

# Documents from WWII 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne 320<sup>th</sup> Battalion

PLACE: ANYWHERE		EVERY DAY	
LOUSY CHOW - fea and stew	Lk. 15 : 17	7	6 5 4 3 2 1
NO MAIL	2 Cor. 3 : 2	7	6 5 4 3 2 1
REVEILLE	Prov. 6 : 9	7	6 5 4 3 2 1
PROPER DRESS	Eph. 6 : 11	7	6 5 4 3 2 1
NO PASS	Lk. 16 : 26	7	6 5 4 3 2 1
OFF LIMITS	Lk. 13 : 25	7	6 5 4 3 2 1
BROWNE OFF	Lk. 6 : 41	7	6 5 4 3 2 1

THRU THE DAY		MOST ANY DAY	
HURRY UP AND WAIT	Lk. 19 : 5	INSPECTION	Ps. 139 : 23
WHEN DO WE GO HOME?	Prov. 13 : 12	PULLING RANK	Lk. 6 : 31
NEXT MISSION	Ecc. 7 : 8	DOG ROBBING	Lk. 11 : 46
CENSORING LETTERS	Matth. 5 : 37	RESTRICTED	Rom. 8 : 35
NEW RUMOR	Acts 17 : 21	TEMPTED	I Cor. 10 : 13

**G I**

NO. *1006* DATE ISSUED ..... 194..

NAME *M. Williams SNB: 1006*

SIGNATURE .....

ORGANIZATION *1st APO 419*

COMPLIMENTS: Chaplain William J. Reid

YOU'VE HAD IT, BUDDIE.

**OCCASIONAL**

BASIC TRAINING	I Cor. 13	BUR - Beat up Replacements	Matth. 20 : 6
OVERWORKED	Is. 40 : 31	NO PROMOTION	Ps. 75 : 6
PAY PROBLEM	Mk. 12 : 17	AWARDS and DECORATIONS	Gal. 6 : 3
LEAVE - FURLOUGH	Exod. 5 : 1	HANG OVER	Prov. 23 : 29
REPLY BY ENDORSEMENT	I Cor. 8 : 2	COLD DECK and/or DICE	Ecc. 9 : 11
K. P.	Mk. 7 : 4	JILTED	Prov. 30 : 19
GUARD DUTY	Matth. 24 : 43	MARRIAGE	Deut. 24 : 5
B P C - Bed Pan Commandoes	Mk. 2 : 17	WIFE TROUBLE	Mk. 10 : 9

**GRIPES AGGRAVATED BY BIVOUAC AND/OR COMBAT CONDITION**

3 : 00 A.M FIRE MISSION: "At my command. Do not load"	Lk. 12 : 39
NITS nervous in the service	Lk. 22 : 61
WET BLANKETS	Ps. 69 : 2
NOTHING TO READ	2 Tim. 4 : 13
NO LIGHT	Matth. 5 : 14
WHAT'S THE BIG PICTURE?	2 Cor. 5 : 20

**G I**

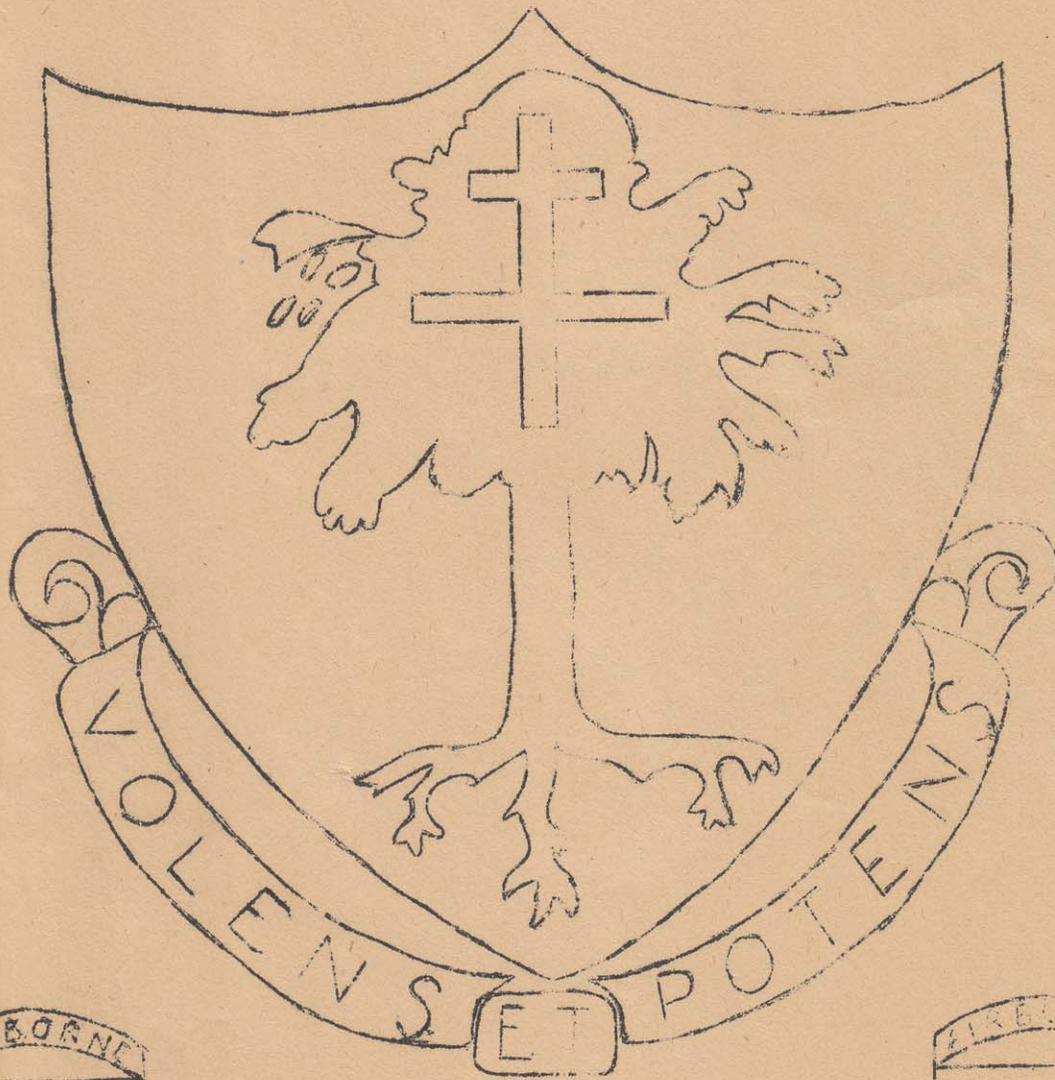
Before I was a traveled lad, I scolded in my provincial way. At other lands; deemed quite sad All nations but these U.S.A.

But now I've been about a bit— How travel broadens! And I have found out this, to wit: How right I was! How right I was!

—FRANKLIN P. ADAMS.

Documents from Epsen Christensen and Maurice Williams

BATTALION HISTORY  
320<sup>TH</sup>  
GLIDER FIELD ARTILLERY



82<sup>ND</sup>  
AIRBORNE  
DIVISION



## 82nd Airborne Division: *The All American Division.*

The 82nd Airborne Division was initially activated as an Infantry Division on March 25, 1942, at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, but was designated as "Airborne" on August 15th, 1942, and was moved to Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After reorganization and completion of airborne training, the 82nd embarked for North Africa in April of 1943 and landed at Casablanca. The Division continued to train and prepare for combat and on July 9th, 1943, Infantry elements boarded aircraft for the invasion of Sicily and dropped behind enemy lines in the Gela area in the largest airborne night operation conducted up to that time. Because of high winds and lack of trained pilots, the actual landings did not take place as planned, and troops were scattered over a fifty mile area. A similar airborne operation supporting the British landing force also initially met with poor landing results. Although the units did not drop where planned, the combative spirit of the men of the Division made up for this because they attacked enemy position, concentrations, and relief forces wherever they were found and the resulting confusion delayed enemy response to the amphibious attacks. Other elements of the 82nd made an airborne drop in Gela area on July 11th and 12th after receiving mistakenly directed friendly fire. Soon, the entire Division was engaged and pushed 150 miles in six days capturing several towns and cities during its advance. The Sicilian Campaign ended for the Division on July 29th after the surrender of the Egadi Islands, and units were airlifted back to Tunisia for a rest and new equipment. After several planned drops were cancelled, the 82nd was back in action on September 13th when one Regiment made a night drop on the Salerno beachhead to reinforce the defenses against determined German counterattacks. Division units bolstered the lines in the rugged Altavilla Hills

and eventually all elements of the Division were landed by boat and air and participated in the capture of Naples. After a short period of occupation and security duty in the Naples area, most units of the 82nd were sent to Ireland in November of 1943 and moved to England in February of 1944 for additional training. At the request of Fifth Army Headquarters, the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment stayed in Italy and spearheaded the Allied attack through the rugged mountains. On January 22nd it made amphibious assault landings at Anzio as part of Operation Shingle. Before the 504th returned to Division control in England in April of 1944, the regiment had engaged in some of the worst fighting of the war at Anzio and had lost nearly 600 men in less than two months. Reinforced with elements of the 2nd Airborne Brigade, the Division (less the 504th which had remained in England) dropped by air and glider behind enemy lines on June 6th (D Day) at Normandy near St. Mere Eglise and Chef de Font. The primary mission of the airborne elements was to prevent enemy reinforcements from reaching the beaches. Once again, the landings were widely scattered, but the aggressive spirit of the troops and the confusion that the scattered landings caused combined to make the attack a success. Key German communications centers were captured along with the German 91st Division Commander and his tactical Headquarters making this Division unable to counterattack Allied forces landing a short distance away on the beaches. The 82nd remained in action for 33 days and fought from Carentan to Ste. Sauvenor and made several river crossings and also helped to capture a beachhead for elements of the VII Corps. After a brief rest in England, the Division was airborne again along with the 508th Parachute Regiment of the 2nd Brigade for the airborne phase of Operation Market Garden. Landing 50 miles behind enemy lines near Nijmegen, Holland, on September 15th, 1944, the Division was given the primary mission of capturing the bridge at Nijmegen and was assigned several secondary objectives. After five days of bloody fighting, the 82nd had captured a bridge over the Maas River, occupied the high ground at Berg en Dahl, secured crossings over the Maas-Waal Canal, and with the help of the British Guards Armored Division had captured the Nijmegen Bridge intact. On September 23rd, additional elements of the 82nd landed and reinforced the landing area and the bridgehead against a series of German counterattacks until being relieved on November 13th. Following a period of rest in France, the Division was called upon to turn back the German attack through the Ardennes and entered the Battle of the Bulge on December 18th at Werbomont. After blunting a German Panzer attack just a few miles from the First Army Headquarters along the northern salient, the 82nd advanced 11 miles inside the German wedge to rescue trapped American units. On December 24th, the Division was ordered to withdraw to stabilize lines and did so (under protest) but advanced on January 3rd, 1945, and regained ground given up and also destroyed elements of two German divisions. After a brief rest, the 82nd was on the attack again in the St. Vith area and broke through the Siegfried Line on February 3rd after a bitter struggle against the weather and German defenders. The Division crossed the Roer River, and was then given a brief rest for refitting before going back into action in the Koln area where it helped to trap German forces in the Ruhr Pocket. After crossing the Elbe River on April 30th and establishing a bridgehead, the 82nd raced across the Meckenburg Plain and on May 2nd, 1945, accepted the surrender of 145,000 troops of the German 21st Army at Ludwigst. After a period of occupation duty in Berlin, the Division returned to the United States in January of 1946 for reassignment. The men of the Division fought in seven different campaigns in WW II and are credited with 422 days of combat but suffered 6,993 combat casualties. The shoulder patch worn by the 82nd Airborne is based on a WW I design that was approved by the AEF on October 21st, 1918. The original red square design with a blue circle had previously been used to mark the Division's baggage and transport. At the request of the troops, the "AA" monogram was added to represent the "All American" Division. The 82nd had adopted this nickname after a reorganization had added personnel to the Division from six military posts located in six different areas of America. Sergeant Alvin C. York of Tennessee was the Division's most famous WW I soldier. The "Airborne" tab was approved for wear on August 31st, 1942.

