Sink learned that a column of German armor was loose in the region and he wanted no part of a meeting engagement with armor.

Late in the afternoon of D Plus 2, the 107th Panzer Brigade struck toward Zon in an attempt to sever the thin lifeline over which the British ground column was pushing toward Nijmegen. Even without the 59th Division, the German attack came close to succeeding. Only a scratch force that included General Taylor's headquarters troops was available at the time for defending the Bailey bridge over the Wilhelmina Canal at Zon. Darkness had fallen, a British truck struck by a round from a German tank was burning brightly atop the bridge, and a German Panther tank pumped round after round into the building which housed the division command post when General Taylor himself arrived with reinforcements. He led part of a glider infantry battalion and a lone 57-mm antitank gun. One of the first rounds from the 57-mm knocked out a German tank near the bridge. Bazooka fire disabled another. The Germans appeared to lose heart after losing two tanks and withdrew. Traffic gradually began to flow again along Hell's Highway.

Another German blow against Hell's Highway on D plus 2 came from the air, perhaps as a direct result of Hitler's exhortations that the Luftwaffe put his little world right again. About a hundred German twin-engine bombers came out of hiding after nightfall to bombard the central part of Eindhoven. Because most American units held positions outside the city, they incurred no damage; but more than a thousand civilians were killed or wounded, and British units were heavily hit. Whether from lack of planes, fuel, or trained crewmen, or because of all three, this was the only major strike by long-range German bombers during the course of the campaign in the West during the fall of 1944.

Lt. Col. Cassidy's 1st Battalion, 502nd P/I held their position about the canal and river bridges against persistent but small German attacks, most of which were in company strength. The strongest—by three companies of the 59th Division reinforced by police and replacement units—struck 1st Battalion on D plus 2 on the road to Schijndel. Hard pressed at first, Lt. Col. Cassidy's men gained assistance from Sgt. James M. "Paddy" McCrory, commander of a crippled tank that had dropped out of the British ground column. Although the tank could make no more than five miles per hour, McCrory plunged unhesitatingly into the fight. When the paratroopers tried to thank him, he brushed them off. "When in doubt," Sergeant McCrory said, "lash out." His words became a kind of unofficial motto of the battalion.

General Taylor had hoped to be in a stronger position by the end of D plus 2 with the addition of most of his airborne artillery. The flights on D plus 2 were postponed until late in the day on the chance the weather might clear. Troops in the gliders spoke of a mist so thick they could see nothing but three feet of tow rope stretching out into nowhere from their gliders. Because the glider pilots could not detect when their mother planes banked, many gliders turned over and had to cut loose prematurely. The Air/Sea Rescue Service worked overtime plucking ditched crewmen and passengers from the Channel. Many planes and gliders turned back. On the other hand, weather at German bases must have been better; for the Germans sent up more than 125 Messerschmitts and Focke-Wulfs. A total of 1,086 Allied troop carrier, tow, and resupply planes and 428 gliders took off on D plus 2. A large part of these returned to base, while 45 planes and 73 gliders were lost.

Because the 101st Airborne Division's landing zone was relatively secure, General Brereton allotted General Taylor, at the expense of the 82nd Airborne Division, 384 gliders for the D plus 2 flight, more than twice the number originally planned. Only 212 of these arrived. After missing the landing zone and circling vainly, 82 tow planes returned to England. Of these planes 31 of their gliders cut loose behind friendly lines, 16 were known to have crash-landed in enemy territory, and 26 were not accounted for. Those glidermen who landed behind German lines and eventually rejoined their units brought with them harrowing tales of hairbreadth escapes punctuated with praise for the Dutch underground. Most of these men were artillerymen, for the flights bringing in the artillery units were particularly cut up. Of 66 artillery pieces and antitank guns that started the flight, only 36 arrived. None was larger than the 75-mm pack howitzer; all planes towing gliders with 105-mm howitzers had to turn back.

Difficulties imposed on the 101st Airborne Division by the adverse weather could not be ignored, and General Taylor's "Indian War" to keep open Hell's Highway was critical as long as men and supplies had to go north over the highway. Nevertheless, at the moment, a situation had developed farther north that overshadowed events along Hell's Highway. Moving on Grave and Nijmegen, the British ground column was hard pressed to cross the Maas and Waal Rivers and reach the British airborne troops at Arnhem. To ensure passage of the ground column, the 82nd Airborne Division at Nijmegen was fighting against time.

For all the adversities north of the Neder Rijn, hope still existed as daylight came on D plus 5, 22 September, that the 43rd Infantry Division might break through at Ressen, relieve the British paratroopers, and bring over-all success to Operation MARKET-GARDEN. The XXX Corps commander, General Horrocks, ordered the division "to take all risks to effect relief today."

Yet, almost coincident with this hope, another major threat to the success of the operation was developing to the south in the sector of General Taylor's 101st Airborne Division. Despite an aggressive defense designed to prevent the enemy from concentrating at any one crucial spot to cut Hell's Highway, General Taylor on 22 September faced report after report from Dutch sources of large-scale German movements against the narrow corridor from both east and west.

The 101st Airborne Division commander, General Taylor, had recognized since late on D plus 2, 19 September, when his command post and the Bailey bridge over the Wilhelmina Canal at Zon had almost fallen to the first strike of the 107th Panzer Brigade, that his division had entered a second and more difficult phase of the fighting. The point was underscored in the morning mist of D plus 3, 20 September, when the 107th Panzer Brigade struck again at the Zon bridge. Though a reinforced battalion of infantry was positioned to protect the bridge, German tank guns soon controlled the bridge by fire. The bridge might have fallen to the Germans had not ten British tanks belatedly responded to an SOS dating from the crisis of the night before. Knocking out four German tanks, the British forced the enemy back.

Recognizing that he had not the strength to maintain a static defense along the 15-mile length of Hell's Highway, General Taylor on D plus 3 chose to conduct limited offensive operations to keep the Germans off balance.

On D plus 4, 21 September, a reconnaissance by a company of Col. Michaelis' 502nd Parachute Infantry encountered stiff resistance near the village of Schijndel, four and one half miles northwest of St. Oedenrode. This coincided with civilian reports that the Germans were concentrating south of Schijndel for a counterattack upon St. Oedenrode. Col. Michaelis and the commander of the 501st Parachute Infantry, Col. Johnson, decided to press the Germans near Schijndel between them. Two battalions of Johnson's regiment would take Schijndel from the north. Thereupon two of Michaelis' battalions would attack northward against the German force that was south of the village.

