



WISCO ALL AIRBORNE REPORTER

PROUDLY DEDICATED TO JIM "MAGGIE" MEGELLAS THE 82ND AIRBORNE'S MOST DECORATED OFFICER

Maggie, 82nd inspire Packers 13th World Championship!

By Tom Laney

11/7/2010, With 10 minutes to go to the National Anthem, life-long, faithful Pack Fan, Jim "Maggie" Megellas, 93, took to Lambeau Field with wife Carole, son Steve, nephew Mark and 10 All American Paratroopers from his beloved 82nd Airborne Division by his side.

The 12-Time World Champion Green Bay Packers were honoring the most decorated officer of the greatest Airborne division in history. Another Champion Jim Megellas, iconic Wisconsin Airborne Warrior lent his combative spirit to the Packers as they faced the Dallas Cowpies.

As he waved to the fans, Maggie's left chest displayed the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts and a cluster of Infantry Campaign Medals. These awards were topped by the Combat Infantry Badge and the Silver Wings of America's greatest living Paratrooper, the model on whom the world's most elite Airborne Division is still patterned today.

In his heart, Jim carried memories of the best friends of his life, 504 PIR Paratroopers who died in the Italian Mountains, Salerno, Anzio Beach, Holland, The Bulge, Siegfried Line and All The Way to Berlin. They are with him everywhere he goes, all the days of his exemplary life.



Turning Point: Carole, Maggie, son Steven, nephew Mark and the 82nd Airborne Divisions Operations Officer, Col. Martin Schweitzer (Redskins/Packers Fan) are saluted by 72,000 Packer Fans before the Cowpie game. Airborne Karmad, The Packers jumped all over Dallas 45-7 on the way to our 13th World Championship! (Photo by All American Justin Connaheer, Fond du Lac Reporter.)

Thanks to 505 PIR Assoc. Secretary, Bert Schmitz, Winneconnie, "Maggie" as he is known to his platoon and friends, was backed up by an Honor Guard sent from his beloved 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Ft. Bragg, NC.

The 504 Honor Guard - 13 deployments between them - proudly stood behind their hero in Paratrooper Trademark Jump Boots, Dress Greens and the Red Berets of the Airborne, displaying their own ribbon rows. They stood straight below fluttering clusters of Battle Streamers of their Division and Regi-

mental colors. General Martin Schweitzer, Director of the Division's Airborne Operations was on Maggie's left, representing the 82nd Command.

Minutes earlier Gen. Schweitzer said, "Jim Megellas is an American Icon. We are here to honor him in every way we possibly can," Schweitzer said. "And like Maggie, we intend to enjoy this special place we've heard so much about. I hate the Taliban, Al Qaida and the Dallas Cowboys, in that order. Go Pack!"

(Maggie Cont. Pg 4)

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BSC CHALLENGE COINS

PHOTOS GALORE!



Who is Jim “Maggie” Megellas

“He was the bravest man I ever saw. He cared about each one of us, he appreciated us all so much! He would do anything for us, and we would follow him anywhere. It wasn’t just that he was a Paratrooper and a combat leader. He was the best at that of course. But he is more. He is a good man. He’s done good things for people all his life.” - S/Sgt Bill Hannigan, 504 PIR Paratrooper, 88, St. Paul, MN on Jim Megellas. Bill was a squad leader in Maggie’s platoon. Bill is also a very good man.

“We were catching hell from a Panther when I saw someone charging the tank with a Thompson sub-machine gun! I asked myself ‘Who in the hell is that crazy sonuvabitch?! I saw him knock that tank out with a couple of grenades and found out later it was Maggie. He saved us all!” - Col. George Heib, Paratrooper 504 PIR, Special Forces Vietnam.

Maggie’s Heroes

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/105005234.html?page=1>

Wisco All Airborne Reporter

Honoring Jim “Maggie” Megellas and Wisconsin’s Airborne.

Editor: Tom Laney, 501st PIR, 82nd Airborne Division,
tlaney1776@gmail.com

Airborne Level Head: Jim Romlein,
Chair, 101st Airborne Old Abe Chapter

Airborne Recon: Major Sgt Howard Rennhack, 325 PIR, 82nd Airborne

Scout: Ed Barnes, USMC Jumper,
Mover & Shaker for Maggie MOH.

All American Photographer: The Incomparable Justin Connaher, Paratrooper, 82nd Airborne, who has covered Maggie everywhere!

Volunteer for Our Staff!

Wisco Reporter

This is the second edition of the electronic, quarterly *All Wisconsin Airborne Reporter*, now renamed *Wisco All Airborne Reporter*.

We are dedicated to honoring James “Maggie” Megellas, the most decorated officer in the 82nd Airborne’s proud history, as well as all of our Wisconsin Airborne.

We aim to keep you up to speed on a great Wisconsin Airborne Warrior and the Medal of Honor Maggie so justly deserves; and all Airborne heroes and events in our beloved Wisconsin.

We will have more stories and pictures about Airborne activists and your stories and pictures if you will send them in.

We will update you with upcoming MOH appeals by Col. Ed Sims and any new Department of the Army, Congressional or Presidential action for this Medal of Honor. We want this medal for Maggie, for his platoon, for the 3rd Bn 504 PIR, the 82nd Airborne Division and for Airborne Troopers everywhere.

“The 82nd Airborne Division was, and is, the best Airborne Division in the world,” says our pal, 325 Glider Rider Les Schwarm who rode a WACO into Market/Garden and fought *All The Way* to Berlin.

These pages are open to 11th, 13th, 17th, 82nd, 101st, 173rd, 501st, 551st, Rangers, Special Forces, Delta Force, Chair Force, SEALs, USMC Force Recon, all Paratroopers and friends of the Airborne.

All The Way!

Tom Laney, Editor 651-492-9309, 715-962-4365

tlaney1776@gmail.com

82nd Airborne Historian Steve Mrozek leads the way for Maggie's Heroes Tour in May

Not to knock the 101st but those of us who wish Steve Ambrose had written "Band of Brothers" about the All Americans are about to take some 82nd Airborne pride in one America's best combat story teller's work.

Tim Gray's coming documentary on Wisconsin's great citizen warrior, Jim Megellas, leader of arguably WWII's best platoon, will finally give the 82nd Airborne Division the notice and credit it earned as the first-in, last-out Airborne Division of WWII.

The Skinny: This project has the approval of Lt. Col. James "Maggie" Megellas and donations are tax-deductible through the Rhode Island PBS Foundation, a 501 (c)(3). This will be An HD Documentary Film for national and international distribution. **Narrator/host of film:** [Kyle Chandler](#) of NBC TV's *Friday Night Lights*



Paratrooper Steve Mrozek, 82nd Airborne Division Historian and Maggie pore over ETO tracks of Maggie's 504 Platoon which they will re-trace this May. (Photo by All American Photographer Justin Connaheer, Fond du Lac Reporter.)