SECTION IV  
MARCHES

PURPOSE	FROM	TO	MILES		ROAD	WEATHER
			DAY	TOTAL		
Change of Station	Clamp Claiborne, La.	Ft. Briggs, N.C.	5/10/42	530	Rail	Fair
Move to Staging Ar.	Ft. Briggs, N.C.	Camp Edwards, Mass.	27/4/43	860	Rail	Fair
Embarkation	Camp Edwards, Mass.	Casa Blanca, Fr. Morocco	27/4/43	331	Ship	Fair-Rain
Change of Station	Casa Blanca, Fr. Morocco	Murina (Ojda) Fr. Morocco	15/5/43	410	Fair	Hot-Dry
Change of Station	Murina (Ojda) Fr. Morocco	Katrouna, Tunisia	26/6/43	119	Fair	Hot-Dry
Rejoin Division	Vic. Kairouan, Tunisia	Vic. Gela, Sicily	6/9/43	375	Airborne	Fair-Over
Change of Station	Vic. Gela, Sicily	Vic. Termini, Sicily	17/9/43	80	Air & Ho.	Overcast
Combat Div. Res.	Termini, Sicily	Pactum, Italy	22/9/43	220	Ship	Fair
Occupation	Pactum, Italy	Naples, Italy	5/10/43	50	Fair	Fair
Combat	Naples, Italy	Vic. Volturno River	17/10/43	35	Poor	Rain
Occupation	Vic. Volturno River	Naples, Italy	1/11/43	40	Poor	?
Change of Station	Naples, Italy	Cookstown N.I.	9/12/43	95	Ship-Rail	Fair
Change of Station	Cookstown N.I.	Hushands Bosworth, Leicestershire	6/6/44	375	Ship-Rail	Fair
Combat	Vic. Leicester, England	Vic. St. Mere Eglise, France	6/6/44	235	Airborne	Fair
Return to Base	Vic. Leicester, England	Hushands Bosworth, Leicestershire	15/7/44	83	Ship-Rail	Fair
Combat	Vic. Liocestershire	Vic. Nijmegen, Holland	19/9/44	360	Airborne	Fair
Return to Base	Vic. Nijmegen, Holland	Camp Snijpes, Near Reims, France	14/11/44	87	Good	Fair
Combat	Camp Snijpes, France	Ardennes, Belgium	19/12/44	143	Fair	Rain
Return to Base	Vic. Schmidt, Germany	Camp Snijpes, France	21/2/45	100	Fair	Fair
Combat	Camp Snijpes, France	Cologne, Germany	3/4/45	220	Fair	Rain
Return to Base	Cologne, Germany	Blackade, Germany	29/4/45	310	Fair	Rain
Change of Station	Vic. Ludwigslust, Germany	Camp Chicago, Near Reims, France	4/6/45	243	Fair	Fair
Occupation	Camp Chicago, France	Camp Ramp, Epinal, France	16/6/45	175	Fair	Fair
	Camp Ramp, Epinal, France	Berlin Germany	15/8/45	122	Good	Fair

TOTAL :

13,835      13,000

Camp Grand To 1000

Musons 4000

Musons to home 200

Musons to base 20000

AM

## SECTION V

### CAMPAIGNS and BATTLES

#### 1. SICILY : 9 July, 1943 to 12 September, 1943

This battalion was in division airborne reserve at airfields near KAIROUAN, Tunisia from 9 July, 1943 until 6 September, 1943. The battalion then moved by air to vicinity of Gela, Sicily. The Sicilian campaign was brought to a successful conclusion without the commitment of the 320th Glider Field Artillery.

#### 2. NAPLES - FOGGIA : 12 September, 1943 to 18 November, 1943

This battalion landed on the beach near PEASTUM, Italy on 23, September, 1943 where it remained in division reserve until the division was relieved from action on 5 October, 1943.

On 15 October, 1943 by order of Brigadier General Gavin, this battalion was assigned the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 3d Infantry Division Artillery which was engaged with forces of the German Army in the vicinity of the VOLTURNO RIVER. The battalion fired its first combat round at 1108 hours 17 October, 1943 and remained in action until 1 November, 1943. It was relieved and returned to division control at NAPLES ITALY. Steady advance was made in the 3d Infantry Division area during this period. The battalion fired 6,456 rounds (105mm) in this campaign.

#### 3. NORMANDY : 6 June, 1944 to 12 July, 1944

The 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion landed by Parachute and Glider in the vicinity of ST. MERE EGLISE Normandy, France on 6 June, 1944 as a member of the 82d Airborne Division. The advance parties landed at about 0406 hours followed by the balance of the battalion at about 2315 hours. The gliders were badly scattered, and by 0930 the following day only two howitzers were in action-one firing North and one firing South.

By 8 June, 1944 eight howitzers were in action and coordinated offensive action was undertaken. This battalion was in support of the 325th Glider Infantry. On 9 June, 1944 another howitzer, built from three damaged weapons was placed in action making the total of nine weapons finally recovered of the twelve flown in.

the 320th Glider Field Artillery continued in offensive action supporting the 325th Glider Infantry throughout the campaign. On 13 June, 1944 this battalion reinforced the fires of the 319th Glider Field Artillery in support of the crossing of the Douve River made by the 508th Parachute Infantry.

The battalion was relieved from action on 11 July, 1944 and sailed for the base camp in England on LST no. 532 on 13 July, 1944. The battalion fired 16,609 rounds (105mm) during the action.

## SECTION V

### CAMPAIGNS and BATTLES (con't)

#### 4. RHINELAND : 17 September, 1944 to 11 November, 1944

This battalion landed by glider on 18 and 19 September, 1944 as a part of the 82d Airborne Division in the Vicinity of GROESBECK, HOLLAND. Again in support of the 325th Glider Infantry, the battalion assisted in clearing the area of German Forces and holding the division sector for the advance of the Guards Armored Division of His Majesty's Forces.

Many gliders missed the landing zone. All of Headquarters Battery landed south of the Reichswald Forest from six to ten miles (road distance) from the L.Z. All but two loads reached the battalion the following day, though much equipment was lost. "B" Battery had 22 glider loads towed across the L.Z. and into Germany. Eight of the loads returned and fourteen remained missing. "A" Battery landed on the L.Z. with the exception of one glider which, it was later learned, landed in England. Eight out of twelve howitzers were recovered.

In addition to its normal job of supporting the 325th Glider Infantry, this battalion fired in support of the 2d Battalion 505 Parachute Infantry in establishing the first bridgehead across the WALL at NIJMEGEN and in division general support.

After being relieved on night of 10-11 November, 1944 the battalion moved by motor to the base camp in France.

Ammunition expended in Holland : 30,464 rounds (105mm).

#### 5. ARDENNES : 18 December, 1944 to 23 February, 1945

On 18 December, 1944 the 82d Airborne Division, of which this battalion was a part received orders from Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces Via. XVIII Corps, Airborne to move to vicinity of WEBERMONT, BELGIUM with the mission of holding key terrain points and counter attacking to stem a break-through by German Armored, Infantry and Airborne Forces in this sector. This battalion fired in support of division operations during this period in which the German thrust was stopped and the enemy pushed back through the Siegfried line into Germany. 13,967 rounds (105mm) were fired during the course of this action.

#### 6. CENTRAL EUROPE : 3 April, 1945 to 4 June, 1945

A. COLOGNE : On 1 April, 1945 this battalion was ordered to move from its basecamp in France to Cologne, Germany where, as a member of the 82d Airborne Division, a defensive position was established on the west bank of the Rhine while other U. S. Forces attacked and cleared a large pocket of surrounded German Forces in the Ruhr. Fires were delivered by this battalion from positions in the City of COLOGNE. 972 rounds were expended in the Cologne area. After the successful clearing the Ruhr Pocket, the division took up screening and occupation duties in the Cologne area.

## SECTION I

### ORIGINAL UNIT AND CHANGES IN ORGANIZATION

The 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion was originally organized at Camp Gordon, Georgia, in October 1917, as the 320th Field Artillery Regiment, a unit of the 82d Division of World War I. The Regiment served overseas and participated in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives and in defensive sectors in Lorraine. It returned to the United States and was demobilized at Camp Upton, New York in May 1919.

Under authority contained in Section 3a, National Defense Act, as amended, the 320th Field Artillery Regiment of World War I was reconstituted as an organized reserve unit in 1921, and on 30 January, 1942 was redesignated the 320th Field Artillery Battalion.

The 320th Field Artillery Battalion was reactivated as a part of the 82d Infantry Division at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, on 25 March, 1942. This battalion, with the 326th Infantry Regiment, constituted the 326th Combat Team.

The personnel of this battalion were assigned directly from induction centers, and were largely draftees. The Non-commissioned cadre was from the 9th Infantry Division, and the Officers were from the Regular Army, the Officers' Reserve Corps, and the National Guard.

Upon conversion of the 82d Infantry Division to the 82d Airborne Division on 15 August, 1942, the official designation of this battalion was changed to the 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion.

The 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion is entitled to three (3) battle streamers in the colors of the Victory Ribbon of World War I embroidered with ST. MIHIEL, MEUSE-ARGONNE, and LORRAINE. For battles participated in during World War II, the 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion is entitled to wear three (3) more battle streamers representing six battles in the colors of the European, African, and Middle-Eastern Theater of Operations embroidered with SICILY \* NAPLES-FOGGIA, NORMANDY \* ARDENNES, and SHINELAND \* CENTRAL EUROPE. In addition, the battalion earned the UNIT CITATION streamer for the Normandy Campaign, and the Belgian and Dutch Fourrageres.