In a swift move after dark on D plus 4, Col. Johnson took Schijndel not long after midnight on 21 September. Although a surprise counterattack against the village at dawn delayed the start of the second phase of the planned

maneuver, Col. Michaelis' two battalions were able to begin their role by midmorning of D plus 5 on 22 September. Progressing smoothly, the attack gave promise of bountiful success. Then, abruptly, at 1430, an urgent message from General Taylor forced a halt.

General Taylor had learned that the Germans were concentrating for a major blow to sever Hell's Highway in the vicinity of Veghel and Uden. The maneuver near Schijndel during the morning of 22 September was occupying the bulk of Col. Johnson's 501st Parachute Infantry, but one battalion of that regiment still was in defensive positions in Veghel. Yet not a man was in Uden, the other place which the Americans believed the Germans would strike. General Taylor shifted his efforts to controlling Uden.

The Battalion Jungwirth joined the fight to cut Hell's Highway and moved down a secondary road and by nightfall approached the hamlet of Koevering, located astride Hell's Highway a little more than a third of the distance from St. Oedenrode to Veghel and heretofore unoccupied by the Americans. Upon receiving reports of this enemy movement, the commander of 1st Battalion, 502nd Parachute Infantry at St. Oedenrode sent two companies racing toward Koevering. Arriving minutes ahead of the Germans, these companies denied the village; but they could not prevent Battalion Jungwirth from cutting Hell's Highway a few hundred yards to the northeast.

Through the night airborne and British artillery pounded the point of German penetration in an attempt to prevent reinforcement. The 907th Glider Field Artillery Battalion in firing positions only 400 yards from the Germans laid the guns of one battery for direct fire, operated the others with skeleton crews, and put the rest of the artillerymen in foxholes as riflemen. Yet the commander of the 6th Parachute Regiment still managed to redeploy a portion of his forces to the point of penetration.

Marching during the night from Uden in a heavy rain, Col. Sink's 506th Parachute Infantry attacked at 0830 the next morning (D plus 8, 25 September) to squeeze the Germans from the northeast. A regiment of the 50th British Infantry Division and a reinforced battalion of the 502d Parachute Infantry pressed at the same time from the direction of St. Oedenrode. As the day wore on, Battalion Jungwirth and reinforcements from the 6th Parachute Regiment held firm. By nightfall the Allies had drawn a noose about the Germans on three sides, but a small segment of Hell's Highway still was in German hands.

During the night Battalion Jungwirth withdrew in apparent recognition of the tenuous nature of the position. The Germans nevertheless had held the penetration long enough to mine the highway extensively. Not until well into the day of D plus 9, 26 September, did engineers finally clear the road and open Hell's Highway again to traffic.

The elimination of this break near Koevering marked the stabilization of the 101st Airborne Division's front. Although the Germans struck time after time in varying strength at various positions along the road, never again were they able to cut it. Actually, General Reinhard's LXXXVIII Corps to the west of the highway concentrated primarily upon interfering with Allied movements through artillery fire, and General von Obstfelder's LXXXVI Corps to the east was too concerned with advance of the VIII British Corps to pay much more attention to Hell's Highway. By nightfall of 25 September patrols of the VIII Corps had contacted contingents of the XXX Corps at St. Antonis, south of Nijmegen, thereby presaging quick formation of a solid line along the east flank of the corridor. Both General Taylor's 101st Airborne Division and General Gavin's 82d Airborne Division would defend in place while the British tried to make the best of what had been happening at Arnhem.

Before the two U.S. divisions jumped in Operation MARKET, General Eisenhower had approved their participation with the stipulation that they be released as soon as ground forces could pass the positions they had seized and occupied. This had led to an expectation that at least one of the divisions might be released as early as forty-eight hours after the jump. Nevertheless, when the British Red Devils withdrew from north of the Neder Rijn to signal the end of the airborne phase, both American divisions still were in the line.

By 9 October, the British had widened the waist of the corridor to about twenty-four miles. Thereupon, the 12 Corps assumed responsibility for the "island" between the Waal and the Neder Rijn in order to free the XXX Corps for a projected drive against the Ruhr. Field Marshal Montgomery intended to strike southeast from Nijmegen in order to clear the west bank of the Rhine and the western face of the Ruhr and converge with a renewal of First Army's push against Cologne.

Even as October drew to an end and enemy pressure against the MARKET-GARDEN salient diminished, no release came for the two U.S. divisions. Like the 101st Airborne Division, part of General Gavin's 82nd moved northward onto the "island." Here the men huddled in shallow foxholes dug no more than three feet deep lest they fill with water seepage. In an attempt to deceive the Germans into believing the Allies planned another thrust northward, patrol after patrol probed the enemy lines.

On 2 October, General Eisenhower reminded Field Marshal Montgomery of the conditions under which use of the U.S. divisions had been granted and pointed out that the maintenance of the divisions had been based on that plan and that he contemplated using the two divisions about the middle of November. "To enable this to be done," he said "at least one of these divisions should be released without delay, and the second one within a reasonably short time thereafter."

Despite the letter of 2 October urging quick release of the American airborne divisions, General Eisenhower was not unsympathetic to the British manpower problem. He knew that British EmP/Ie troops available in the United Kingdom had long since been absorbed and that only in reinforcement from the Mediterranean Theater, a long-range project, did the British have a hope of strengthening themselves. Even after Montgomery decided in early October that his commitments were too great and enemy strength too imposing to permit an immediate drive on the Ruhr, General Eisenhower did not press the issue of the airborne divisions. Though relieved temporarily of the Ruhr offensive, the British had to attack westward to help the Canadians open Antwerp. General Eisenhower had not underestimated the desirability of relieving the airborne troops; rather, he saw from his vantage point as Supreme Commander the more critical need of the 21st Army Group. At a conference with his top commanders on 18 October in Brussels, he gave tacit approval to the continued employment of the two U.S. divisions. They were to be released, he said, when the Second Army completed its part in clearing the approaches to Antwerp.

The ordeal did not end for the 101st Airborne Division until 25 November 1944. After 69 days since their parachute landing near Zon, the first troops of General Taylor's division began to withdraw. Two days later, on 27 November, D plus 71, the last American paratroopers pulled off the dreaded "Island" north of the Waal. Once relieved, the Paratroopers of the 101st moved by truck along the same route they fought for so staunchly. In Nijmegen, Grave, Veghel, St. Oedenrode, Zon, and Eindhoven, the newly liberated Dutch people roared "September 17!" as the Paratroopers passed.

During the two phases of MARKET-GARDEN the 101st Airborne Division sustained significant casualties. In the airborne phase, from 17 to 26 September the 101st Airborne Division lost 2,110 men killed, wounded, and missing. In the defensive phase, from 27 September to 27 November, the Division lost 1,682 men.