The Documentary Film "Maggie": In mid-1943 James Megellas, born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and known as "Maggie" to his fellow paratroopers, joined H Co., 3rd Bn, 504 PIR, 82nd Airborne Division. His first taste of combat was in the rugged Apennine Mountains outside Naples in Italy. Soon Maggie's platoon was tapped to run some of the most star-crossed missions of World War II. From the Italian Mountains to the beach of Anzio to Field Marshall Montgomery's vainglorious Operation Market-Garden in Holland, The Battle of Herresbach and *All The Way* to Berlin. James Megellas is the most decorated officer in the history of the 82nd Airborne Division. After he was wounded and hospitalized at Anzio he returned to his unit and never missed another day of combat until May 8, 1945, the end of the war.

Leadership: The film will also focus on leadership skills in combat and Maggie's ability to motivate, inspire and lead men when initial planning has broken down. All these 82nd Airborne principles are still important today to those who lead and set the stage for others to succeed. Leadership is a topic which Lt. Col. Megellas continues to lecture on all over the world. **Today:** At 93 years old, Megellas recently returned from spending Christmas in Afghanistan with his old outfit, the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, along the Pakistani border. He continues to travel and lecture around the world.

Join the Maggie Documentary Tour!



If you can go:

YOU can Join Maggie's Heroes Tour for the 82nd Trip of a Lifetime!

(Press control before clicking link)

<http://ping.fm/90lgK>

If you can help:

Please go to Tim Gray Media for more information on Tim and how to donate: (Press control before clicking link)

<http://www.timgraymedia.com/donate/donate-to-tim-gray-medias-wwii-projects/>



82nd Badger Chapter honors Maggie, 504 Honor Guard

(Cont. from Pg. 1)

The Packers read and displayed on the Jumbotron, an all too brief narrative on Maggie. 72,000 Packer Fans cheered and waved American Flags as Wisconsin's 32nd Infantry Soldiers sang the National Anthem from Afghanistan.

82nd Veteran and All American Photographer Justin Connaheer, Fond du Lac Reporter superbly captured the moment. An NBC Photographer rushed over to Maggie and told him, "Thank you! If not for you, we'd all be watching soccer and speaking German."

As Maggie and our 82nd Paratroopers left the field and moved along the stadium track, the world's greatest football fans leaned out to thank and high-five them. They were blessed by everyone they met. Packer Fans gave up their seats so they could all sit together. They did not have to buy a beer.

As the Packers pounded the Cowpies and the game wound down, Col. Schweitzer paid a last visit to Maggie's box, to thank him for saving our country and to let him know he will be seeing him again, hopefully in Ft. Bragg for All American Week.

He added: "I am going to take a few minutes to walk the entire concourse and meet as many fans as I can before leaving. There is no other place like this, no other place with such a field and fans like these."

The 82nd Airborne Division Honor Guard came to pay their respects too. 504 Recon Team Leader, and Honor Guard Staff Sergeant Jonathan Stringer said, "We are honored to be here. We are honored to meet Maggie and be his friend. We feel like everyone is our friend here. The Packers are great. We have never been treated so well. We thank you all."

The Packers honored a great Paratrooper and a great man. The Paratroopers honored the Green Bay Packers and all of us.

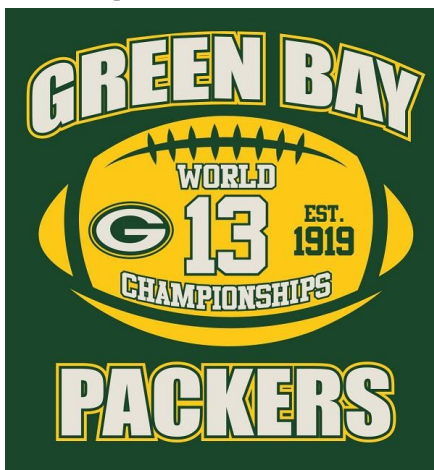
Maggie, 93, is a life-long Packer Fan. Originally from Fond du Lac he and wife Carole now live in Texas to be near grandkids where they form a most formidable Packer/Airborne outpost for the Green & Gold.

The 82nd Airborne Badger Chapter held a small dinner for the 504 Honor Guard before the big game. At right, Badger Chairman Frank Morris tells honor guard NCOIC Jonathan Strenger how they ate cake in the old days of the 307th Airborne Injuneers. We all had a great time! (Laney photo)



5-Star General Carole Megellas explains to Wisconsin's Brigadier Dunbar what the Packers have planned for the Cowpies. Penatogon;s Col. Thompson is in background with 82nd's Col. Martin Schweitzer, Skins/Packers fan. (Laney photo.)

Packers' Secret Weapon? Paratrooper Kevin Greene!



WWII Vets Les Schwarm, 325 GIR, Wausau and Gene Strutzenberg, 504 PIR, Brodhead, flank Packers Outside Linebackers Coach Kevin Greene, the guy who coached up Clay Mathews! (Laney photo)

Another busy year for the 82nd Airborne's most decorated officer!



USMC's finest, Ed Preston Barnes, Fond du Lac, L, with Maggie and American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) Chair John Gallanis as Maggie was presented with AHEPA's Medal of Freedom last year in Chicago. (Laney photo)

Pushing 94, Jim "Maggie" Megellas shows no signs of slowing down. In 2010 he traveled America accepting awards on behalf of the Airborne heroes he led from the front; and supporting the Troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, Ft. Bragg and Ft. Benning.

"There is a bond between Paratroopers and all the Airborne. And it is no different today. Those who fought in WWII, Korea, Vietnam and those who are fighting today are all equal. All deserve our respect and honor."

On the Medal of Honor front, the push contin-



325 GIR WWII Glider Rider, Tony Vallos with Maggie at the Chicago AHEPA Banquet. (Laney photo)



101st Airborne Vietnam Vet Jim Patrick met Maggie at the Maggie Tribute Jump last summer at the Pulaski Sky Divers. (Laney photo)

ues from Col. Edward Sims, 91, who is writing President Obama again demanding the upgrade. Sen. Feingold also wrote the President and caused the Pentagon to phone Sims.

The upshot of all that is the Army continues to say that even considering the total action, the appropriate award is the Silver Star. The Army says we should not make comparisons between Maggie's Action at Herresbach and the actions of other MOH winners. Really? There is no consistency whatever in the

Army's awards. We have MOH awards to Heroes who have knocked out tanks with Bazookas and Panzerfausts. But we have no MOH holders who have attacked and knocked out a tank with two grenades and a Thompson, thereby saving their platoon.