SECTION III

STATION

<u>STATION</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Camp Claiborne, Louisiana	25 Mar. 42	3 Oct. 42
Fort Bragg, North Carolina	5 Oct. 42	22 Apr. 43
Camp Edwards, Massachusetts	23 Apr. 43	27 Apr. 43
Camp Don Passage, French Morocco	10 May. 43	15 May. 43
Oujda, French Morocco	16 May. 43	26 June 43
Keirouan, Tunisia	1 July 43	6 Sept 43
Sicily, Vicinity of Gela	6 Sept. 43	17 Sept 43
Sicily, Vicinity of Termini	18 Sept 43	22 Sept 43
Paestum, Italy	23 Sept 43	5 Oct. 43
Naples, Italy	5 Oct. 43	16 Oct. 43
Combat North of Volturno River	16 Oct. 43	1 Nov. 43
Naples, Italy	1 Nov. 43	18 Nov. 43
Cookstown, North Ireland	9 Dec. 43	14 Feb. 44
Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire, England	15 Feb. 44	6 June 44
Combat in Normandy, France	6 June 44	12 July 44
Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire, England	15 July 44	18 Sept 44
Combat in Vicinity of Nijmegen, Holland	18 Sept 44	11 Nov. 44
Camp Suippes, Vicinity of Reims, France	14 Nov. 44	18 Dec. 44
Combat, Ardennes, Belgium & Germany	19 Dec. 44	19 Feb. 45
Camp Suippes, Vicinity of Reims France	21 Feb. 45	2 Apr. 45
Combat and Occupation, Germany Vicinity of Cologne	3 Apr. 45	28 Apr. 45
Combat and Occupation, Ludwigslust, Germany	29 Apr. 45	4 June 45
Camp Chicago, Vicinity of Loen, France	6 June 45	16 June 45
Camp Ramp, Epinal, France	16 June 45	11 Aug. 45
Gardeschutzenkaserne, Lichterfelde, Berlin Germany	15 Aug. 45	Date

SECTION II

STRENGTH, COMMISSIONED & ENLISTED

<u>DATE</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>W.O.</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>NET GAINED</u>	<u>NET LOST</u>
* 30 June 43	27	2	417	446	0	0
31 July 43	26	2	418	446	0	0
31 Aug. 43	26	2	420	448	2	0
30 Sept 43	27	2	415	444	0	4
31 Oct. 43	26	2	397	425	0	19
30 Nov. 43	26	2	403	431	6	0
31 Dec. 43	27	2	403	432	1	0
31 Jan. 44	26	2	401	429	0	3
29 Feb. 44	27	2	400	429	0	0
31 Mar. 44	25	2	416	443	14	0
30 Apr. 44	25	2	427	454	11	0
31 May. 44	26	2	430	458	4	0
30 June 44	28	2	512	542	84	0
31 July 44	33	2	511	546	4	0
31 Aug. 44	34	2	517	553	7	0
30 Sept 44	32	2	496	530	0	23
31 Oct. 44	34	2	483	519	0	11
30 Nov. 44	34	2	494	530	11	0
31 Dec. 44	33	2	495	530	0	0
31 Jan. 45	33	2	486	521	0	9
29 Feb. 45	33	2	488	523	2	0
31 Mar. 45	34	2	419	455	0	68
30 Apr. 45	31	2	409	442	0	13
31 May. 45	32	2	398	432	0	10
30 June 45	31	2	277	310	0	122
31 July 45	25	2	291	318	8	0
31 Aug. 45	25	2	310	337	19	0

\*Strength figures prior to this date are not available at the time of this compilation.

SECTION V

CAMPAIGNS and BATTLES (con't)

6. CENTRAL EUROPE : (con't)

B. LUDWIGSLUST : On 28 April, 1945 this battalion together with other units of the 82d Airborne Division moved to vicinity BLECKEDE, and the ELBE RIVER with the mission of forcing a crossing of this river and driving east to contact forces of the Russian Army. The crossing was made during the night of 30 April, 1945 and the battalion displaced north of the ELBE the following day. From its new position in NEUHAUS, GERMANY the 320th Glider Field Artillery fired its last round of the war at 1940 hours, 1 May, 1945. 93 rounds were fired in the ELBE area. From this position the battalion moved forward into LUDWIGSLUST, GERMANY where Russian Forces were contacted and occupation duties were assumed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Total ammunition expended in combat by this battalion amounts to 68,562 rounds (105mm M-3 & M-2). One hundred Seventy-one tons of ammunition, delivering 2,468,200 pounds of high explosive projectiles upon the enemy.

SECTION VI

COMMANDING OFFICERS

<u>CO</u>	<u>DATES</u>
Brig. Gen. (then Lt. Col.) FRANCIS A MARCH III	25 March, 1942 - 5 January, 1943
Lt. Col. PAUL E. WRIGHT	5 January, 1943      Date

SECTION VII

COMBAT LOSSES, OFFICERS and ENLISTED MEN (con't)

2. NORMANDY (con't)

(b) Wounded In Action (con't)

ENLISTED MEN

Baeks, Berkeley G. Jr.	Pvt.	Hq. Battery
Bied, Alexander C.	Cpl.	"A" Battery
Schnelser, Leroy A.	Pvt.	"B" Battery
Smith, Norman B.	Pfc.	Hq. Battery
Stacknick, Frank S.	Cpl.	Hq. Battery
Stover, Sherman R.	Pfc.	"A" Battery
Sussman Morris	Pvt.	"A" Battery
Tacado, Carl C.	Pvt.	"A" Battery
Thues, Wilford G.	Pvt.	"B" Battery
Valot, James E.	Pfc.	"B" Battery
Wasi, Joseph S.	Pvt.	"A" Battery
Williams, Dudley	Pvt.	"A" Battery
Williams, Maurice W.	Pfc.	"A" Battery
Williamson, Haskell R.	Pfc.	"B" Battery
Wood, Glenn T.	Cpl.	"B" Battery

3. RHINELAND ( HOLLAND )

(a) Killed In Action

OFFICERS

Hart, David L.	2nd. Lt.	"A" Battery
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ENLISTED MEN

Chapman, Robert J.	Pvt.	"A" Battery
Galbraith, Robert E.L.	Cpl.	"A" Battery
Huffman, Robert P	Cpl.	"B" Battery
Iann, Marion H.	1st. Sgt.	"B" Battery
Mills, Homer	Pvt.	"B" Battery
Ramirez, Fredrick R.	Pvt.	"B" Battery
Roubedeaux, Robert R.	Pvt.	"A" Battery

*Williams, M.*

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS 320TH GLIDER FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION  
APO 469, U. S. ARMY

25 May 1945

GENERAL ORDERS )

NUMBER 3 )

1. Under the provisions of Letter File No. AG 200.6 O35A, Headquarters European Theater of Operations United States Army, dated 9 May 1945, Subject: "Individual Service Award of the Bronze Service Arrowhead," the following Officers and Enlisted Men are authorized the Bronze Service Arrowhead for participation either by parachute jump or landing by glider in the Airborne operations in the Normandy Campaign, 6-7 June 1944:

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

1ST SGT	PAUL E. WILGHEE	O 329475	FA	TEC 4	SAMUEL GOODMAN	121147075
MAJOR	WILLIAM S. LANCY	O 371259	FA	TEC 5	JESSE J. HAMPTON	36628271
MAJOR	ROBERT J. MANNING	O 292978	FA	PFC	JOHN A. HYPIO	36413812
CAPT	WALTER H. CHANDLER, JR.	O 394114	FA	PFC	FREEMAN L. JOHNSON	35136931
CAPT	FRANK A. LOVING, JR.	O 411817	FA	PFC	FRANK MARASCHKY	35291584
CAPT	DONALD G. LUCE	O 366804	FA	SGT	SOL MARCADO	36628789
CAPT	DONALD E. MONGER	O 376105	FA	SGT	GEORGE A. MARNSCHAK	36326691
CAPT	HENRY E. ROBINSON	O 379934	FA	TEC 4	PAUL H. MAY	35289788
1ST LT	JOS. PH. D. SULLIVAN	O 427453	FA	M/SGT	AUBREY B. McMILLIN	34273512
				TEC 4	DONALD R. MILLER	35135719
T/SGT	RALPH E. ALLISON	35137003		PFC	OSCAR NELSON	35137419
TEC 4	WILSON J. ARMERUSTER	35137003		CPL	BRANTLEY L. NEEDESS	34211053
TEC 5	LABAN W. BAIRD	36827303		TEC 4	ANGELIC PAGLIUSO	31053022
CPL	JOE A. BUCKHAM	36380994		PFC	MICHAEL A. PEZZANO	36006612
S/SGT	JAMES A. BERNARD	35283359		CPL	MITCHELL M. ROSE	35135740
PFC	WELBURN R. BOWER	39119335		TEC 5	HERBERT H. SHREWS	35134609
S/SGT	JOHN F. BROKER	32500718		TEC 4	PAUL F. SIROTZKI	36220653
CPL	DONALD E. CHANDLER	35291028		PVT	FRANCIS E. SMITH	36145515
PFC	HARVEY L. CHRISTENSEN	35291637		PFC	JOSEPH A. SOFUCH	35290287
TEC 4	HEMPTON C. DALE, JR.	35044161		CPL	FRANK S. STACHNIK	36629189
TEC 4	GEORGE J. DASCOULIAS	35500406		TEC 5	FRED W. STARNES	38361235
CPL	ROY V. DAVENNE	35425112		PVT	CHARLES SULLICH	6749878
TEC 5	WILLARD D. DEZORE	357164387		T/SGT	RICHARD W. THEROUX	36396456
T/SGT	CARL D. DODRILL	15112692		T/SGT	HERBERT I. TINDALL	15101102
1ST SGT	JOSEPH FRANCIS	6270467		T/SGT	LADISLAUS J. TWARDY	36326725
TEC 5	HARRY D. FISHLE	35136238		PFC	BENTON E. WALTERS	14080217
PFC	LOUIS M. FIDELING	39518278		TEC 4	CHARLES W. WHARTON	34255916
PVT	CLEVELAND A. FORT	34090617		TEC 5	PHILBIN D. WHEATLEY	35136644
CPL	FRIEDRICH R. FULLER	32503521		SGT	HAROLD A. WHITE	32554081
PFC	WALTER E. FUSS	36629249		PVT	HAROLD WUNDERLICH	35289347
TEC 5	DANIEL GREGGIEWICH	36629223		CPL	HENRY P. WYROBEK	36629309
CPL	CLENN Z. JOHNSON	15112518			HUGH D. RUPPE	34255179

BATTERY "A"