On December 16 1944 the Germans launched a massive coordinated offensive through the heavily wooded area of the Ardennes Forest with the intent for securing the port of Antwerp in order to cut off the allied supply line. The 101st and 82d Airborne Divisions were quickly moved from camps in France to shore up the American front line that was crumbling under the speed and mass of the German attack. All major roads and rail lined passed through the small Belgian city of Bastogne. The German capture of this important transportation hub would allow the Germans to quickly move forces west to Antwerp.

On 18 December 1944, the 101st Airborne Division moved from Camp Mourmelon, France to Bastogne driving through rain and snow flurries in the back of 2 ½ and 10 ton trucks. The later serials most of the 107-mile trip traveled in darkness throughout the night. All parts of the column were forced to buck the mass of vehicles streaming

back to the west from the front. The move was made in good time with some elements taking only eight hours to reach Bastogne. By 0900 on 19 December, Brigade General McAuliffe, the acting division commander, had all four regiments of the 101st around Bastogne. Soon after arriving in Bastogne, the paratroopers of the 502d began digging defensive positions along the north and northwest portion of the defensive perimeter surrounding the city.

On 20 December 1944, German forces completely encircled the defenders of Bastogne. "It was on this day, 20 December," reads the war diary of the 327th Glider Infantry, "that all roads were cut by the enemy...we were completely surrounded." The German siege of Bastogne cut off the supply convoys that were delivering supplies to the paratroopers. The 101st has to rely on other means of resupply; airdrops.

The airdrop scheduled for 22 December never reached Bastogne as bad flying weather prevented the resupply mission from reaching its destination. All that the Third Army air liaison staff could do was to send a message that "the 101st Airborne situation is known and appreciated." Artillery ammunition was running very low. The large number of wounded congregated inside Bastogne presented a special problem: there were too few medics, not enough surgical equipment, and blankets had to be gathered up from front-line troops to wrap the men suffering from wounds and shock. Nonetheless, morale remained high. Late in the afternoon word circulated to all the regiments that the 4th Armored Division and the 7th Armored Division were on their way to Bastogne; to the men in the line this was heartening news. Even though only the 4th Armored Division was headed to Bastogne the rumors of both divisions approach improved morale among the men.

About noon on the 22 December four German Soldiers under a white flag entered the lines of the 2d Battalion, 327th GIR. The terms of the announcement they carried were simple: "the honorable surrender of the encircled town," this to be accomplished in two hours on threat of "annihilation" by the massed fires of the German artillery. The rest of the story has become legend: how Brigadier General McAuliffe disdainfully answered "Nuts!"; and how Colonel Harper, commander of the 327th, hard pressed to translate the idiom, compromised on "Go to Hell!" The ultimatum had been signed rather ambiguously by "The German Commander," and none of the German generals then in the Bastogne sector seem to have been anxious to claim authorship. Lt. Col. Paul A Danahy, G-2 of the 101st, saw to it that the story circulated-and appropriately embellished in the daily periodic report: "The Commanding General's answer was, with a sarcastic air of humorous tolerance, emphatically negative." Nonetheless the 101st expected that the next day would be rough.

The weather on the morning of 23 December was cold but clear. "Visibility unlimited," the air-control posts happily reported all the way from the United Kingdom to the foxholes on the Ardennes front. To most of the American troops this was a red-letter day-long remembered. Bombers and fighter-bombers once more streaked overhead like shoals of silver minnows in the bright winter sun, their sharply etched contrails making a wake behind them in the cold air.

In Bastogne, however, all eyes looked for the squat planes of the Troop Carrier Command. About 0900 a Pathfinder team dropped inside the perimeter and set up the apparatus to guide the C-47's over a drop zone between Senonchamps and Bastogne. The first of the carriers dropped its six parapacks at 1150, and in little more than four hours 241 planes had been vectored to Bastogne. Each plane carried twelve hundred pounds of supplies, but not all the aircraft reached the drop zone nor did all the parapacks fall where troopers could recover them. Nevertheless the day's drop lessened the pinch. On 24 December a total of 160 planes dropped supplies. Poor flying weather on Christmas Day virtually scrubbed all cargo missions, although eleven gliders did bring in a team of four surgeons and some fuel and oil badly needed for the tanks. The biggest airlift was on the 26th when 289 planes on flew the Bastogne supply run.

The airdrop on the 23d brought a dividend for the troops defending Bastogne. The cargo planes were all escorted by fighters, their protective mission accomplished, turned to hammer the Germans in the Bastogne ring. During

the day eighty-two P-47's lashed out at the enemy with bombs and machine gun fire. The 101st reported to that the "air and artillery is having a field day around Bastogne."

About 0300 on Christmas morning, a several German planes droned over the Deuce's position and dropped bombs indiscriminately around Rolle, the 502d regimental command post. A few minutes later German gunners and mortar crews started firing on the American positions at Champs. Able Company was deployed on the northwest edge of the village, its right flank joining the 2d Battalion in a large wood lot midway between Champs and Longchamps. Clad in white snow suits some fifty grenadiers from the 77th *Panzer Grenadier Regiment* crept forward toward Champs under the low light of the waning moon. At 0400 the 77th dashed into the village of Champs. Soon, more German troops moved through the woods against the left flank of the 2d Battalion. Within the hour a full German battalion had joined the fight. Company B moved up to support A Company, but the confused melee around Champs in the predawn darkness pinned the Germans down.

Shortly after the initial attack, eighteen German Mark IV tanks and the riding grenadiers of the 15th *Panzer Grenadier Division* had broken through positions held by Companies A and B of the 327th Glider Infantry Regiment before dawn and got as far as the battalion command post. Several of the enemy tanks passed straight through artillery battery positions in the rear of the 327th. Just west of Hemroulle about half the German tanks wheeled left, defiling along a cart path which led to the road between Champs and Bastogne. As they approached the road the panzers formed in line abreast, now bearing straight toward Companies B and C of the 502d, which were on the march to help the Able Company paratroopers in Champs.

Lt. Col. Chappuis had a few minutes to orient his companies toward the oncoming tanks, but two tank destroyers from Company B of the 705th Tank Destroyer Battalion absorbed the initial shock and were knocked out as they fell back toward the Champs road. As the panzers rolled forward, Company C made an orderly withdrawal to the edge of a large wood lot midway between Champs and Hemroulle. The Paratroopers showered the tanks with fire, and the German infantry clinging to the decks and sides fell to the snow. The tank detachment again wheeled into column, this time turning toward Champs. Two of the 705th tank destroyers, which were supporting Company C, caught the column in the process of turning and destroyed three of the panzers while the paratroopers destroyed two more with bazookas. John Ballard of Able Company accounted for one of the two German tanks destroyed by paratroopers in Champs.