The Army says the case is too old. A promised letter from the DOA Secretary to Col Sims has not been delivered. My hand-delivered letter to the Undersecretary of the Army goes unanswered.

Presidents continue to re-open cases and upgrade medals. In 2010, President Obama upgraded Air Force Chief Richard L. Etchberger's posthumous 1968 DSC to the Medal of Honor. As he should have.

We believe President Obama would upgrade Maggie's Silver Star if he would simply read the requests from Col. Sims.

We are encouraged now that the 82nd Assoc. is more involved since the 82nd Airborne Division deserves this medal too.

Another question: Howinhell does the preeminent Airborne Division of WWII fight its way from N. Africa to Berlin and only get three Medals of Honor? Next issue we will provide



82nd Veteran Justin Connaher and Jim Megellas with the National D.A.R.'s Medal of Honor presented to Maggie last summer in Washington, DC.

the recent correspondence and as much of the record as we can fit in. Keep on fighting!



Thumbs up alright! I want to be just like these guys when I grow up! Of all the honors bestowed on Maggie, none were greater than the "Maggie Tribute Jump" by the crazed leapers here, Eddie Barnes and Bob Shrader on the left. They planned the Jump! Gary Bauman, R., is an All Pro Skydiver with 5 million jumps but Ed was making his first-ever jump and Bob his first in 15 years. Were they nervous? They said no. But they seemed a bit tense. They gave us all a heck of a day at the Pulaski Sky Divers and Maggie & Carole loved it! (Laney photo)

Background and more news:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWVpbnxiYWFnZXJhaXJib3JuZXxneDo1YTFiNDc0ZGMxMTRmNWEx>

<http://www.militaryorder.net/New%20MOWW%20Design/Officer%20Review/JUNE%202010.pdf>

<http://dallas.citybizlist.com/16/2010/10/28/Daughters-of-World-War-II-Launch-Organization-by-Honoring-Veterans-on-Veteran%E2%80%99s-Day-November-11.aspx>

AIRBORNE MANIFESTS



H Co, 504 PIR NCOs before Market Garden. SSgt Bill Hannigan, St. Paul is at lower right, apparently wearing some sort of Special Assignment uniform. Bill was a Squad Leader in Jim Megellas' platoon. When he discovered the 504 would not be making D-Day, he volunteered for the Pathfinders, jumped in with the 508th Pathfinders and was one of the first men into Normandy!



Andrew Dahl and Ben Lund

Their Re-Enactor Companies honor WWII 82nd Airborne Division's Paratroopers of H Co. 3rd BN 504 PIR.



82ND AIRBORNE RE-ENACTORS

H Co. 3RD BN 504 PIR, 508TH PATHFINDERS

SPECIAL GUEST: WWII H Co. 504 VETERAN BILL HANNIGAN!

FARMINGTON, MN FAIRGROUNDS,

SATURDAY & SUNDAY MAY 21, 22



Track Schedule as it develops here (Ctrl, click)

<http://12thssmn.com/schedule.html>

Open at 10 A.M.

MORE INFO:

BEN LUND, FACEBOOK OR,
EMAIL: GRILLO_LUND@YAHOO.COM



Viking fan Brett Esse & Mike Haller at 82nd Airborne Display, WWII Museum, downtown Portage. (Laney photo)

82nd Airborne Assoc. Badger Meeting

March 26, Portage

11:00 Brunch at Dino's

12:00 Tour Esse's WWII Museum, Downtown

2:30 Meeting,

2902 American Legion Dr.

4:30 Drinks, Dinner at Dino's
1 block from American Legion

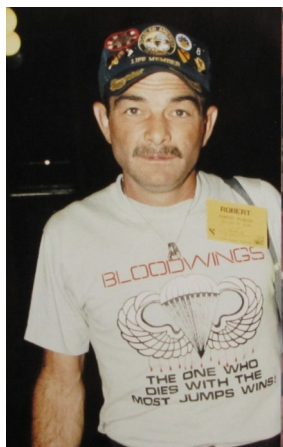
May 15—Vets Open House King Vets Home, 82nd Airborne Division Memorial Case Dedication at Marden Hall Museum.

May 21, 22—Strikehold Re-Enactors Farmington, MN. Special guest Bill Hannigan.

May 20-22 Eagle Feather Warrior Pow-Wow, Keshena. 101st Airborne Old Abe Chapter. <http://ops.oldabechapter.org/events/warriors-pow-wow>

July 7, WACO Glider Dedication Iron Mountain MI, Details next issue.

Bob "Mingo" Mingo



TAYLOR, Wis. — Robert A. "Mingo" Mingo, 59, of Taylor, passed away Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010, at Family Heritage Care Center in Black River Falls, while under the care of Black River Hospice. He passed peacefully with family around him.

Bob was born Feb. 5, 1951, in Oshkosh, Wis., to George B. Mingo and Dorothy L. (Remo) Whitty. Bob joined the Army in May 1970. He attended jump school as part of the 8th Airborne Division in Dexheim, Germany. Bob served in Vietnam as a combat engineer with 101st Airborne and 1st Air Cavalry. He was honorably discharged in March 1972.

Bob was united in marriage to Joanne Calantoni on March 27, 1973, in Oshkosh, Wis. Together the couple lived in Oshkosh before moving to Taylor for the last 34 years. Bob worked as a welder in Oshkosh and the Milwaukee area before moving to Curran Valley to farm.

He enjoyed skydiving, hunting, fishing,

motorcycling, boxing, logging and spending time in the woods. He was a member of DAV Chapter 61, AMVETS Post 5454 of Black River Falls, Taylor-Hixton American Legion Post 368, Black River Falls VFW 1959, the Old Abe Chapter of the 101st Airborne Association, the Kettle Moraine Chapter of the 1st Air Cavalry Association and the Badger State Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Association.

Bob also was a longtime volunteer at the Highground and Tomah VA. He was a coach for the Taylor Boxing Team for 10 years where he took them to a state championship.

Bob received the "gift of life" in 2001 from his sister, Kris, when she donated a kidney.

Bob is survived by his wife, Joanne; mother, Dorothy; a black

lab of 15 years, Rosie; many brothers and sisters from several blended families; many nieces and nephews; a special niece and nephew, Christine Kelly (Moonie) and Robert Kelly Jr.; and his brothers in arms, who meant a great deal to him.

He was preceded in death by his father, George, and two brothers. A memorial service was held Tuesday, Oct. 26 at 5 p.m., with military honors following, at Jensen-Modjeski Funeral Home in Hixton. Private family burial will take place at a later date. Family and friends were invited for visitation Tuesday, Oct. 26 from 3 p.m. until the time of the service at the funeral home.