1ST LT	WILLIAM H. HILL	O 1175159	FA	SGT	ELMER F. BRICKER	35110687
2ND LT	FREDERICH W. LOGGIAN	O 887901	FA	CPL	DANIEL R. BRIDDER	36289683
S/SGT	JAMES M. ALT	31012518		TEC 5	ELDON L. BRUHN	36239015
PFC	ERNEST P. ARNOLD, JR.	32575470		TEC 4	WILLIAM M. CABLER	36145593
CPL	WALDO W. BAILLES	35135730		TEC 5	ARNOLD C. CARPENTER	35136626
PFC	HAROLD J. BEATON	36413854		PFC	DONALD G. CHLUPSA	36628600
PFC	ANTHONY F. BELIVE	32448930		S/SGT	ESPEN H. CHRISTENSEN	31000870
CPL	DONALD G. BETTS	32448128		PFC	HOMER W. CONGER	35136797

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CG #3, Hq. 320th GLI FA Bn, APO 169, U. S. Army 25 May 1945

(Cont'd)

## BATTERY "A" (Cont'd)

TEC 5	DONALD B DUGGER	35044458	PFC	GARBETT J McYOUNG	35137270
PFC	CHARLES L ELDER	36303020	PVT	GILBERT B NELSON	12148431
PFC	REUBEN O ERICSON	36413874	TEC 4	CHARLES W NESTOR	35290009
PVT	HENRY EBLE	39301798	TEC 5	JOHN A PARRISH	34193111
SGT	WILLIAM J FLYNN	32493235	PFC	GENO PASSONI	36058043
PFC	IRNEST E FOSTER	12000901	CPL	WLOD C PATTERSON	35291011
TEC 5	RICHARD A FRISBY	37385940	TEC 5	HAROLD N POSEY	35136725
PVT	DOUGLAS E GRAY	35136617	PFC	ELBERT POWELL	35690863
SGT	JOHN F HARRINGTON	31016163	PFC	LOUIS J PREGER	35289402
PFC	WESLEY W HEIKKINEN	36413843	CPL	ROSCOE FUGLIESE	35135628
S/SGT	CECIL HIGGINS	34255535	PFC	CARL B RAMSEY	35137227
PFC	PETER HOLLOBRADY	32508577	PVT	JOHN R TAPSHIGH	36413644
CPL	WILLIE HOSEY	35136759	CPL	EDWARD F RYCKO	36503014
PVT	CARMINE J INTEGLIA	32519807	PFC	JOSEPH S SANTOSKY	32508488
PFC	CARLTON C JOHNSON	34233926	PFC	WILLARD L SCHLOSS	36629110
PFC	CARL C JONES	35137171	PFC	EDWARD J SCHNETZLER	32508267
SGT	MAYNARD A JONES	36396021	PFC	PAUL M SPEAKMAN	35137047
PFC	ROBERT D JONES	36381990	PFC	HERBERT E SPEAR	34535520
CPL	EUGENE H JUERGENS	36289590	TEC 5	ROBERT H STEWART	35136863
PFC	MATT R JUKKALA	36413866	PFC	MORRIS SUSSMAN	36628921
TEC 5	FRANCIS L KEHELMYER	35500404	TEC 4	JOE TINSKEY	15076274
TEC 5	WALTER I KIVISTO	35500457	PFC	CARL C TOCADO	35425185
PFC	JOHN KUTYKA JR	36628587	PFC	ARTHUR L TRAVER	32575471
CPL	RICHARD J LEMON	36413690	SGT	STANLEY J WESLEY	35289617
TEC 5	WILLIAM L LOCKNER	33390274	CPL	EDWARD E WHITE	34273107
PFC	JUNE R LOTT	34535579	TEC 5	W. J. WILKINSON	35137087
PFC	LEONARD D LOWERY	35136693	PFC	DUDLEY E WILLIAMS	35137233
PFC	PAUL A MACOMBER	36413906	PFC	MORTICE W WILLIAMS	36148066
PFC	ALBERT D MARTINI	36259588	PVT	NELSON A WOERNER	35290783
CPL	HOMERT J McCOLIAS	35137100	PFC	FERDINAND WRDATA	36242895
PVT	KENNETH J ZETTLER	12146296	PFC	SAM R ZIMMERMAN	35135242

## BATTERY "B"

CAPT	ALBERT O KNECHT	361065	FA	S/SGT	GEORGE EVANSON	35110971
1ST LT	ROBERT O BUTLER	3646371	FA	TEC 5	WILLIAM M FULKNER	34255278
S/SGT	GLENN T ANDERSON	36396926		PFC	NORBERT C GOLIMOWSKI	36289512
TEC 5	ED ASBURY	38406931		PFC	ANDY L HARRIS	36413750
TEC 5	MARSHALL L BARETT	35110821		S/SGT	SAM J HENDRIX	
PFC	DENVER H BAYES	35137310		PVT	SIDNEY A HORNE	35134816
TEC 5	GUSTAVE D BEAUCHAMP	32448846		PVT	WARREN ISGITT	34235326
PFC	LEO BEGGMAN	36413847		PVT	THOMAS A JANOSIK	35500413
PFC	HARVEY L BISHOP	32937651		PFC	LEO H KROUPA	36413787
PFC	ALBERT H BLACKMAN	32506454		PFC	ISAAC A MALASKI	36413631
CPL	ISAAC C BOYD	35136841		CPL	LEE MARTIN	15112716
SGT	RALPH G BOYD	25238983		CPL	AMER F MAUNE	17403210
PFC	VERGIL A BROWNING	34273063		PVT	TONY L MAXLEY	14099588
PFC	JUNIOR CALNES	35134123		PFC	ROBERT K MORRISSEY	36229209
CPL	ELLSWORTH L CARBINE	36628570		TEC 5	MARTIN C MOYLE	36413799
PFC	NOAH CARNES	35135366		SGT	CHARLES H NOWACK	32270528
PFC	GEORGE CHERPAK	6842928		TEC 4	ARVAL H NEWKIRK	36220317
PVT	CHARLES E CHILDERS	35290566		PVT	ROBERT A OUELLETTE	20114340
CPL	LESLIE CLAY	35450270		TEC 4	CHARLES H PARKER	34256067
SGT	JAMES A CUSTER	16016501		PVT	ROBERT T PENDLETON	35137393

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RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

CG #3, Hq. 320th Glider FA Bn, APO 469, U. S. Army 25 May 1945

(Cont'd)

BATTERY "B" (Cont'd)

CPL	BASIL L PLUMLEY	35425274	PFC	HENRY K STEIN	35347039
PFC	ALLISON POTTER	35135967	SGT	MARVIN B SWORD	35135987
PVT	CECIL C RANEY JR	14099548	PFC	ALPHONSO A TREVINO	38361686
TEC 5	WILLIAM J RICHWAY	36143470	PVT	ORIE C TUFFORD	16110064
S/SGT	HOLLINGER B ROQUEMORE	14099593	SGT	WALTER K TUZENU	32270517
PFC	WALTER Z WYSKA	36176407	SGT	JOHN C VICKERY	34192537
TEC 5	BOYD H SAVILLE	35290368	SGT	DOYLE F WHITNEY	35044600
PFC	LEROY A SCHMELZER	36628807	PFC	LOUIS J WILLIAMSON	35450028
CPL	ELMER G SISLER	33412055	PFC	MARTIN ZOBER	33678650

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

CAPT	MURPHY S STEWART	36143562	TEC 5	LESLIE D JENKINS	34193178
TEC 4	JOSEPH FERRARA	36145571	PFC	PEARY O OLDAKER	35137553
S/SGT	EDWARD H FULMAN	36158798	TEC 4	DONALD A SCHENKEL	35257251
CPL	ROY E WOOMER	35137571			

11. Under the provisions of Sec 1, Circular 465, War Department 1944, and Letter Hq. European T of Opns U. S. Army file AG200.6 OpMA, Subj: "Individual Service Award of the Bronze Service Arrowhead", dated 5 Apr 1945, the following individuals, having participated in the Airborne operations in the Nijmegen and Arnhem area which occurred during the Germany Campaign, are hereby authorized the Bronze Service Arrowhead:

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

PFC	FRANK MARLSCHKY	35291584	PFC	RICHARD ROHLEDER	37705610
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By order of Lieutenant Colonel WRIGHT:

ROBERT J. MANNING,  
Major, 320th Glider FA Bn.,  
ADJUTANT.

OFFICIAL:

*Robert J. Manning*  
ROBERT J. MANNING,  
Major, 320th Glider FA Bn.,  
ADJUTANT.

DISTRIBUTION:

CG, 32d Abn Div  
CG, 32d Abn Div Arty  
CO, Ea Btry  
CO, Med Det  
Per O  
Ea O Conc'd  
Ea HM Conc'd  
201 File Ea O  
CO, Staff & File

SPECIAL ORDERS )  
NUMBER 67 )

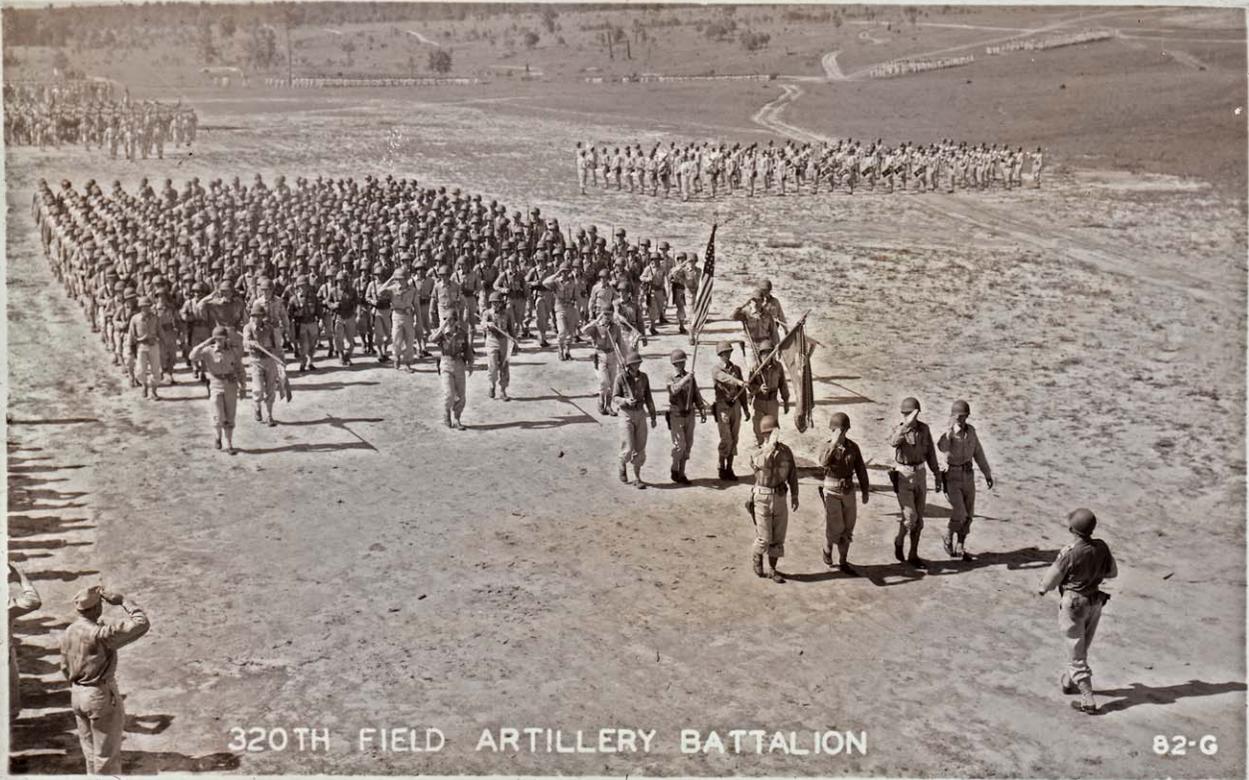
1. The following named officers and warrant officers of this Battalion, having (a) satisfactorily completed the prescribed course of instruction in knots and lashing, loading organizational equipment in airplanes and gliders, and safe loading principles, and (b) having participated in two glider flights under tactical or assimilated tactical conditions, are awarded the Glider Badge effective as of date set opposite their respective names, under the provisions of WD Circular No. 220, 2 June 1944:

LT COL	PAUL E. WRIGHT	O-339475	2 June 1944
MAJOR	WILLIAM S. LANCEY	O-371259	2 June 1944
MAJOR	FREDERICK J. SILVEY	O-356134	2 June 1944
CAPTAIN	NORMAN S. ANGEL	O-494630	2 June 1944
CAPTAIN	PAUL H. SHOOK JR.	O-367118	2 June 1944
CAPTAIN	WALTER H. CHANDLER JR.	O-394114	2 June 1944
CAPTAIN	ALBERT O. KNECHT	O-361065	2 June 1944
CAPTAIN	FRANK A. LOVING JR.	O-411817	2 June 1944
CAPTAIN	DWAIN G. LUCE	O-266804	2 June 1944
CAPTAIN	ROBERT J. MANNING	O-292978	2 June 1944
CAPTAIN	DONALD E. MONGER	O-376105	2 June 1944
CAPTAIN	HUBERT C. STEWART	O-443562	2 June 1944
1ST LT	ROBERT O. BUTLER	O-446371	2 June 1944
1ST LT	WILLIAM N. HILL	O1175159	2 June 1944
1ST LT	EMIL F. MEYER	O-324866	2 June 1944
1ST LT	HENRY E. ROBINSON	O-379934	2 June 1944
1ST LT	EDGAR A. SCHROEDER	O1172645	2 June 1944
1ST LT	JOHN H. THORNER	O-345355	2 June 1944
1ST LT	STEWART WARING JR.	O-351660	2 June 1944
2ND LT	FREDERICK W. LOGEMAN	O-887901	2 June 1944
CWO	EUGENE E. HARVEY	W2113333	2 June 1944
WOJG	BERNARD LEFKOVITZ #	R2108259	2 June 1944

2. The following named enlisted men of Headquarters Battery having (a) satisfactorily completed the prescribed course of instruction in knots and lashing, loaded organizational equipment in airplanes and gliders, and safe loading principles, and (b) having participated in two glider flights under tactical or assimilated tactical conditions, are awarded the Glider Badge effective as of date set opposite their respective names, under the provisions of WD Circular No. 220, 2 June 1944:

M SGT	AUBREY B. McMULLEN	34273512	2 June 1944
1ST SGT	ELMER C. KNODEL	35450171	2 June 1944
T SGT	RALPH E. ALLMAN	35137003	2 June 1944
T SGT	CARL D. DODRILL	15112692	2 June 1944
T SGT	ALBERT H. MOFFAT	35291523	2 June 1944
T SGT	RICHARD W. THEROUK	36396456	2 June 1944
T SGT	LADISLAUS J. TWARDY	36326725	2 June 1944
S SGT	JAMES A. BERNARD	35289359	2 June 1944
S SGT	JOHN P. BROKER	32500718	2 June 1944
S SGT	ANDREW J. CASON	34235404	2 June 1944
S SGT	ARTHUR H. ENNULLAT	36239246	2 June 1944
S SGT	HOWARD W. RICHARDSON	15112365	2 June 1944
S SGT	WILLIAM H. SALK	36289459	2 June 1944
S SGT	HORACE SIMMONS	14016198	2 June 1944
S SGT	WILBERT I. TINDALL	15101102	2 June 1944

PFC	EUGENE E. JUERGENS	36289590	2 June 1944
PFC	WALTER I. KIVISTO	35800457	2 June 1944
PFC	JOHN W. KLAG JR.	35289959	2 June 1944
PFC	JOHN KUTINA JR.	36628587	2 June 1944
PFC	WILLIAM L. LOCKNER	33390274	2 June 1944
PFC	LEONARD D. LOVETT	35136093	2 June 1944
PFC	ALBERT D. MARTINI	36299488	2 June 1944
PFC	CORBERT J. McYOUNG	35237270	2 June 1944
PFC	FRANK MORABITO	32508299	2 June 1944
PFC	JOHN A. PARRISH	34293111	2 June 1944
PFC	HAROLD N. POSEY	35136725	2 June 1944
PFC	LOUIS J. PFOHR	35287172	2 June 1944
PFC	JOSEPH G. SANFOSKY	32500108	2 June 1944
PFC	GLEN W. SAWYERS	35279340	2 June 1944
PFC	WILFARD E. SCHLOSS	36627170	2 June 1944
PFC	CRAWFENCE E. SEMANSKI	36413913	2 June 1944
PFC	WILLIAM G. SMITH	31273042	2 June 1944
PFC	HAROLD L. SMITH	35137380	2 June 1944
PFC	PAUL E. SPARKMAN	35137047	2 June 1944
PFC	ROBERT H. STEWART	35136863	2 June 1944
PFC	KENNETH W. TARR	32290660	2 June 1944
PFC	CAMPBELL WADSWORTH	32508329	2 June 1944
PFC	G. J. (TD) WILKINSON	35137087	2 June 1944
PFC	MAURICE W. WILLIAMS	36108065	2 June 1944
PFC	FERDINAND WRATA	36222896	2 June 1944
PFC	WOODROW YEAGER	35137127	2 June 1944
PVT	JAMES G. BACH	15112400	2 June 1944
PVT	ANDREW J. BALL	35235164	2 June 1944
PVT	CHRISTOPHER BASTANT	15112709	2 June 1944
PVT	WILLIAM H. CARSON	34235832	2 June 1944
PVT	RICHARD W. COATS	35290651	2 June 1944
PVT	TONY J. DE CASO	35290205	2 June 1944
PVT	PETER H. DOMINGUEZ	33199244	2 June 1944
PVT	CHARLES L. ELDER	36303020	2 June 1944
PVT	REuben O. ERICSON	36413874	2 June 1944
PVT	HENRI EYLE	39301798	2 June 1944
PVT	EMORE FABIAN	36005792	2 June 1944
PVT	EMMETT E. FOSTER	12000901	2 June 1944
PVT	JOE GARTNER JR.	36628593	2 June 1944
PVT	CHARLES W. GILES	36413012	2 June 1944
PVT	HERBERT HASELBERG	39320146	2 June 1944
PVT	WESLEY W. HEIKKINEN	36413843	2 June 1944
PVT	WILLIAM B. HOY JR.	35137452	2 June 1944
PVT	CHARLES E. HUNTINGTON	32589209	2 June 1944
PVT	CARMINE J. INTEGLIA	32549307	2 June 1944
PVT	JOSEPH F. JONES	33652228	6 June 1944
PVT	MATT R. JUNKALA	36413805	2 June 1944
PVT	JUNE R. LOTT	34515277	3 June 1944
PVT	PAUL A. MACUMBER	36413945	2 June 1944
PVT	WILSON P. McCONCHIE	33596617	2 June 1944
PVT	LEONARD A. MORRISON	14050625	2 June 1944
PVT	GILBERT E. NELSON	12148451	6 June 1944
PVT	CENO PASSONI	36058043	2 June 1944
PVT	PAUL T. PIGNATELLI	36628785	2 June 1944
PVT	ELEMENT POWELL	33690863	2 June 1944
PVT	CARL E. RAMSEY	35137227	2 June 1944
PVT	JOHN F. RINTAMASHICH	36413644	2 June 1944
PVT	WALTER Z. RYSKA	36176407	2 June 1944
PVT	HENRY W. SAKAWICH	36327991	2 June 1944
PVT	JOHN W. SANDY	35136747	2 June 1944
PVT	EDWARD J. SCHNETZLER	32508287	2 June 1944
PVT	MAX SCHLOSS	36926429	2 June 1944
PVT	DONALD M. SHARP	6664782	2 June 1944
PVT	STEVE J. SOLLON	33385559	2 June 1944
PVT	HERBERT E. SPEAR	34535520	2 June 1944



320TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

82-G

FIRST AND LAST REVIEW OF 82ND DIVISION  
CAMP CLAIBORNE LOUISIANA

PHOTO-SPENCER & WYCKOFF - DETROIT, MICH.

AUGUST 15, 1942



AFRICA  
SICILY  
ITALY  
IRELAND  
ENGLAND  
FRANCE  
HOLLAND  
GERMANY

Merry Christmas 1944

82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION



BATTERY "A", 320TH GLIDER FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Thursday, November 26, 1942

BATTERY COMMANDER  
Captain Paul H. Brock Jr.