The half of the enemy formation which had kept on toward Hemroulle after knifing through the 327th encountered the a furious cross fire laid down by four of the 705th tank destroyers, tanks, artillery, and bazookas handled by the men of the 327th GIR. As recounted by Col. S. L. A. Marshall after the battle: "The German tanks were fired at from so many directions and with such a mixture of fire that it was not possible to see or say how each tank met its doom." The survivors of those panzer grenadiers of the 1st *Battalion* who had ridden into battle on the tanks found themselves surrounded and alone, for the American rifle line had sealed itself after the initial armored punctures. About fifty German riflemen who had hidden in a stream bed were captured by artillerymen from the 755th.

A "relief column" heading for the Bastogne perimeter consisted of the three Sherman tanks commanded by Lieutenant Boggess, in the lead, followed by a half-track, and two more Shermans bringing up the rear. Lt. Boggess moved quickly, firing machine guns into the tree line. After a mine destroyed the half-track and the armor crews removed mines from the road, the column approached the American lines. On 26 December at 1650, Lt. Boggess saw engineers in friendly uniforms preparing to assault a pillbox near the highway. These were men from the 326th Airborne Engineer Battalion. Twenty minutes later Col. Abrams shook hands with Brigadier General McAuliffe, who had come to the outpost line to welcome the relieving force. The 4th Armored Division breach in the German encirclement of Bastogne was narrow and precarious, but it would remain open despite the most strenuous enemy efforts in following days.

On 3 January 1945, the 19th SS Panzer Grenadier Regiment of the Hohenstauffen Division attacked 2d Bn north of Longchamps, Belgium which resulted in the capture of 40 Paratroopers, mostly for Fox Company. The following week's fighting was bloody and intense along the railroad line running northeast through the Bois Jacques Forest. During this drive on 14 January 1945, Lt. Col. John Stopka was killed by friendly aircraft strafing a nearby target and Cecil Simmons became the third and final commander of 3^d Bn. Despite the German resistance the 502d captured their objective at Bourcy, Belgium.

After Bastogne, the Deuce traveled to the 7th Army area in Alsace with the rest of the 101st Airborne in mid-January. After holding a line along the Moder River for more than a month, they traveled by rail in boxcars to Mourmelon le Petit, France. In April 1945, the Deuce helped close the Ruhr Pocket along the Rhine River in the vicinity of Dusseldorf. In May, the Deuce arrived at Berchtesgaden a bit later than the 506th P/I, 327th Glider Infantry Regiment, and 321st, who led the division advance into the Obersalzberg area. The 502d spent most of the summer of 1945 occupying Mittersill, Austria.

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 the Joigny-Auxerre area of France the Deuce made a final "pay jump" in September 1945. The regiment and the division were deactivated in December 1945. The unit would be resurrected with the 101st Airborne in 1956.

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B. Distinctive Unit Insignia



Description: A gold color metal and enamel device 1 1/8 inches (2.86cm) in height overall consisting of a shield blazoned: Azure, issuant from chief, an eagle's claw, talons extended or, armed Sable. Attached below the shield a gold motto scroll inscribed "STRIKE" in blue letters.

Symbolism: The blue is for Infantry. The grasping eagle's claw is a representation of the airborne functions of the organization. The motto is expressive of the power of the organization.

Motto: STRIKE

Coat of Arms



Shield: Azure issuant from chief, an eagle's claw, talons extended or, armed Sable.

Crest: On a wreath Or and Azure, an eagle's feather palewise Tenné behind two bayonets saltirewise of the first hilted Sable garnished Gold surmounted by a gun stone bearing a four-bastioned fort Argent charged with an ermine spot of the fourth.

Shield: The blue of the shield is for Infantry. The grasping eagle's claw is a representation of the airborne functions of the organization.

Crest: The bayonets refer to the capture of Carentan, Normandy, by bayonet charge. They are two in number in reference to the Regiment's two Distinguished Unit Citations and its two assault landings in World War II. The eagle's feather stands for the unit's airborne function; orange, the national color of the Netherlands, refers to the liberation of Best, Holland. The white four-bastioned fort encircled by a black background represents Bastogne, Belgium, surrounded by the German salient in the Battle of the Bulge. The ermine spot on the white fort refers to the snow which blanketed the Battle's terrain.

C. Campaigns

- Normandy (with arrowhead)
- Rhineland (with arrowhead)
- Ardennes-Alsace
- Central Europe

D. Decorations

- Distinguished Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered NORMANDY
- Distinguished Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered BASTOGNE
- French Croix de Guerre with Palm, World War II, Streamer embroidered NORMANDY
- Netherlands Orange Lanyard
- Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm, Streamer embroidered BASTOGNE; cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action at BASTOGNE
- Belgian Fourragere 1940, Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action in FRANCE AND BELGIUM

E. Authorized Awards and Decorations

Awards for wear on Service Uniforms

Out of respect for those who earned awards and citations in combat for valor and heroism, no such awards are given or permitted in this unit unless the member has been awarded the citation while in actual service to the United States.

However, in order to maintain the authenticity of the unit's impression certain awards are authorized for wear on the service uniform. These awards are inherent to an accurate airborne impression and are obtained based on unit membership or personal criteria.

Awards, when applicable, are worn on the dress uniform in accordance with WWII Army uniform standards. Division insignia is be worn on left shoulder. Rank insignia are worn on both sleeves for enlisted personnel or on both epaulettes for officers. Branch of Service and U.S. insignia are worn on lapels. The Distinguished Unit Citation is worn centered above right breast pocket. The Parachutist Badge is worn over the left breast pocket. The Combat Infantryman's Badge is worn on left breast pocket flap. Campaign ribbons are worn on a ribbon bar above the left breast pocket. The Neatherlands Orange Lanyard and Belgian Fourragere are worn over the shoulder and around the arm.

Personnel with prior military service are authorized to wear awards earned during military service. Equivalent WWII awards will be worn in place of awards that were not issued before 1945. The Board of Directors will determine award equivalency.

1. Unit Awards

Distinguished Unit Citation:



The Unit Citation was established as a result of Executive Order No. 9075, dated 26 February 1942. The Executive Order directed the Secretary of War to issue citations in the name of the President of the United States to Army units for outstanding performance of duty after 7 December 1941. The design submitted by the Office of the Quartermaster General was approved by the G1 on 30 May 1942.