Jensen-Modjeski Funeral Home of Hixton assisted the family with arrangements.

ON ANGELS
WINGS, I HIT THE
GROUND.

MY FATHER'S
FAVOR, I HAVE
FOUND.

IN THANKS, ST.
MICHAEL I DO
PRAY.

FOR GOD HAS
HELPED ME-
ALL THE WAY.

Walter Reineking

Walter G. Reineking, age 81, of Sheboygan, died on Monday, January 17, 2011 at St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan.

He was born in Sheboygan on October 22, 1929, the son of the late Roland and Elsie Buscher Reineking.

Walter attended local schools in the Sheboygan area. On May 12, 1951 he was united in marriage to the former Rosemary Wilson at Immanuel Lutheran Church. In 1948 Walter enlisted in the United States Army serving his country as a Paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division and was discharged in 1952. He was employed at Chair City Motor Express for 35 years as a truck driver. He then later retired from Bemis Manufacturing. Walter was a member of Koenigs Conservation Club for over 58 years, Teamsters retiree, Local 800 retiree's Club and the 82nd Airborne Associa-

tion. He was a member of the Airborne Dinner Club at Stevens Point where we loved his discussions of the 82nd, Packers, Brewers and Badgers. Walter enjoyed hunting, fishing, trap shooting and vacationing in Mesa, Arizona.

Survivors include his wife of over 59 years, Rosemary, sons, Richard (Carol) Reineking, Robert (Colleen) Reineking, both of Sheboygan Falls, grandchildren, Sarah (Randy) Krumenaker, of Pennsylvania, Joshua (Theresa) Reineking, of Madison, WI, Zachary (Bridget) Reineking, of Ixonia, WI, Amy Reineking, of Green Bay, WI, Brian (Abby) Reineking, of Sheboygan Falls, great-grandchildren, Collin, Kyler, Kendyll, Nola, his sister, Margaret Sanders, Mesa, AZ and his

brother-in-law, Robert Wilson, of Sheboygan. He is further survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. His parents and his brothers, Karl, Lorenz and Roland Reineking all preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Novak-Ramm-Ziegler Funeral Home, 1535 S. 12th St., Sheboygan, with Rev. Adam L. Scheblein of Immanuel Lutheran Church, officiating. Entombment was at Garden Terrace Mausoleum.

In lieu of flowers a memorial fund has been established in Walter's name. Online condolences may be expressed

www.novakrammziegler.com



Madison 2nd National Glider Symposium huge success!



Clockwise from upper left, 325 1st Sgt Ray Anderson makes a point about glider landings; 82nd Badger Vice-Chair Bob Shrader and Les Schwarm present Maggie with 82nd Camo and Santiago Tijerina, Ex. Dir. National 82nd Assoc. and Packer Fan, a BJ Raji jersey, compliments Dr. Bill Laney; cap says it all about Ray!; 325 Vet Herb Huebschen, Janesville, front-center, later at the 325 Reunion in Fayetteville; WACO team in Iron Mountain, Shirley Hartline R, passed away two months ago. The glider will be dedicated July 7; and, 327 GIR, 101st Vet Larry Michaelis, R., with 401st Re-enactor Leg. (Laney photos)



Recollections of A Rhinelander Paratrooper

By Sarah Juon

Rhinelander Daily News

It's been 66 years since D-Day, but Glenn Johnson's memories of landing as a paratrooper in Normandy with the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment are as fresh as yesterday.

Johnson's account of the invasion, his capture by the Germans and five months as a prisoner of war, and his escape from a remote mountain prison camp is the stuff of high drama, of war movies.

And yet, Johnson has a difficult time talking about it.

The 86-year-old Rhinelander resident shared his suspenseful story, but he led into it gently, by first relating some of the happier times he spent with the vaunted 101st Airborne Division, the "Screaming Eagles."

"I guess I'm trying to erase some of the bad things," he explained. "These days I seem to be thinking more about some of the funny little things that happened."

We begin with a few of Johnson's favorite recollections, starting with his enlistment in 1942 at age 18 from his hometown of Racine.

Big Boots

"I knew I'd be drafted," Johnson said, "and since I wanted to get into the Airborne, I decided I would volunteer.

"I was inducted at Fort Sheridan, Ill., and because of the way the draftees were pouring in, everything they gave me was two sizes bigger than I needed. They told me, 'You'll grow into them.' But that didn't help — I didn't plan on staying in the army that long. They gave me size 12 boots — I wear a 9 1/2. And they gave me big old OD (olive drab) coat that hung down past my knees. I bet it weighed 40 pounds. Then they put us on buses to Camp Toccoa, Ga., and that's where I had my basic training.

"Those of us who volunteered for the Airborne were getting out of the bus, and as I was coming down the steps my feet got tangled and I fell flat on the ground. I can laugh about it now. There was this Sergeant Good-sight waiting for us, and he looked down at me and said, 'Jeezus Christ, Johnson, you want to jump out of airplanes and you can't even get out of a bus?' That was my introduction to Camp Toccoa.

"Goodsight told us, 'No need to throw your bags out of the bus because most of you aren't going to make it here.' There was this Currahee Mountain we were supposed to run up. Three miles. I told the sergeant that I couldn't run in these oversized boots. He looked around, and saw that someone had an old pair of gym shoes, the kind with the high sides, the



Once a Paratrooper, always a Paratrooper! Glenn Johnson still flies the Screaming Eagle at his Rhinelander home. We thank Sarah Juon for writing this nice tribute to a 501st Hero, The Daily News for printing it and Judy Durkee for bringing it to our attention.!

kind that stink. He told me to put them on. He was picking on me because of the bus incident. But I ran up the mountain and was one of only three who made it."

Sunday dinner

"After basic training we went to Lebanon, Tenn., for a month for maneuvers. It was a Sunday, and I said to my buddy George, 'Let's go into town.' I didn't want to stay in camp.

"So we walked up a country road and heard piano playing coming out of a farmhouse. It was around noon. I said, 'I'm going to ask them if we can work for dinner.' I went up and knocked, and a farmer came to the door. We told him we were bivouacked up on the hill, and he said he was aware of it. 'You don't have to work, just come on in and eat,' he told us. 'We're having a regular chicken dinner.'

"It was a wonderful meal. We hadn't eaten homemade cooking like that in months. We stayed about three, four hours, talking with him, answering his questions. His daughter was practicing for a piano recital and so we listened to her, which was kind of nice.