EXECUTIVE  
1st Lt. Walter H. Chandler

RECONNAISSANCE OFFICER  
1st Lt. James Schaefer

FIRST SERGEANT  
1st Sgt. Carl C. Phillips

D I N N E R

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Roast Turkey       | Oyster Dressing |
| Granberry Sauce    | Giblet Gravy    |
| Apple Celery Salad | Mashed Potatoes |
| Stuffed Olives     | Creamed Peas    |
| Buttered Corn      | Apple Pie       |
| Pumpkin Pie        | Mince Pie       |
| Bread              | Butter          |
| Coffee             | Sugar & Cream   |
| Mixed Cakes        | Ice Cream       |
| Grapes             | Mixed Nuts      |
| Cigars             | Cigarettes      |
|                    | Candies         |

MESS SERGEANT  
S/Sgt. Merrill Wheat

\* \* \* \* \*

FIRST SHIFT  
First Cook - Techn 4th Grade Robert J. Lamb  
Second Cook - Pfc. Joseph J. Schaefer

SECOND SHIFT  
First Cook - Pfc. Wilfred Orr  
Second Cook - Pvt. Carl B. Ramsey  
Third Cook - Pvt. Andrew J. Ball

STAFF SERGEANTS

James M Alt  
Robert C Darrow  
James O Lamb

SERGEANTS

R.G. Atwood  
Albert G Callias  
Espen H Christensen  
Thomas A Janosik  
Maynard A Jones  
Leonard A Morrison

TECHNICIANS 4TH GRADE

John F Harrington  
Benjamin L Land  
Donald M Sharpe

CORPORALS

Ralph E Allman  
Robert R Hall  
Cecil Higgins  
Willie Hosey  
Frederick B Jenkins  
Peter J Ledworowski  
Albert H Moffat  
Roscoe Pugliese  
Walter J Ryska  
Wilbert I Tindall  
Joseph S Visi  
Stanley J Wesley

TECHNICIANS 5TH GRADE

William M Cable  
William R Carson  
Ralph I Falk  
Larry J LeMay

TECHNICIANS 5TH GRADE

Lloyd C Patterson  
Sam R Zimmerman

PRIVATE'S FIRST CLASS

Joe W Anderson  
James G Back  
Sam S Balcher  
Elmer F Bricker  
Eldon I Bruhn  
Arnel C Carpenter  
Donald B Dugger  
Norman Franklin  
Albert Gibbs  
Douglas E Gray  
Harold S Holder  
Carlton C Johnson  
Walter I Kivisto  
Frank E Kline  
Robert J McComas  
Corbett J McYoung  
Oscar Napier  
Carl C Jones  
John A Parrish  
Harold N Posey  
Max Schloss  
Harold L Smith  
William G Smith  
Joseph A Sopuch  
Paul E Speakman  
Robert H Stewart  
Sherman R Stover  
Kenneth W Tarr  
Pharis Taylor  
Joe Tinskey  
Leonard L Tuttle  
Merlin T Underwood

PRIVATE'S FIRSTCLASS CONT'D

Edward E White  
O.J. Wilkenson

PRIVATE'S

Ernest P Arnold Jr  
Louis J Barna  
Christopher Bryant  
Lavelle W Chandler  
Patrick J Charles  
Ernest S Clayton  
Otha Clayton  
Richard W Coats  
Homer W Cowger  
Raymond J Cozadd  
Irving B Currier  
John Dennehy  
Clarence D Dickson  
Martin T Erlandson  
Ernest E Foster  
Charles E Grady  
George Hamas Jr  
Joseph A Harman  
Peter Hollobrad  
William B Hoy Jr  
Carmine J Integlia  
Francis I Kegelmayer  
John V Klag Jr  
Nicholas Kushner  
Leo J Lenkiewicz  
Leonard D Lowery  
Fate McLaren Jr  
Frank Morabito  
John J Murawski  
Charles W Nestor  
Geno Passoni  
George Peper

PRIVATE'S CONT'D

Louis J Preger  
Raymond Price  
Thomas J Prior  
Theodore R Purcell  
Alexander C Ried  
Donald D Reid  
Salvatore J Roberto  
Edward F Ryczko  
Joseph S Santosky  
Glen W Sawyers  
Michael J Scaffidi  
Salvatore Scavone  
Harold W Scheid  
Edward J Schmetzler  
Dorsey E Shingleton  
Clarence W Smallwood  
Charles W Smith  
Peter W Smith Jr  
Millard C Spears  
Samuel K Stalnaker  
Harry E Steed  
Charles Sulich  
Beryl D Swezey  
Charles C Tice  
Carl C Tocado  
Thomas A Vaughn  
James Vege  
Clifford C Williams  
Dudley M Williams  
Maurice W Williams  
Fredinand Wrbata  
Nelson A Woerner  
Arthur J Wurster  
Woodrow Yeager  
Kenneth J Zeitler  
Dominick A Zumbo

BATTERY "A" 320TH GLIDER FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION





STAFF SERGEANTS

James M Alt  
Robert C Darrow  
James O Lamb

SERGEANTS

R.G. Atwood  
Albert G Callais  
Erren H Christensen  
Thomas A Janosik  
Maynard A Jones  
Leonard A Morrison

TECHNICIANS 4TH GRADE

John F Harrington  
Benjamin L Land  
Donald M Sharpe

CORPORALS

Richard E Allman  
Robert R Hall  
Cecil Higgins  
Willie Hosey  
Frederick B Jenkins  
Peter J Ledworowski  
Albert H Moffat  
Roscoe Pugliese  
Walter Ryska  
Wilbert I Tindall  
Joseph S Visti  
Stanley J Wesley

TECHNICIANS 5TH GRADE

William M Cable  
William R Carson  
Ralph L Falk  
Larry J Lemay

TECHNICIANS 5TH GRADE

Iloyd C Patterson  
Sam W Zimmerman

PRIVATE'S FIRST CLASS

Joe W Anderson  
James G Beck  
Waldo V Bales  
Emanuel F Bricker  
Eldon L Bruhn  
Arnell C Carpenter  
Donald B Dwyer  
Norman Franklin  
Harold S Holder  
Carlton C Johnson  
Carl C Jones  
Francis L Kegel  
Walter I Kivisto  
Frank E Kline  
Howard J McGowan  
Corbett J McYoung  
John A Parrish  
Harold N Posy  
Edward F Ryzko  
Max Schloss  
Harold I Smith  
William G Smith  
Joseph A Sopych  
Paul E Speakman  
Robert H Stewart  
Shrman R Stover  
Kenneth W Tarr  
Parris Taylor  
Leonard L Tuttle  
Edward E White  
O J Williamson  
Ferdinand Wrbata

PRIVATE'S

Ernest P Arnold Jr  
Louis J Barna  
Anthony F Belive  
Joseph Bertland Jr  
Donald G Betts  
John P Broker  
Christopher Bryant  
Patrick J Charles  
Richard W Courts  
Homer W Counger  
Raymond J Cozadd  
James A Custer  
Willard E Devoe  
Martin T Erlanson  
William J Flynn  
Ernest E Foster  
Charles E Grady  
Douglas E Gray  
Joseph A Harriman  
Peter Hollobradky  
William B Hoj Jr  
Carmine J Integlia  
John V Klags Jr  
Leonard D Lowery  
William S Markolf  
Frank Morabito  
Charles W Nestor  
Geno Pussoni  
George Peper  
Thomas Prior  
Louis J Preger  
Alexander G Ried  
Donald D Reid  
Joseph S Santosky  
Glen V Sawyers

PRIVATE'S, cont.

Salvatore Scavone  
Harold W Scheid  
Edward J Schmetzler  
Dorsey D Shingleton  
Charles W Smith  
John J Soah  
Willard G Spears  
Emanuel K Stalnaker  
Harry E Steed  
Raymond G Stickle  
Charles Sulich  
Jeryl D Swesey  
Charles C Tice  
Carl C Toledo  
Arthur L Travers  
Thomas A Vaughn  
Campbell Wadden  
Clifford G Williams  
Judley Williams  
Laurice Williams  
John P Woodcock  
Wilson A Wornner  
Arthur J Wurster  
Woodrow Wagner  
Kenneth J Zeitler  
Vernon A Zumbo  
Paul V Zweifel

82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division



Glider Qualification Certificate

Having satisfactorily completed the prescribed course of instructions in knots and lashings, loading organizational equipment in airplanes and gliders, and safe loading principles; and having participated in glider flights under tactical or simulated tactical conditions,

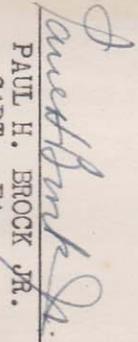
STAFF SERGEANT

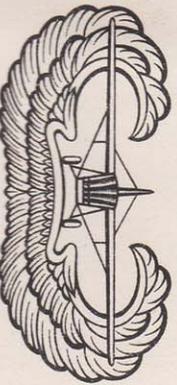
ESPEN H. CHRISTENSEN

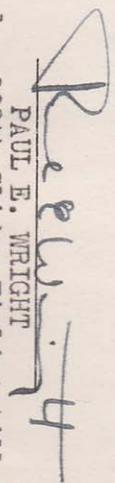
31000870

a member of the Eighty-Second Airborne Division, is hereby entitled to wear the Glider badge.

2 JUNE, 1944

  
PAUL H. BROCK JR.  
CAPT., FA  
INSTRUCTOR



  
PAUL E. WRIGHT  
Lt. Col., 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion  
COMMANDING

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
*Office of the Commander-in-Chief*

To:  
Admiral Sir John J. D. Cunningham, K.C.B., C.V.O.  
General Sir Harold R. L. G. Alexander, G.C.B., C.S.I.,  
D.S.O., M.C.  
Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur W. Tedder, G.C.B.

As the Commander of American Forces in this theater I am sending, on the anniversary of the initial landings in North Africa, a written message to every American soldier, sailor and airman. Since this message includes mention of purposes and aspirations in this war, it is scarcely appropriate for it to be addressed directly to any but my own countrymen. Yet British and American Forces of all services have here so closely and effectively associated themselves together in a common cause that I feel impelled, whenever there is occasion for reviewing accomplishments of American Forces, to assure you and all those under your respective commands that my thanks and my pride as Allied Commander-in-Chief, go out to them in equal measure. Consequently, if you deem it proper, I will be grateful if a copy of this message could be sent also to each member of all British Forces in the theater. I know that your officers and all other ranks will clearly understand my hope that they will merely substitute the name of their own country wherever mine is mentioned, and accept my best wishes and gratitude for their splendid services, in the spirit they are meant.

*Very sincerely,*

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*

AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA  
*Office of the Commander-in-Chief*

Personal from General Eisenhower to all men and women of the American Military and Civil Forces in the North African Theater:

**We have reached the first anniversary of initial British-American landings in this theater.**

You came here to take part in a crusade to eliminate ruthless aggression from the earth and to guarantee to yourselves and to your children security against the threat of domination by arrogant despotism.

During the year just past, you have written a memorable chapter in the history of American arms, a chapter in which are recorded deeds of valor, of sacrifice, of endurance and of unswerving loyalty. You have worked effectively and in friendly cooperation with the Armies, Navies and Air Forces of our Allies and have established in a foreign land a reputation for decency and dignity in conduct. Hour by hour your efforts are contributing toward the ultimate defeat of mighty military machines that hoped to conquer the world. You are just as surely the protectors and supporters of American democracy as your forefathers were its founders.

From my heart I thank each of you for the services you have so well performed, in the air, on the sea, in the front lines and in our ports and bases.

All of us salute with reverence the memory of the comrades we have lost, as we earnestly pray that Almighty God will bring comfort to their loved ones.

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

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

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

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*

T O P S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS  
FIRST UNITED STATES ARMY  
APO 230



ORDER OF THE DAY

SOLDIERS OF THE FIRST ARMY:

We, together with our Allies, are about to start on the greatest amphibious operation ever undertaken by any Army. For a long time it has been apparent to many that the only way to put an end to our war with Germany was to cross the Channel and drive her armies back to Berlin.

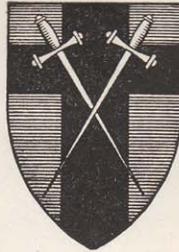
For at least two years preparations have been under way for this assault. Your commanders and the governments of two nations have done everything possible in the way of planning and providing of facilities. As for ourselves, we have trained hard. We have undergone the hardships and heartaches of being away from home. We are now ready and this is the moment for which the whole world has been waiting. When we land on the continent, people from every city, village and hamlet will be listening for the news and praying for our success. The eyes of the whole world are on you.