Awarded to the 502nd P/I for action in Normandy and Bastogne.

All personnel of the rank Private First Class and above are authorized to wear the Distinguished Unit Citation.

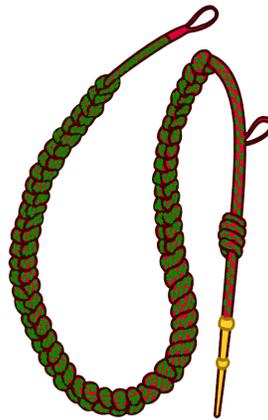
August-September 1944 impressions:

- Distinguished Unit Citation

Occupation Duty 1945 and Post-War impressions:

- Distinguished Unit Citation with bronze oak leaf cluster

Belgian Fourragere:



The Belgian Fourragère 1940 was created by Decree N°300 of March 26, 1945 by Prince Charles, Regent of the Kingdom of Belgium upon the proposal of the Minister for National Defense. Awarded to the 502nd P/I; cited twice in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action in France and Belgium.

All personnel of the rank Private First Class and above are authorized to wear the Belgian Fourragere.

- For wear with Occupation Duty 1945 and Post-War impressions.

Netherlands Orange Lanyard:



Awarded to the 502nd P/I for participation in the liberation of Holland during Operation MARKET GARDEN.

All personnel of the rank Private First Class and above are authorized to wear the Netherlands Orange Lanyard.

- For wear with Occupation Duty 1945 and Post-War impressions.

2. Individual Awards

American Defense Service Medal:



Established by order of the President on 28 Jun 1941, for service in the US Armed Forces for one year during the 'Limited Emergency' proclaimed by the President on 08 Sep 1939, or during the 'Unlimited Emergency' proclaimed by the President on 27 May 1941. The one year must have been between 08 Sep 1939 and 07 Dec 1941.

- Authorized to all personnel who have prior active duty or reserve military service.

American Campaign Medal:



For service in the US Armed Forces within the American Theater of Operations from 07 Dec 1941 to 02 Mar 1946. One bronze service star may be worn for each campaign:

Antisubmarine -- 7 Dec 1941-2 Sep 1945
Ground Combat -- 7 Dec 1941-2 Sep 1945
Air Combat -- 7 Dec 1941-2 Sep 1945

- Authorized to all personnel Private First Class and above.

European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal:



For service in the US Armed Forces within the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations from 07 Dec 1941 to 08 Nov 1945. One bronze service star may be worn for each campaign; one silver service star in lieu of five bronze:

Egypt-Libya -- 11 Jun 1942-12 Feb 1943
Air Offensive, Europe -- 4 Jul 1942-5 Jun 1944
Algeria-French Morocco -- 8-11 Nov 1942

Tunisia -- 17 Nov 1942-13 May 1943
 Sicily -- 9 Jul-17 Aug 1943
 Naples-Foggia -- 18 Aug 1943-21 Jan 1944 (Air); -- 9 Sep 1943-21 Jan 1944 (Ground)
 Anzio -- 22 Jan-24 May 1944
 Rome-Arno -- 22 Jan-9 Sep 1944
 Normandy -- 6 Jun-24 Jul 1944
 Northern France -- 25 Jul-14 Sep 1944
 Southern France -- 15 Aug-14 Sep 1944
 Northern Apennines -- 10 Sep 1944-4 Apr 1945
 Rhineland -- 15 Sep 1944-21 Mar 1945
 Ardennes-Alsace -- 16 Dec 1944-25 Jan 1945
 Central Europe -- 22 Mar-11 May 1945
 Po Valley -- 5 Apr-8 May 1945

The medal is worn with four bronze campaign stars for Normandy (with arrowhead), Rhineland (with arrowhead), Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe. Additionally, the medal is worn with an Arrowhead device for parachute assaults.

Authorized to all personnel Private First Class and above:

August-September 1944 impressions:

- Arrowhead and service star for one or more years of service

Occupation Duty 1945 and Post-War impressions:

- Arrowhead and two service stars for one or more years of service
- Arrowhead and three service stars for two or more years of service
- Arrowhead and four service stars for three or more years of service

The Good Conduct Medal:



Established by order of the President 28 Jun 1941; awarded to enlisted personnel who, on or after 27 Aug 1940, had or shall have honorably completed three years of active federal military service, or who, after 7 Dec 1941, have or shall have honorably served one year of federal military service while the United States is at war.

Authorized to all personnel Sergeant or above with more than two years of service.

- For wear with all impressions.

World War Two Victory Medal:



The WW II Victory Medal was awarded to all military personnel for service between 7 December 1941 and 31 December 1946.

Authorized to all personnel Private First Class and above with three or more years of service.

- For wear with Occupation Duty 1945 and Post-War impressions.

World War Two Army of Occupation Medal:



The WWII Occupation Medal was awarded for 30 days consecutive service while assigned to:

(1) Germany (excluding Berlin) between 9 May 1945 and 5 May 1955. Service between 9 May and 8 November 1945 will count only if the EAME Campaign Medal was awarded for service prior to 9 May 1945.

(2) Austria between 9 May 1945 and 27 July 1955. Service between 9 May and 18 November 1945 will count only if the EAME Campaign Medal was awarded for service prior to 9 May 1945.

(3) Berlin between 9 May 1945 and 2 October 1990. Service between 9 May and 8 November 1945 may be counted only if the EAME Campaign Medal was awarded for service prior to 9 May 1945.

(4) Italy between 9 May 1945 and 15 September 1947 in the compartment of Venezia Giulia E. Zara or Province of Udine, or with a unit in Italy designated in DA General Order 4, 1947. Service between 9 May and 8 November 1945 may be counted only if the EAME Campaign Medal was awarded for service prior to 9 May 1945.

(5) Japan between 3 September 1945 and 27 April 1952 in the four main islands of Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu; the surrounding smaller islands of the Japanese homeland; the Ryukyu Islands; and the Bonin-Volcano Islands. Service between 3 September 1945 and 2 March 1946 will be counted only if the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal was awarded for service prior to 3 September 1945.

(6) Korea between 3 September 1945 and 29 June 1949. Service between 3 September 1945 and 2 March 1946 will be counted only if the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal was awarded for service prior to 3 September 1945.

Authorized to all personnel Private First Class and above with four or more years of service. Additionally, the medal is worn with Germany Bar for service in the European Theater of Operations.

- For wear with Post-War impressions.