"On the way home — here's the funny part — we were walking along and we pass another farm. I say, 'George, I'm getting hungry again,' so we walk up to it, and George said, 'Let me do the talking this time.' So he did, and

the farmer came to the door and said, 'We had our hot meal at noon but we have a lot of leftovers. Come on in and eat.' What a spread it was, just wonderful food. While we're eating, there's a knock on the door, and it's the first farmer. It turns out these two farmers are brothers. He sees us and says, 'Didn't I feed you enough?' He starts laughing. He thought it was funnier than hell."

Seasick

"After Lebanon, Tenn., we went to Camp McCall, N.C., to train for the invasion. We left the country out of Camp Miles Standish in Boston on a convoy, headed for Glasgow, Scotland. While at sea, our engine wasn't acting right and we were stuck. The ship's crew kept banging on metal to make sure nobody ran into us. There were a lot of boats out there and it was during the winter months, foggy.

"The rest of the convoy couldn't afford to wait for us and went on. So we were all alone, and it was scary out there, with all the German submarines around, and the Liberty boat creaking and moaning. We slept 'down in the hole,' as they called it, in bunks.

"There was a lot of seasickness. I was fortunate and didn't get it — until the last day, that is, when the guy in the bunk above me threw up all over me. That's all it took. So then

I was leaning over the side of the boat too, and eating soda crackers because they said it would help. It took us 11 days to get to Glasgow.”

English Darts

“From Glasgow we got on a train and went to Camp Lambourn, in a tiny village, a horse town, in England. They moved out the horses and cleaned up the stables and we moved into them. This was about five months before the June 6th invasion, and we were practicing shooting.

“We met a lot of English people. We went to the pubs and played Two Darts. They always beat us. They would say, ‘throw the darts for a nail.’ Well, you might as well give them a nail, knowing they were going to beat you, but they were so dang nice to us.

“We didn’t see a lot of girls at that time. The girls weren’t around. They were working on the farms. They wore some kind of uniform and worked in the fields.”

D-Day

“We were taken from Lambourn to a base, I don’t know where it was, and locked down on it 10 days before the invasion. We knew something big was going to happen. The invasion was supposed to be June 5. We were all ready to take out, but then it was canceled because of bad weather. The next day they told us to get into uniform, and we thought it would be another dry run, but it was the real thing.

“We flew over in a C-47 and jumped into Normandy, about five miles out of where we were supposed to land. There was mass confusion, a mix-up all over. The pilots had never been in combat before. They were green like us. The ack-acks came up and we tried to avoid them. My parachute opened very close to the ground, which was better, because the Germans were shooting at everyone coming down.

“I was all alone at first. We had these little clickers — if someone didn’t click back at you, you shot them. There were 13 of us there, and we found each other. Only three of us were not wounded, and we had no food. We held back the Germans off the main road for three days.

“The Germans seized us and interrogated us. We were trained to give only our name, rank and serial number. They were scared of the paratroopers, so they treated us pretty well at first.”

Prisoner of War

And then Johnson arrives at the part of his narrative he doesn’t enjoy talking about.

“We were taken to a number of camps by trains, but the camps kept getting bombed out,” he said. As winter came on, the prisoners found themselves in a camp in a mountainous region of what was then Czechoslovakia. They

were kept alive on meals of black bread and hot water.

Then, five months after capture, an opportunity came on Dec. 26.

“They asked for volunteers to go out and gather wood and I volunteered, along with two other Americans,” Johnson recalled. “It started snowing hard. I said to George — another George, not the same one in boot camp — that I’m going to make a run for it. There is only one guard here, I said, and with this snow he can’t track me. The two others said they would go too. I was glad they did. I would have been lonely on my own.”

Johnson and his fellow soldiers hid during the day and roamed at night, looking for food. “We had to be careful. No one knew who anyone was — the Germans were switching into American uniforms, hoping to get sent back to the States.”

The hungry escapees lived on what they could steal. “We even found a little wooden barrel full of poppy seeds and ate that,” he said. “When you’re hungry, you’ll eat anything.

“We came upon a farm that was vacant and there was a little pig. I said, ‘We’re going to have pig tonight.’ We had no knives. We found an old plow shear and that’s what we had to cut the meat with. We really wrestled with it. We boiled the meat to make some soup, but we didn’t cook it long enough, and for three days we didn’t do nothing but sit there, sick as dogs. Finally, we got pretty well healed but we didn’t eat any more pig.”

“You’d be surprised what we could find stored in barns — the farmers banked a lot of rutabagas, or potatoes, and we’d go in at night and take them. We had to eat everything raw.”

Behind the lines

Johnson and his compatriots eventually came across two British pilots who had parachuted out of a plane that had been shot down. The pilots informed them that they were in Poland and directed them back toward the American lines.

“The Americans didn’t know who we were,” Johnson said. “The Germans had taken our dog tags. They interrogated us for two days. They were checking our records. We told them we were with 501st, and finally it jelled.

“Then they said, ‘We suppose you’d like something to eat. Go down to the mess tent and tell the sergeant to feed you.’ That was about 5 a.m. The sergeant asked what we’d like, and I said, ‘A hamburger steak, some American fries, and a big glass of milk,’ and he said he could make that.

“The steak looked huge. We hadn’t seen meat for so long. I took three bites and couldn’t eat any more — our stomachs had shrunk so much. So I’m cutting the steak up and putting it in my pocket and the sergeant is looking at us, like, what the hell? I said, ‘This is for tomor-



row.’ You know, you can get so intense about food when it’s scarce and you don’t waste anything. He told us, ‘You don’t have to do that. We’ll be here tomorrow. But I’ll wrap it up and you can take it back with you.’

Recovery

At the time he was captured, Johnson weighed 165 pounds. By the time he found his way behind the American lines some eight months later, he was down to 89 pounds. He was sent to Arlington Hospital in Hot Springs, Ark., to recuperate for three months.

“I could have stayed there forever,” he said. “I never had so many egg-nogs in my life, trying to put back on weight. The food was a strict diet and unseasoned, so at night we’d sneak out and get a hamburger and fries in Hot Springs.”

Life After

Johnson returned to Racine and met the woman of his life, Annie, to whom he would be happily married for 40 years. Together they raised a son and undertook a number of successful business ventures, including owning a sporting goods store, a drive-in, a nightclub, and a Jeep dealership. Through the years, the Johnsons kept in touch with the brave men of the 501st Airborne.

“We hosted three big reunions — two in Green Bay and one in Fond du Lac, with 300 to 400 attending each time. Annie got to know the men of the 501st better than me,” Johnson said.

“I would say to Annie that it upset me that the war used up 3 1/2 good years of my life, and she would say, ‘Well, Glenn, just look at all the good friends you made, because of those years.’”



Cross Plains Remembers



John Walsh, Cross Plains Vets Memorial Chair, remembers all Cross Plains Troops from all wars on Veterans Day. John helped dedicate the new Memorial that includes including his Dad, Bill Walsh, Hardware store owner and Heroic 82nd Airborne Paratrooper. (Laney photo).