The future of this war, in fact, the future of our Country, depends on our success in this operation. Therefore, it must succeed and, with God's help, it will succeed. So, with full confidence in each of you and the final outcome, I wish you the best of luck and God speed.

*O. N. Bradley*  
O. N. BRADLEY,  
Lieutenant General, U.S.A.  
Commanding.

T O P S E C R E T

21 ARMY



GROUP

PERSONAL MESSAGE  
FROM THE C-IN-C

*(To be read out to all Troops)*

1. On this day of victory in Europe I feel I would like to speak to all who have served and fought with me during the last few years. What I have to say is very simple, and quite short.
2. I would ask you all to remember those of our comrades who fell in the struggle. They gave their lives that others might have freedom, and no man can do more than that. I believe that He would say to each one of them:

*"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."*

3. And we who remain have seen the thing through to the end; we all have a feeling of great joy and thankfulness that we have been preserved to see this day.

We must remember to give the praise and thankfulness where it is due:

*"This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes."*

4. In the early days of this war the British Empire stood alone against the combined might of the axis powers. And during those days we suffered some great disasters; but we stood firm: on the defensive, but striking blows where we could. Later we were joined by Russia and America; and from then onwards the end was in no doubt. Let us never forget what we owe to our Russian and American allies; this great allied team has achieved much in war; may it achieve even more in peace.
5. Without doubt, great problems lie ahead; the world will not recover quickly from the upheaval that has taken place; there is much work for each one of us.

I would say that we must face up to that work with the same fortitude that we faced up to the worst days of this war. It may be that some difficult times lie ahead for our country, and for each one of us personally. If it happens thus, then our discipline will pull us through; but we must remember that the best discipline implies the subordination of self for the benefit of the community.

6. It has been a privilege and an honour to command this great British Empire team in western Europe. Few commanders can have had such loyal service as you have given me. I thank each one of you from the bottom of my heart.
7. And so let us embark on what lies ahead full of joy and optimism. We have won the German war. Let us now win the peace.
8. Good luck to you all, wherever you may be.

*B. L. Montgomery*

Germany,  
May, 1945.

Field-Marshal,  
C.-in-C.,  
21 Army Group.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TO MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY EXPEDITIONARY  
FORCES:

You are a soldier of the United States Army.

You have embarked for distant places where  
the war is being fought.

Upon the outcome depends the freedom of your  
lives: the freedom of the lives of those you love—  
your fellow-citizens—your people.

Never were the enemies of freedom more  
tyrannical, more arrogant, more brutal.

Yours is a God-fearing, proud, courageous  
people, which, throughout its history, has put its  
freedom under God before all other purposes.

We who stay at home have our duties to  
perform—duties owed in many parts to you. You will  
be supported by the whole force and power of this  
Nation. The victory you win will be a victory of all  
the people—common to them all.

You bear with you the hope, the confidence,  
the gratitude and the prayers of your family, your  
fellow-citizens, and your President—

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

THE FOLLOWING NAMES AND HOME ADDRESSES OF THE MEN IN ADLER BATTERY 320TH  
HEAVY FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION.

Merril Wheat Box 23 Sparks, Georgia	William J. Flynn 1214 Elm St. Utica, N.Y.	Robert H. Stewart Flat Woods, W.Va.
Preston R. Clark R. 2 Alvord, Texas	Richard A. Fisby Fayette, Mo.	Millard C. Spears RD 1 Cresview, Tenn.
James H. Alt 32 Pleasant St Littleton, N.H.	George K. Gerhardt 57 So. E. St. Carlisle, Penn.	Ernest P. Arnold Jr. RD 3 Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
Espen H. Christensen 63 Kent St Portland, Maine	Willie Hosey Webster Springs, W.Va.	Anthony F. DeLIVE 13 Swan St. Amsterdam, N.Y.
Cecil Higgins Peelsg, N.C.	Eugene H. Juergens 3078 N. 23th St. Milwaukee, Wis.	Eldon L. Bruhn Berlin, Wis.
Elmer B. Dricker RD 1 Hebron, Indiana	Francis L. Regelmyer 447 Central Parkway Warren, Ohio	Homer W. Cowger Box 493 Webster Springs, W.Va.
John F. Harrington 38 R.I. Ave. Sumnerville, Mass	Richard J. Leemon L.Anse, Mich.	Donald E. Dugger 507 N. Wash. St. Dicknell, Indiana
Nicholas R. Huth 9025, 186 St. Holles, LongIs., N.Y.	Edward O. Marks 3139 Lowndale Chicago, Ill.	Harold S. Holder 200 W. 22nd St. Lorain, Ohio
Frederick B. Jenkins Roxobel, N.C.	Robert J. McComas P.O. Box 66. Midkiff, W.Va.	Peter Hollobrady 300 E. 70th St. New York, N.Y.
Stanley J. Wesley 1059 Nelson Ave. Cleveland, Ohio	Lloyd C. Patterson 74 Park Ave West Mansfield, Ohio	Carlton C. Johnson Krotz Springs, La..
James H. White 106 Locus Hill Ave Yonkers, N.Y.	Roscoe Pugliese RD 3, Box 153 Genova, Ohio	Carl C. Jones Jackson, Ohio
William M. Cable 4183 Ashland Detroit, Mich..	Edward F. Ryczko 3236 Jacob St. Hamtramck, Mich.	Walter I. Kivisto 1063 Riverview St. Warren, Ohio
Ralph L. Falk RD 3 Monroe, Wis.	Edward E. White Box 221 Garrollton, Ala.	Albert D. Martini 1445 N. 21st St. Milwaukee, Wis.
Douglas H. Gray Cowen, W.Va.	Kenneth J. Zeitler 1338 34 St. Brooklyn, N.Y.	Leonard D. Lowery Barrett, W.Va.
Charles W. Nestor Rd 3, Box 20 St. George, W.Va.	Arnel C. Carpenter Hocker Valley Webster Springs, W.Va.	Corbett J. McYoung Blue Creek, N.Va..
Joe Tinskey Rd 3 Philippi, W.Va.	Gaio Gilmore Rayville, La.	Frank Morabito Mountain Road East Irvington, N.Y.
Waldo, W. Bailes Fowler Knob, W.Va.	Larry J. LeMay Chilllicothe, Ohio	John A. Parrish RD 1. Medina, Tenn.
Donald B. Bruden	William L. Locker 3845 Falls Rd.	Harold N. Posey R 2. Orlando, W.Va.

Littleton, N.H.	Willie Hosey Webster Springs, W.Va.	Anthony F. Delive 13 Swan St. Amsterdam, N.Y.
Espen H. Christensen 63 Kent St Portland, Maine	Eugene H. Juergens 3078 N. 28th St. Milwaukee, Wis.	Eldon L. Bruhn Berlin, Wis.
Cecil Higgins Reellog, N.C.	Francis L. Megelmyer 447 Central Parkway Warren, Ohio	Homer W. Cowger Box 493 Webster Springs, W.Va.
Elmer F. Dricker RD 1 Hebron, Indiana	Richard J. Leemon L.Anse, Mich.	Donald B. Dugger 507 N. Wash. St. Bicknell, Indiana
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4854 Red Jkt. Shatt  
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Milwaukee, Wis

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1222 31st St.  
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Dudley M. Williams  
Clay, W. Va.

Daniel C. Wesley  
RD 1  
Perdasie, Pa.

Willie D. Wilson  
Holt Fla.

William L. Wolf  
2130 S. 33d St.  
Omaha, Neb

Eugene L. Wood  
Apex Rt 1  
N. C.

*Frank Kline*

*RR #1*

*Jones, Michigan*

S/Sgt. Espen H. Christensen, 63 Kent Street, and Sgt. William E. Leeman of Sullivan, are members of the first airborne artillery unit to be landed in France on D-Day.

Fort Devens, Mass., Aug. 26—First Sgt. Espen H. Christensen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hans H. Christensen of 539 Summit Street, Portland, Me., and husband of Mrs. Anna T. Christensen of 63 Kent Street, Portland, has arrived here after having served overseas with the 82nd Airborne Troops since April, 1943, and will be discharged shortly under the point system. A veteran of the Sicilian, Italian, Normandy, Holland, Belgium and German campaigns, he wears six battle stars, the Purple Heart and the Presidential Unit Citation. He attended the Portland schools before entering the service in February, 1941. A brother, T/3 Soren Christensen, is serving in France.

Westbrook, Nov. 29—Sgt. William E. Leeman, USA, reported missing in action in Holland Sept. 18, is a prisoner in Germany, according to word received from the War Department by his mother, Mrs. Nina Leeman of Haskell Street. He was attached to a glider unit. Sergeant Leeman overseas 33 months, has served in the North African, Sicilian and Italian Campaigns. He received his training at Fort Bragg, N. C., and Camp Claiborne, Louisiana.

Sgt. William E. Leeman of Westbrook, liberated from a German prison camp in February, now is in the hands of the American Red Cross awaiting transportation home, he has written his mother, Mrs. Nina Leeman of Haskell Street.

Leeman, in his first letter home since his imprisonment last September, said he was in "good health" and expected to see his mother soon. A veteran of 28 months of overseas service, Leeman was serving with a glider unit of an airborne division at the time of his capture in Holland.

Pvt. Phil Erikick, Battery A, 320th Field Artillery, and stationed variously in England and France, writes that he recently received a letter from Delvin Miller, the young Pennsylvania reinsman. "To prove what a small world it is," comments Phil, one-time member of the Sunday Telegram and Press Herald sports staff, "Miller wrote that he walked into a GI club in India, and met Billy Hall of Auburn, who used to drive the horses of Mrs. Avis Gross of that city. Our battalion has received a presidential citation," adds Phil, "for its work in the invasion of Normandy. I was not in on this, but one kid, Espen Christensen of Portland, whose father runs the Summit Nursery, did a great job in getting his howitzer into action. Someone has played a horrible hoax, for last week I was awarded a Good Conduct Medal. Page Mr. Ripley!"—Which reminds us that we have just received a Christmas card from T/5 Carroll Rines—former associate of the sporting staff—from Normandy.

## Maine Man And Maid In Service

### Portland Man In Charge Of Gun Believed First In Action In Normandy



F/Sgt. Espen M. Christensen, discharged from the Army after four and a half years of service, shows his wife, Anna, a Nazi flag he found in a minor Nazi headquarters in Cologne.

The outstanding record of a Portland soldier who was in charge of probably the first land artillery gun to go into action in the Normandy invasion was brought to light with his return to this country and discharge from the Army after four and a half years' service.