Parachute Badge:



Formally approved by the War Department on 10 March 1941; awarded to any individual who has satisfactorily completed the prescribed proficiency tests while assigned or attached to an airborne unit or the Airborne Department of the Infantry School; or participated in at least one combat parachute jump. Stars representing participation in combat jumps had been worn unofficially on parachute wings during and after World War II.

Authorized to all personnel Private First Class and above.

- For wear with all impressions.

Combat Infantryman's Badge:



Established by the War Department on 27 October 1943; awarded to infantrymen, including officers, who demonstrate exemplary conduct in action against the enemy or satisfactorily perform duty in action against the enemy in a major operation as determined and announced by the theater commanders.

Authorized to all infantry personnel Private First Class and above with one or more years of service.

- For wear with all impressions.

Combat Medic Badge:



Established by the War Department in January 1945, but retroactive to December 6, 1941; awarded to any member of the Army Medical Department, at the rank of Colonel or below, who are assigned or attached to a medical unit (company or smaller size) which provides medical support to a ground combat arms unit during any period in which the unit was engaged in active ground combat.

Authorized to all medical department personnel Private First Class and above with one or more years of service.

- For wear with Occupation Duty 1945 and Post-War impressions.

Service Stripe:



Authorized by the War Department; worn by personnel on their left sleeve for every 3 years of service. Each three-year period of service entitles the wearer to an additional service stripe.

Authorized to all enlisted personnel Sergeant and above:

August-September 1944 impressions:

- One Service Stripe for two or more years of service

Occupation Duty 1945 and Post-War impressions:

- Once Service Stripe for two or more years of service
- Two Service Stripes for four or more years of service

Overseas Service Bar:



Authorized by the War Department; worn by personnel on their left sleeve for every 6 months period of overseas service. The bar will be worn 4 inches from the end of the left sleeve. Each six-months of overseas entitles the wearer to an additional bar and soldiers with long overseas service may wear them.

Authorized to all personnel Private First Class and above:

August-September 1944 impressions:

- One Overseas Bar for one or more years of service

Occupation Duty 1945 and Post-War impressions:

- Two Overseas Bars for one or more years of service
- Three Overseas Bars for two or more years of service
- Four Overseas Bars for three or more years of service

Article III. Table of Organization and Equipment

A. Table of Organization

The Table of organization is from TO 7-37 Infantry Rifle Company, Parachute 24 February 1943

Company Headquarters:

Commander	Captain	M1A1 Carbine
Executive Officer	1 st Lieutenant	M1A1 Carbine
1 st Sergeant	1 st Sergeant	M1A1 Carbine
Communications Sergeant	Sergeant	M1 Rifle
Operations Sergeant	Sergeant	M1 Rifle
Messenger	T4/T5/PVT./PFC	M1 Rifle
Messenger	T4/T5/PVT./PFC	M1 Rifle
Messenger	T4/T5/PVT./PFC	M1 Rifle
Operator, Radio	T5	M1 Rifle
Operator, Radio	T4	M1 Rifle
Operator, Radio	T4/T5/PVT./PFC	M1 Rifle
Riflemen	T4/T5/PVT./PFC	M1 Rifle

Note: Riflemen to ensure full squads in platoons; not required, M1 Rocket Launcher allocated, Six M1 Submachine Guns allocated in addition to assigned weapons

Platoon Headquarters:

Platoon Leader	1 st Lieutenant	M1A1 Carbine
Assistant Platoon Leader	2 nd Lieutenant	M1A1 Carbine
Platoon Sergeant	Staff Sergeant	M1 Rifle
Signal, Radio, and Code	Corporal	M1 Rifle
Messenger	T4/T5/PVT./PFC	M1 Rifle
Messenger	T4/T5/PVT./PFC	M1 Rifle
Operator, Radio	T4/T5/PVT./PFC	M1 Rifle

Note: M1 Rocket Launcher allocated

1st Rifle Squad:

Squad Leader	Sergeant	M1 Rifle
Assistant Squad Leader	Corporal	M1 Rifle (Demolition Qualified)
Ammunition Carrier	T4/T5/Pvt./Pfc.	M1 Rifle
Gunner, LMG	T4/T5/Pvt./Pfc.	M1919A4 LMG & M1A1 Carbine
Gunner, LMG, Asst	T4/T5/Pvt./Pfc.	M1 Rifle
Riflemen	T4/T5/Pvt./Pfc.	M1 Rifle

2nd Rifle Squad:

Squad Leader	Sergeant	M1 Rifle
Assistant Squad Leader	Corporal	M1 Rifle (Demolition Qualified)
Ammunition Carrier	T4/T5/Pvt./Pfc.	M1 Rifle
Gunner, LMG	T4/T5/Pvt./Pfc.	M1919A4 LMG & M1A1 Carbine
Gunner, LMG, Asst	T4/T5/Pvt./Pfc.	M1 Rifle
Riflemen	T4/T5/Pvt./Pfc.	M1 Rifle

60-mm Mortar Squad:

Squad Leader	Sergeant	M1 Rifle
Gunner, 60-mm Mortar	T5/Pvt./Pfc.	M2 Mortar & M1A1 Carbine
Gunner, 60-mm Mortar Asst.	T5/Pvt./Pfc.	M1A1 Carbine
Ammunition Carrier	T5/Pvt./Pfc.	M1 Rifle
Ammunition Carrier	T5/Pvt./Pfc.	M1 Rifle
Ammunition Carrier	T5/Pvt./Pfc.	M1 Rifle

Attachments: (As necessary)

Technician Medical	T3/T4/T5/Pvt./Pfc.	None
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B. Authorized Equipment

1. Uniforms:

Basic Field Items:

- **Coat, Parachute Jumper, M1942 (Standard Issue or Reinforced)
- **Trousers, Parachute Jumper, M1942 (Standard Issue or Reinforced)
- Jacket, Field, M1943
- Trousers, Field M1943 (Quartermaster Issue or Reinforced)
- **Shirt, Wool, M1937 or M1941
- **Cap, Garrison, OD Wool with piping as appropriate and parachute patch
- **T-shirt, white or OD#7
- **Socks, OD#3 or OD#7
- **Boots, Jumper, Parachute (Corcoran are the boot of choice)
- Boots, Combat, M1943
- **Belt, Trousers, OD#3 or OD#7
- **Suspenders, Trousers

Service Uniform Items:

- Trousers, Wool, OD
- Blouse, Wool, OD
- Jacket, Field, Wool, OD (Short)
- Shirt, Wool, M1937 or M1941
- Cap, Garrison, OD Wool with piping as appropriate and parachute patch
- Tie, Light or Dark OD
- Boots, Jumper, Parachute (Corcoran)

Additional Uniforms:

- Trousers, HBT (1st or 2nd Pattern, Light or Dark Shade)
- Jacket, HBT (1st or 2nd Pattern, Light or Dark Shade)
- Cap, HBT (1st or 2nd Pattern, Light or Dark Shade)
- Cap, HBT, M1941 (Daisy Mae Pattern)
- Trouser, Summer Service (Khaki)
- Shirt, Summer Service (Khaki)
- Cap, Summer Service, Garrison Cap

Accessories:

- Raincoat, M1938, Dismounted
- Overcoat, Wool, OD
- Gloves, Horsehide, Riding, M1938 or M1942
- Gloves, Wool, OD#7
- Gloves, Wool with Leather Palm
- Sweater, Highneck, Wool, OD#7
- Cap, Knit, Wool, M1941
- Cap, Mechanics, Winter, A4
- Watch, Wrist, 1940s era or replica
- **Tags, Identification, Notched with ball or PX chain

2. Field Equipment:

Basic Items:

- ***Belt, Pistol, M1910 or M1936, OD#3
- ***Belt, Cartridge, M1923, OD#3
- **Suspenders, Belt, M1936, OD#3
- Felt Suspender Pads
- **Pack, Field, M1936 (Mussette), OD#3
- **Pouch, First Aid, M1942, OD#3
- **Dressing, Field, Carlisle
- **Canteen, M1910 or M1942
- **Cover, Canteen, M1910 or M1941 mounted, OD#3
- **Cup, Canteen, M1910
- **Entrenching Tool, Shovel, M1910 (Standard Issue or Airborne Modified)
- **Carrier, Entrenching Tool, Shovel M1910
- **Shovel, Folding, M1943
- **Cover, Shovel, Folding, M1943, 1st or 2nd Pattern, OD#3 or OD#7
- Carrier, Mask, Assault, M7
- Gas Mask, M5 or similar model
- **Helmet, M1C with white Heart unit marking with tick mark at the 3 o'clock position
- **Helmet, M2 with white Heart unit marking with tick mark at the 3 o'clock position
- Helmet, Net, Camouflage, 2 inch or ½ inch pattern, OD#3 or OD#7
- ***Pouch, Rigger, Small, OD#3
- ***Pouch, Rigger, Medium, OD#3
- ***Pouch, Magazine, 5-Cell, OD#3
- ***Pouch, Magazine, Caliber .30, OD#3
- ***Pouch, Magazine, Caliber .45, M1912, M1918, or M1923, OD#3
- ***Bag, Magazine, OD#3
- Bag, General Purpose with strap, OD#3 or OD#7
- Compass, Wrist with leather or cotton strap (to those not issued Compass, Lensatic)
- Compass, March, Lensatic (officers only)
- Pouch, Compass, 1st Model Zipper type or standard, OD#3 or OD#7 (officers and NCOs only)
- Pouch, First Aid, Parachute
- Rope, Parachutist, 1st or 2nd Pattern
- Pouch, Signal Corps, CS-34 with TL-13 Pliers and TL-29 Linesman Knife
- Cutters, Wire, M1936
- Pouch, Cutters, Wire, M1936, OD#3 or OD#7
- Case, Dispatch, M1938 OD#3 or OD#7
- Bandolier, Ammunition, OD#3 or OD#7
- Arm Identification Flag
- Gas Detector Armband
- Mess Kit, M1926
- Mess Fork, M1926
- Mess Spoon, M1926
- Mess Knife, M1926

Additional Items:

- Shelter, Half, OD#7 with buttons
- Poles, Tent, Tri-fold or three sectional

Rope, Shelter, Cotton
Stakes, Shelter, Wood
Tent, M1934 Pyramidal
Tent, Small Wall
Tent, Squad
Bag, Sleeping, Wool
Bag, Sleeping, Mountain M1943 or M1949
Case, Water Repellent for Bag, Sleeping
Blanket, Wool
Towel, OD#3 or OD#7
Cricket, Brass
Opener, Can, P38
Goggles, M1943 or M1944
Parachute, Harness, T5 with main pack and reserve parachute
Life Preserver, Type B4
Bag, Barracks, OD#3 or OD#7
Bag, Duffle, OD#3 or OD#7
Receiver, Transmitter, SCR-536 (BC-611 with accessories)
Receiver, Transmitter, SCR-300 (BC-1000 with accessories)
Flashlight, TL-122A, TL-122B or TL-122C
Binoculars, M3 with Case, Binoculars, M17
Eureka Beacon, RT-37, PPN-1 or PPN-2
Panel, AL-140-B and Case, CS-150-R
Demolition Gear
Desk, Field, Company
Stove, M1941 (Coleman 520)
Lantern (Coleman 220D)

3. Weapons:

Knife, Pocket, M2
Lanyard, Knife, Pocket, M2, OD#3, OD#7, or white
Knife, Trench, M3
Scabbard, M8
Scabbard, M6, Natural or Russet Brown
Bayonet, M1905E1 or M1
Scabbard, M7
Pistol, Caliber .45, M1911A1 or M1911
Holster, M1916, Natural or Russet Brown
Holster, M3, Natural or Russet Brown
Holster, M7, Natural or Russet Brown
***Carbine, Caliber .30, M1 or M1A1
Case, Carbine, Caliber .30
***Rifle, Caliber .30, M1
***Rifle, Sniper, Caliber .30, M1903A4 with scope
Bag, Griswold, OD#3
***Submachinegun, Caliber .45, M1 or M1A1 (Thompson) (10.5 inch barrel only)
***Submachinegun, Caliber, .45 M3 or M3A1 (Grease Gun)
Machinegun, Caliber .30, M1919A4 or M1919A6 with accessories
Launcher, Rocket, 2.36 inch, M1, M9 or M9A1 with accessories
Mortar, M2, 60mm with bipod and accessories

4. Vehicles:

CCKW 2½ Ton Truck
MB ¼ Ton Truck
GPW ¼ Ton Truck
M3A4 Handcart

**Indicates required Equipment Level One equipment.

***Indicates required equipment for a particular weapon. For applicability of what specific equipment is required, see the list below for the web belt and/or ammunition pouches that are necessary for the weapon you will carry.