Katie & John Walsh at Memorial with Badger Chapter Flag honoring their Distinguished Service Cross Dad, Knobby Walsh. (Laney photo)



My wife Barb, L, son-in law Rob, Maeve, daughter Carmel with America's finest Major, Dan Walsh and wife Liz at Cross Plains Memorial groundbreaking. (Laney photo).

[NEXT issue: A letter from Knobby](#)

Walking into the 32nd Infantry's Eau Claire Company to borrow a tent, I had casually mentioned I worked for the 82nd's Paratroopers & Glider Riders in Wisconsin. "My Dad was in the 504!" said CO Major Dan Walsh, who maybe assumed I knew all about his father, William P. "Knobby" Walsh from Cross Plains. The Major, who led one of the finest Infantry Units in America before he retired a few months ago, didn't mention that Knobby had earned the Distinguished Service Cross at Cheneaux. So then between Knobby's kids and a Phil Nordyke refresher I discovered that Knobby Walsh was one of Wisconsin's and the 82nd's greatest combat Heroes, as you can see in the citation

below.

Cross Plains has a lot of war heroes and all of the speakers at this dedication made a point of equalizing them. The WWII, Korean and Vietnam Veterans made sure the newest combat Vets from Iraq and Afghanistan knew they had their respect.

Knobby died about 10 years ago. He was a member of the Legion, VFW and the Badger Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Association.

"When my Dad died, someone from Cross Plains met someone from Milwaukee halfway so the Badger Chapter 82nd Flag could be at his funeral." Major Walsh told me. (My granddaughter Maeve and I had brought the 82nd Badger Flag to Cross Plains for the Memorial Day Parade after we heard about the memorial groundbreaking.) "Our Dad would be proud that the 82nd Flag is here," said Knobby's Daughter Katie as we rode in her vintage Dart convert.

Forward to Vets Day, I asked Katie why the Memorial didn't have any Wings or chutes? She didn't know so I asked for directions to the cemetery and Knobby's grave. She pointed up the hill.

"There's a parachute on his stone."

WALSH, WILLIAM P.

Citation: The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to William P. Walsh (16007135), Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82d Airborne Division, in action against enemy forces on 20 December 1944, in Cheneux, Belgium. When his platoon was pinned to the ground by heavy grazing fire, Staff Sergeant Walsh, though seriously wounded, rose to his feet and voluntarily led a charge upon an enemy held village. Advancing three hundred yards, he encountered devastating flanking fire from a 20-mm. flak wagon. Unable to pull the pin from a hand grenade because of a severe hand wound, he moved quickly to a comrade who armed the grenade. Returning to within ten feet of the weapon, he tossed the grenade into the vehicle, destroying the gun and annihilating the crew. Staff Sergeant Walsh's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 82d Airborne Division, and the United States Army.

Headquarters, First U.S. Army, General Orders No. 34 (February 27, 1945)

Home Town: Madison, Wisconsin

<http://www.homeofheroes.com/index.html>

Old Glory Honor Flight pays tribute to WWII Vets

See Judy's TV interview here (Click Ctrl first):

<http://www.fox11online.com/dpp/military/veterans/a-daughter-remembers-her-father-at-the-world-war-ii-memorial>

Reporter: Mark Leland Photojournalist:
Todd Berry

WASHINGTON, DC - World War II involved more than 16 million U.S. service men and women, and more than 400,000 would not come home. The Freedom Wall at the World War II Memorial remembers those brave veterans. Judy Durkee remembers them too, including one individual in particular - her father.

"I was three," she said. "He volunteered as soon as Pearl Harbor happened. He volunteered to be a paratrooper."

Durkee, who lives in Rhinelander, traveled with the 99 World War II veterans from Northeast Wisconsin as a volunteer. She paid her own way to be a guardian on the trip, to help escort the veterans and to lay a wreath at the Freedom Wall for her father, Pvt. Glenn Ward, 82nd Airborne, 508th Infantry Paratroopers.

"Today is a very special day. It's my father's - would have been my father's 90th birthday today. So I'm celebrating him even having him for a short period to time," said Durkee. One of the veterans at her side is Walter Wendt, who went to high school with Durkee's father. When Wendt returned from the war she says he became like an adopted father figure. She encouraged him to make the trip.



Eau Claire TV Marine Bob Burgess interviews Les Schawrm and Judy Durkee on the 82nd's WWII Heroes, including Judy's Dad, Glenn Ward, Rhinelander, 508th PIR, who was killed in action when Judy was three. (Laney photo).

"I don't get away very much. I had this chance to come over here. It's been wonderful," said Wendt.

Together they paused in front of the gold stars that fill the Freedom Wall. Each star represents 100 lives lost during the war. Durkee was here before.

She came to Washington in 2004 when the memorial was dedicated. She was here with others who also came to remember their fathers.

"We all had great big stars that we waved very proudly in honor of our fathers who never came home," said Durkee.

Durkee's father, as a paratrooper, was in the first wave of planes over Normandy on D-Day.

"He had a successful drop, lost many of his buddies that night, but he was wounded after

about six days," she said.

Ward could have come home after that but he chose to stay with his fellow veterans.

"So he volunteered to be a pathfinder and he went into battle in the Battle of the Bulge and that's where he was killed," Durkee said.

Glenn Ward died Jan. 30, 1945. Durkee is determined not to let his memory die too. She hopes the World War II Memorial will keep her father's memory and the memory of all veterans alive for generations to come.

"You know we just can't ever forget them," Durkee said of our World War II Veterans.

Since opening in 2004 the World War II Memorial on the National Mall has become a major visitor's attraction. It's open to the public every day of the year.



Here's an Airborne Company that really gets things done! From the "Airborne Circle" to their monthly meetings and Annual Airborne Picnic at Ft. Snelling this outfit of over 500 Leapers has a lot of fun remembering the Airborne. Organizer Hal Roed, L, and an unidentified Ranger at R. toast our Airborne Brothers in a Propblast during last year's picnic.

*How do you join? Just show up.
(Ctrl then click on the link below for more info:*

<http://www.midwestallairborne.com/index.html>





Screaming Eagle call to all 101st Airborne Members

Operation Eagle Feather : Old Abe Chapter hopes to host 101st Reunion!

The 101st Airborne Division is presently serving in Afghanistan – Former members of the Division are supported by the 101st Airborne Division Association located in Ft. Campbell Ky.

The Old Abe Chapter of the Association, which serves Wisconsin, is undertaking an initiative to host the Association's 2014 reunion in Wisconsin. Six cities are vying for this opportunity, Green Bay, Madison, Stevens Point, Fond-du-Lac, Appleton, and Oshkosh.