A member of the famed 82nd Airborne Division, whom the Germans dubbed "The Devils in Babby Pants," F/Sgt. Espen H. Christensen of 63 Kent Street took part in so many campaigns that a mere recital sounds like an index of Army operations in the European Theater.

Besides a total of 110 discharge points, the 29-year-old sergeant earned the bronze arrowhead for spearheading the airborne assaults on Normandy and Nijmegen, Holland, six combat stars, a presidential citation, the Purple Heart and Good Conduct Medal.

He was in Tunisia when the Axis was routed from Africa; he landed in Sicily and fought on the Volturno River in Italy, he was in the thick of the Battle of the Bulge, the battering of the Rhineland and the sweep across Central Germany to meet the Russians.

Overshadowing all the action he saw, however, remains the nightmare that was Normandy.

The landing was made in the darkness of early D-Day. First the long sky train had to run the gauntlet of terrifyingly accurate German ack-ack.

"Flak and tracers were all around us," Christensen recalled. "We could hear the flak as it crashed through our glider. The German gunners were good. They even tried to cut the rope that connected us with our tow plane."

Landing wasn't the smooth operation it had been in training. In the blackness, it was a matter of crashing. The motorless craft plopped in swamps, smashed up against trees and fell to the ground, cracked up on the rough fields. Units were scattered all over the countryside, men separated from their equipment, officers from their men. Many were injured, others wandered around dazed.

#### Glider Hits Hedgerow

When his own glider landed up against a six-foot hedgerow, Christensen took a rap on the mouth. His bottom lip was split, the under side of his tongue was bruised and swelled up, though he didn't lose any teeth.

"After a while a doctor looked at me," the sergeant said. "But he couldn't do anything. He couldn't even take care of the seriously injured. It was three days before I got medical treatment. Many of the men with broken limbs lay out there that long before the medics got to them."

Christensen, a section sergeant of field artillery didn't have time to notice his injury. He was too busy. His topology was missing—didn't catch up with the battery for two days. There were no officers around. So he "kind of took over and got the battery organized."

His own gun had smashed through the floor of the glider. It took an hour and a half and the aid of two jeeps to haul the gun clear. Four of the other five guns in the battery also were damaged.

"We managed to patch them up so we got four to work eventually," he said. "But we didn't actually fire until morning."

So far as the 82nd could learn, his was the first artillery piece to open fire on Ste. Mere Eglise, first town in France to be captured, which the "Devils" took only 12 hours after the invasion started.

What the outfit didn't know was that two hours before their landing, a German infantry division had come into that sector on maneuvers.

"We knew it was a hot show," said Christensen. "It was just one continuous narrow escape. But after five weeks of heavy fighting, we were pulled out and sent back to England."

The airborne landing near Nijmegen in September, 1944, wasn't nearly so hot. It was made in daylight, and the sergeant this time landed in a potato field right in the center of a village. The natives poured out of their houses and danced with joy to see the Americans and even helped unload the gliders. The battery lost only one man, killed by another fire.

## Four Portland Men In Airborne Group

Special Dispatch to The Press Herald Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, England, May 5.—Four Portland men are among 24 Maine men included in airborne troops from New England now ready at this base to participate in the assault on Europe. They are Pfc. William H. Casey, formerly a cook at the Congress Square Hotel; Pfc. Norman J. Vance, 21 Main Street; WO (jg-Stephen J. McHugh, Oaks Avenue, Peaks Island, assistant adjutant; and Pvt. Boland J. Stuart, 169 Rear Woodford Street. Others from Maine are: Pvt. Paul N. Pontbriant and T/Sgt. Maurice Ardoin, Biddeford; Pvt. Arthur E. McDonald, Ripley; Pvt. Conrad J. Dumont, Sanford; CWO Eugene E. Harvey, 76 Vincent Street, South Portland; Sgt. William E. Leeman, 54 Haskell Street, Westbrook; and these parachutists: Pvt. Wallace E. Morgan, Bethel; Pvt. Pelham P. Noyes, Brunswick; Pvt. Paul E. Maurice, Biddeford; Pvt. A. A. Dusseau, Charlotte; Pvt. Donat M. Plourde, Caribou; Pvt. Amasa E. Salley, Dover-Foxcroft; Pvt. Allan R. King, Fairfield; Pfc. R. L. Miller, Howland; Pvt. David R. Clark, 5 Gulf Island Avenue, Lewiston; 1/Sgt. Herschell Parks, Monticello; Pvt. Robert Aube, Rumford; Pfc. J. R. Bouffard, Sanford; and Cpl. Hubert W. McMannus, 7 Thayer Street, Waterville.

Relieved after two months, the outfit was resting at a rear area camp when the Nazis bust into the Ardennes region to start the Battle of the Bulge. Rushed into the gap on only a day's notice and without time to get new clothing and equipment, they were in the front lines two and a half months.

#### Battery Holds Point

"As we took up our positions, the retreating Yanks moved back bumper to bumper in a solid stream for a day and a half," Christensen recalled.

"Then the infantry moved back, and for about 12 hours our battery was right out there on the point, with nothing between us and the Germans.

"We didn't know what had happened or we'd have got out of there fast. But apparently the enemy didn't realize the situation, either. When we did pull back, two of our trucks, in the excitement, headed straight for the German lines. Luckily, we were able to stop them."

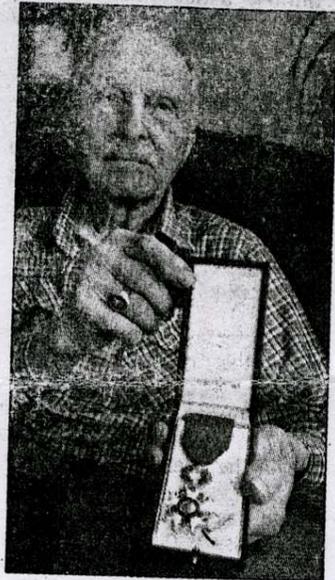
After another rest, during which Christensen was advanced to first sergeant, the division was readied for an airborne crossing of the Rhine, but that wasn't needed, so they fought across the Rhine at Cologne.

Covering the crossing of the Elbe and moving on to meet the Russian at Ludwigslust, the 82nd took 200,000 prisoners, the entire 21st German Army Group, the first time in military history one division has forced an army to surrender.

Christensen, whose wife is the former Anna C. Thomsen and whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hans Christensen, operate the Summit Nurseries at 539 Summit Street, entered the service in February, 1941. He served with the 82nd from the time of its activation in February, 1942. Educated in the local schools, he worked with his parents and at Sawyer's Greenhouse Coyle Street, before the war.

Enjoying a real vacation for the first time since he joined the Army he hasn't yet made up his mind about plans for the future.

# Portlander recalls daring D-Day flight



Jack Milton/Staff Photographer

**Espen Christensen, 91,** of Portland shows his French Legion of Honor Medal for helping to liberate France during World War II.

Exactly 63 years ago, Espen Christensen began a tour of exceptional duty.

By **BETH QUIMBY**  
Staff Writer

For most of his adult life, Espen Christensen has been a collector. The 91-year-old Portland native fills his days building a collection of hand-powered saws, planes and other carpenter's tools.

But as a younger man he amassed a collection of another kind: a chest full of shiny medals awarded to him for bravery as a first sergeant in the U.S. Army's famed 82nd Airborne Division during World War II. Christensen's medal collection received a new addition last month: the Cross of the Legion of Honor, France's highest award.

It was presented to him and 15 other New England veterans

by Francois Gauthier, consul general of France, for their help in liberating France from the Nazis starting with the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944. The ceremony on Boston Common featured musket volleys, a parade and many speeches.

For Christensen, the event brought back memories of the battles he fought when he headed an artillery battery that was one of the first to fire during the Normandy invasion.

He is one of a dwindling number of World War II veterans who fought in what is still the largest seaborne invasion in history.

Only 3.5 million of the 16 million U.S. soldiers who fought in World War II were alive in 2005, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, with 20,000 of those in Maine. It is unclear how many of the U.S. troops who took part in the Battle of Normandy are still

he said.

But his family said he only started talking about his war experiences after the 50th anniversary of D-Day. "It became OK to talk about it," said his son, Tom Christensen of Bangor.

There are still some experiences, such as liberating a concentration camp, that he won't talk about, his son said.

Tom Christensen said that like many World War II veterans, his father wanted to put the war behind him.

"The war was over and they came home and went to work," he said.

When Espen Christensen got home, he went to work at a greenhouse, bought a grocery store in Yarmouth, then worked at a printing business before retiring. He and his wife, who died last year, raised two sons. Today he is the grandfather of five, and still drives and mows his own lawn.

But the war memories return. Like the time they scooped out peanut butter from five-pound

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## D-DAY

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alive today and how many live in Maine.

Sixty-three years ago today, Christensen was in charge of 60 men who flew into France in six gliders that had been towed by planes over the English Channel.

Constructed of metal frames and sheathed in canvas, the gliders were loaded with six jeeps, six short-barreled howitzers and other supplies. They landed in the pitch dark amid bursts of enemy anti-aircraft fire. Christensen's glider crashed into a 6-foot-tall hedgerow and several men were injured.

"A lot of them landed in the trees, all over the place," said Christensen.

Once on the ground, there was a mad scramble to find all the gliders, the men and supplies. Some of the soldiers were separated from their units for days

or weeks.

Christensen's howitzer had smashed through the floor of the glider. It took several hours to haul it clear. Four of the other six cannons were damaged. But the soldiers managed to patch them up and aimed their fire on Ste. Mere Eglise, the first French town to be liberated.

Days of nonstop combat followed.

"We went 442 days straight and more than 6,000 (82nd Airborne Division soldiers) died," Christensen said.

He wouldn't see his wife, Anna, for more than two years, his parents for more than three.

Christensen fought in many of the war's major battles. By September 1944 he was in Holland during Operation Market Garden, where he remembers the Dutch citizens helping to unload his glider after he landed outside Nijmegen. He also fought the Nazis in Tunisia, North Africa, and in Italy.

Six months after D-Day he rushed into the Battle of the

Bulge in the Ardennes Forest on the border of Belgium and Germany. He recalls sleeping on the ground or in foxholes with the thermometer plunging to 14 degrees. The battle lasted more than a month and left more than 76,000 Americans dead, wounded, missing or captured.

From there the 82nd Airborne moved across central Germany to meet the Russians, taking 200,000 Germans of the 21st German Army Group prisoner. It was the first time a division of the U.S. Army managed to force an entire army to surrender, according to a contemporary account in the Portland Press Herald.

Along the way, Christensen collected a bronze arrowhead for the assault on Normandy, six combat stars, a presidential citation, a Purple Heart and a Good Conduct Medal. He also came home with a Nazi flag.

And he returned from the war unscathed.

"It didn't seem to affect me,"

cans with their mess spoons because they had nothing to spread it on. And the buddy who wound up getting another assignment as a swap for the \$5,000 he won in a poker game from some officers.

"He hoped it would get him home earlier, but it didn't," said Christensen.

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