Equipment Level One also requires one of the following weapons with the appropriate web belt(s) and/or ammunition pouch(es):

1. Rifle Cal. .30, M1
Belt, Cartridge, M1923, OD#3

or

Belt, Pistol, M1910 or M1936, OD#3
Pouch, Rigger, Small, OD#3 (2 minimum)
2. Carbine Cal. .30 M1A1
Belt, Pistol, M1910 or M1936, OD#3
Pouch, Rigger, Small, OD#3 (2 minimum)

or

Belt, Pistol, M1910 or M1936, OD#3
Pouch, Magazine, Caliber .30, OD#3 (2 minimum)
3. Submachine gun, Caliber .45, M1 or M1A1 (Thompson)
Belt, Pistol, M1910 or M1936, OD#3
Pouch, Magazine, 5-Cell, OD#3

or

Pouch, Magazine, Caliber .45, M1912, M1918, or M1923, OD#3
Bag, Magazine, OD#3
4. Submachine gun, Caliber, .45 M3 or M3A1 (Grease Gun)
Belt, Pistol, M1910 or M1936, OD#3
Bag, Magazine, OD#3

or

Bag, General Purpose with strap, OD#3 or OD#7

C. Rank Structure

The Parachute Rifle Company is the basis for the unit rank structure. The Unit will have officers and non-commissioned officers in proportion to the size of the unit. The unit membership will vote to determine the initial officers and non-commissioned officers for the unit. (See Article III. Table of Organization and Equipment, A. Table of Organization for authorized duty positions and rank.)

D. Field Order

Each individual will bring all gear specified in the Field Order, distributed before an event.

The Field Commander will issue the Field Order two weeks prior to any event. The Field Order will list all items Unit Members will carry and/or wear in the field or to a display. The Field Commander will communicate the Field Order by telephone, email, or other electronic means to each Squad Leader and/or the entire unit membership. Squad Leaders will ensure that squad members have the required equipment for all events. It will also be the Field Commander's final decision as to whether or not an individual can participate in the day's events without having all items required by the list.

E. Personal Standards of Appearance and Equipment

Personal Standards

Hair: Hair will be of a 1940s style military haircut. Hair will be tapered, off the collar, and not touch the ears. Hair color will be a natural color. Sideburns will be no lower than the upper third of the ear. Moustaches are permitted, but not encouraged and will be trimmed to the corners of the mouth and will not extend past the edge of the upper lip. As a rule beards are not authorized; however, the Field Commander may permit up to a 2 days beard growth (stubble) for specific events if historically appropriate for the event and permitted by the event sponsor. The Field Order will specify an exception to the beard standard if applicable.

Eyeglasses: Only appropriate 1940s style eyeglasses are authorized for wear. The P3 USGI frame style is the preferred frame style as issued eyeglasses.

Jewelry: Ear rings and other body piercings are not authorized for wear while participating in unit activities. Any personal jewelry, such as rings and/or watches, shall be of the appropriate type and vintage.

Uniform Standards

Uniforms: All service uniforms will be clean and pressed when worn. All combat uniforms and equipment will be kept clean and serviceable. All shirts and jackets, as appropriate, will have the unit patch on the left sleeve, and have appropriate rank insignia. All boots will be brown in color and carry a polished shine. Every Unit Member is expected to be in the prescribed uniform at all times while at an event. All clothing and equipment must be kept serviceable.

Parachute Infantry Combat Dress

Primary uniform for the unit will be the M1942 jump uniform. The M1942 will be khaki color (khaki being brown with a greenish tint). It may be worn "as issued" or reinforced. Reinforced suits are defined as follows: Jackets may be reinforced at the elbows and lower jacket pockets only. Reinforcing material will be an OD shade of green canvas. A good example would be current issue shelter half material. Trousers are to be reinforced at the knees and bellow pockets. Leg ties are to be light cotton khaki webbing. Green canvas ties are not authorized on M1942 suits.

Shoulder insignia of the 101st will be worn on the left sleeve and a ½" below the shoulder seam, and have the proper rank affixed to the sleeve. Boots will be russet brown in color and carry a high shine at all times.

The secondary uniform the unit will be the M1943 field jacket and field trousers. The shoulder sleeve insignia will be affixed as above. A 48 star flag may be affixed to the right sleeve 2 ½" from the shoulder seam. Flags may or may not be worn, as most soldiers removed them shortly after landing. Trousers will be modified with the large cargo pockets with canvas leg ties. Boots will be Jump Boots or M1943 Combat Boots.

Service Uniform

The four-pocket is the preferred jacket, but the "Ike" Jacket is acceptable for later period impressions. Trousers and jacket should be matched as much as possible for authenticity. Jump boots will be worn. The M1937 wool shirt and trousers, with a khaki belt, and khaki tie, which will be worn, tucked into the shirt between the second and third shirt buttons when the coat is not worn. The wool overseas cap will have the appropriate branch colored piping and the parachutist patch. Shoulder Sleeve insignia will be affixed to the left sleeve ½" below the shoulder seams and centered. Proper rank will be centered on the sleeve and centered between the elbow and the shoulder seam. "US" and infantry branch disks will be worn on the lapel, up 1 inch from the notch and centered between the inside edge of the collar and the outer edge of the lapel. Canted to be aligned with the inside edge of the lapel. Ribbons will be worn over the left breast pocket, and 1/8th of an inch above it. The order of precedence will be from left to right: American Defense, American Campaign, and European Theater of Operations (ETO will have bronze arrowhead and a Bronze Star). Above the ribbons the jump wings will be centered and 1/4th of an inch above the ribbons. Combat Infantry Badge will be worn centered on the left pocket flap between the button and top of the pocket. All brass and silver buttons, insignia, and other accoutrements will be polished to a high shine.

Summer Service Uniform (Khakis)

Under specific summer conditions the Khaki Cotton Shirt and Trousers may be prescribed for wear. This uniform will have the Shoulder Sleeve insignia affixed to the left sleeve ½" below the shoulder seams and centered. A white t-shirt is worn under the Khaki Cotton Shirt. Proper rank will be centered on the sleeve and centered between the elbow and the shoulder seam. This uniform will be worn with a piped overseas cap. This uniform may be worn with an OD or Khaki tie. This uniform is worn with Jump Boots.

F. Primary and Specialized Impressions

The primary impression of every member of the unit shall be that of a rifleman in the parachute rifle company. Any unit member wishing to portray another impression other than that of rifleman is free to do so. However, the unit member may not wear any specialized insignia or award relative to that specialized impression without first having shown to the Authenticity Officer that they possess a complete understanding of and have the requisite knowledge of that impression. In addition, the unit member shall display any and all specialized equipment to the Authenticity Officer in connection with such specialized impression. Once the Authenticity Officer has approved the specialized impression, such information shall be forwarded to the Board of Directors and added to the unit member's personnel record. At events authorization to portray a specialized impression is at the discretion of the Field Commander.

G. Effective Date

These Unit Rules and By-Laws are effective as of 18 March 2016 the date of Amendment of same.