The initiative is code named Operation Eagle Feather to reference the capstone event which is steeped in the tradition of the 101st Airborne.

The 101st Airborne's Divisional 'Screaming Eagle' shoulder Sleeve Insignia, a tribute to 'Old Abe', is the eagle mascot of the 8th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, which fought under General Sherman in Georgia and later in Alabama, in the Civil War.

As Tom Taylor (son of Maxwell D, and a paratroop officer of the 502 in Vietnam) says, the eagle patch is a 'Talisman'. The symbol of the great American eagle not only imparts great courage, pride and boldness to the wearer, it has also come to strike fear into the hearts of the enemies who meet it on the fields of battle. The eagle's head and neck are visible from considerable distances, and this patch is a significant part of the mystique of the 101st Airborne. The Old Abe Chapter is the only Association Chapter that is authorized by the US Department of Fish and Game to hold an Eagle Feather. Our feather was presented to the Chapter by Nick Hockings, a Native American Indian in a Ceremony of the Warrior. The capstone event of the reunion will be a Ceremony of the Warrior conducted by members of the Oneida Nation, in their native language, where an Eagle Feather will be

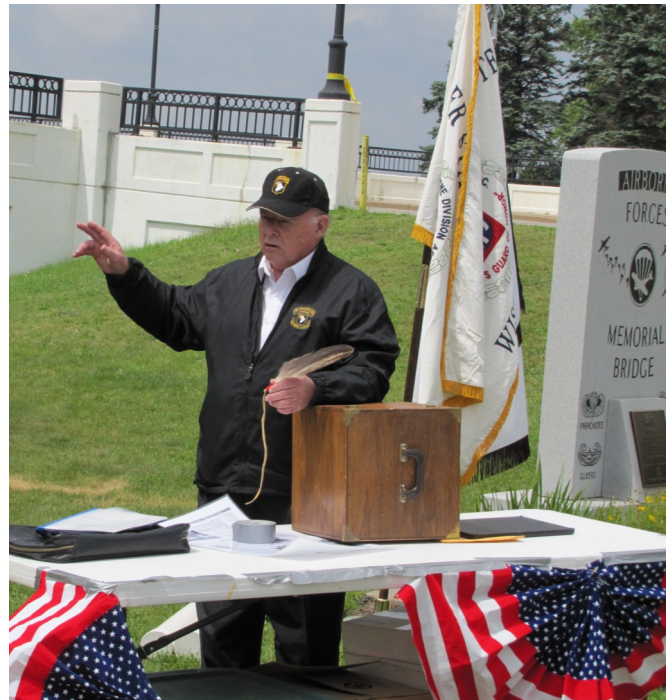
presented to each of the Association's 25 Chapters. In 2014, the 101st Airborne Division should be in garrison at Ft. Campbell, KY and has been invited to participate. This is a call to Wisconsin Veterans of the 101st. Please contact me if you want to participate. I have added links to the site where you can find more information.

<http://ops.oldabechapter.org/operation-eagle-feather>

USPS: James Romlein
Old Abe Chapter

1042 Richards Ave.

Watertown, WI 53094-5024



Jim Romlein, 101st Airborne Old Abe Chair, tells the Eagle Feather story at the Stevens point Airborne Bridge on the Badger Chapter's Flag Day last summer. (Laney photo).

9/11 Pow-Wow May 20, 21, 22 in Keshena



Screaming Eagle Vietnam Vet Cletus Ninham, Oneida VFW talks with reporter at LZ Lambeau last summer. You can meet Cletus and other Vets at the 9/11 Remembrance Pow-Wow in Keshena.

(Click Ctrl before clicking link)

<http://ops.oldabechapter.org/events/warriors-pow-wow>

Robert Herriot's Story: From Paratrooper to Glider Rider!



325 GIR, 82nd WWII Veteran Herb Huebschen and 82nd Airborne Assoc. Executive Director Santiago Tijerina listen to Bob Herriot at the 2nd National Glider Symposium in Madison. (Laney photo).

Note: Bob Herriot gave this talk at the 2nd National Glider Symposium in Madison last year:

I was born on Dec 7th 1919 in Adams Wisconsin, I attended the Adams/Friendship school system and was drafted and entered service on 16 Mar 1943.

After basic training in Camp Butler NC, I was assigned to the 78 Lightning Division. During a routine physical they detected a heart murmur and I did not ship out with my division. At the next physical – they could not hear the murmur so I was shipped out unassigned to England where I was met by an Army Officer that told me “Son – You have just volunteered for the 101st Airborne!” I had 30 days to qualify for jump status. I did my training jumps from aircraft – none of those namby-pamby towers. On 6 June 1944 I jumped into Normandy as part of Overlord on D-day. We landed near Egan but never got there. We dropped into fields that had been flooded and I saw that many paratroopers drowned because they had not released their GP bags and equipment. When I got back to England I requested a transfer to gliders and spent several months in training as part of the 327 Glider Infantry Regiment. While I was in England, my oldest sister Evelyn sent me a four leaf clover that I covered with Scotch Tape onto a piece of cardboard – I still have it today.



In Operation Market Garden, I can't remember much of that channel crossing on 17 September 1944, except that our glider was on the short rope. On the descent after the release we ran into heavy AA flack. Our pilot and copilot

were killed when we were committed to our landing about 100 feet above the ground.

I managed to shove the pilot out of the way and jumped into the left seat. I had no flight training but managed to drive the glider through a barbed wire fence and ended up in a ditch. All thirteen riders aboard were uninjured. That ditch landing surely saved us as we were out of a direct line of fire. Our objective was Eindhoven but we landed near Vegel near the Belgian border. After the landing we worked our way to a

highway that I found out was named “Hell's Highway”. Our 13-man platoon had a sergeant and corporal – and they both froze. I was a PFC and took command and led the unit across a bridge under fire – through a church yard and then dug in. A guy from Chicago named Herman was stuck on a barbed wire fence – I talked him into crawling under the fence so he wouldn't be a target for the Germans. An officer showed up and told us that we were in the wrong place and ordered us back to the highway. For this action I was awarded the Bronze Star.

I later found out that my brother Ray's twin daughters Joyce and Joan were born on the 18th at the same time that I was making the channel crossing, in a time zone six hours earlier, on the 17th. My brother Ray was 14 years older than I and died at the age of 71 in a deer stand doing what he loved to do. In the Netherlands on 10 March 1944 I was in my fox hole – well dug in with a cover of heavy brush that was covered with thick layer earth and then a layer of sod when an 88 shell exploded above me in the trees. I was wounded in the arm (triceps) and had to make my way through the German lines to battalion aid and then was then trucked to division aid. My group of wounded were evacuated by train that followed a route South, then East, and then North. I don't know if that was to confuse the Germans or if that was just how the lines run.

We arrived at Lille, France near the Belgian border. In the hospital here I met and became good friends with a Belgium soldier Charley Spriet who got married in Belgium. According to the custom of taking the wife's last name – he became Charley Spriet Dauvister. I have written him many times with no reply. I was released from the hospital on my birthday - Dec 7, 44 - spent a week in a convalescent home, and got back to the rest area in France on 14 December.

On the 17th we were loaded onto trucks and transported to Bastogne. Fortunately for me, I had just been issued new wool clothes. As we all know, new wool clothing is much better against the cold than old wool and that surely saved my feet. In Bastogne, General Taylor was in the States celebrating the holidays and General McAuliffe was in command. A sergeant from my company escorted the three German soldiers under the white flag of truce to McAuliffe for his now famous reply “Nuts”.

On the 16th we were rescued by General Patton – It was believed that the closest relief forces were seven days away – Patton made it in 48 Hours.

I was a machine gunner at Dusseldorf Germany - on the Rhine River looking east – I wanted to get back to the Mortars. One day I saw a sniper in a tree – the glint on his rifle gave his position away – I ordered him to surrender and he did – he gave me his rifle that had a side mounted scope but the scope was missing. I think he planned to come back to get it later. He was providing his own rifle and ammo.

While I was recuperating I saw an ad for a clerk typist at Birches Gardens, applied for and got the assignment. Under the direction of the Sergeant, a professor of Art at Harvard University, my duties included typing the inventories that were part of the repatriation process for art treasures looted by the Nazis. I still have a copy of the site plan for “Obersalzberg” Hitler's Mountain Retreat known as the Eagles Nest. I was part of the unit that captured it. I was at Birches Garden when the war ended.

To rejoin my unit and come back home I borrowed a jeep from the CO and drove to Rheims - the weather was bad. We left on Halloween- the 31st of October, 1945. After two days in the Atlantic we ran into a hurricane that drove us 2 days off our course. The crossing took 16 days and we landed at Newport News, Virginia. From there to Ft. Sheridan and discharged on the 20th of November 1945. I took the train to Adams.

When I stepped off the train in beautiful Adams, Wisconsin, I was up to my waist in snow. As you may remember, we had 90 days to report to my old employer the C&W Railway after we arrived home in order to get our old job back – well I reported on the 89th day with one day left.

There must have been some magic in the number 13 for me because I went on to bring my children count from one (1) Bob Jr - up to 13. I have six (6) sons and seven (7) daughters.

My Lovely Bride Gwendolyn gave me: Bob Jr. – an Army Vet; David – a Navy Vietnam Vet; Rick – a Navy Philippine Vet; Pamela, Patrick, Floyde, Dawn and Diedrie, Holly, Mary, Heidi, Heather, Neal.

Why were the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions in The Bulge?



Les (in helmet) tipping a few with his 325 GIR buddies in Belgium.

Ed. Note: There is no Trooper more active in memorializing the 82nd Airborne than 325 GIR WWII Vet Lester Schwarm, Wausau. Each year on The Bulge anniversary, Les speaks before Wausau's Battle of the Bulge Monument that he was so instrumental in placing. Here's his 2010 speech:

Why were the two Airborne Divisions the first units to help stop the German army in the Battle of Bulge?

Both Divisions had just come out of "Market-Garden", the Airborne invasion of Holland September 17, 1944. The reason for "Market-Garden" was the Airborne would capture the Bridges, we would leap-frog down the East side of the Rhine River as the straight-leg Divisions would replace us. Had this been successful, we would have trapped the German Armies between the Siegfried Line on the West and the Rhine River on the East and the war would have been over.

Because a traitor in the Dutch underground told the Germans about "Market-Garden", the Germans put everything up at the last bridge and with the weather turning real bad the second day reinforcements could not be sent to help.

We stayed in Holland until sometime in November and the Canadian Army relieved us. Both Airborne Divisions were sent to an area around Rein, France. We did not know it at the time but our training was for an Airborne Invasion of Berlin, Germany, Templehof Airport with the three Airborne Divisions, 82nd, 101st and 17th Airborne Divisions. After the Airborne Divisions secured the Airport they

would fly in three more straight leg divisions, the 80th, 84th and the 100th.

December 16, 1944 Hitler started the Ardennes Campaign, The Battle of the Bulge. The only two Divisions on reserve on the European Continent were the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions.

December 17th, 1944 most of us of the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division were at a movie at Camp Sissone, France. About 8:00 PM the movie stopped. About 20 minutes later a Lt. Col. came on stage and ordered everyone back to their barracks. At the barracks we were told to get ready to move by morning, "You are going up front the Germans broke through, draw ammunitions, clean your weapons."

The next morning by 8:00 AM we were going north to Belgium. We rode in open trucks, semi-trailers and what else was available. The 82nd Airborne was first assigned to go to Bastogne, Belgium. This is the city where the 101st Airborne was surrounded. General Gavin who was in charge of the two Airborne Divisions because General Ridgeway, Com-

mander of the 18th Airborne Corps, and General Taylor of the 101st were in London, England preparing for the Berlin Invasion.

The German Army wanted the cross roads going through Bastogne to supply their advancing Armies. Before Christmas the German Army surrounded the Bastogne area. The 101st Airborne Division had to be supplied by air - Parachute and Gliders. All the Military and Civilian Doctors were killed by bombing and the last Civilian Nurse was killed on Christmas Eve. General Mc Auliffe of the 101st radioed Shaef, Allied Headquarters, for ammunitions, supplies, Doctors, Nurses and Medical Supplies. Shaef radioed back and said, "We can give you everything you need by air except Doctors and Nurses." General McAuliffe, whose famous word to the Germans when they asked him to surrender his Troops in Bastogne was "NUTS" said, "Dammit you got gliders". My hat is off to those Doctors and Nurses who flew into Bastogne in gliders. Ben Rous, a former member of the Badger Chapter, 82nd Airborne Association, who we buried about two years ago, owed his life to these Doctors and Nurses.

The 82nd Airborne was sent to the Northern section of the breakthrough. Unlike

the 101st, we had an area to cover much larger area than the Bastogne area. Late afternoon, December 18, 1944 the 82nd arrived in Werbement, Belgium. Our four Airborne Infantry Regiments were dispersed from there. About this time politics was working pretty well in the High Command. Prime-Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt gave General Eisenhower, Commander in Chief of the Allied Armies, orders to put British General Montgomery in charge of the Northern Front. Remember the failures of "Market- Garden" Holland with his failures to check things out, General Montgomery's first orders were, "We must tidy up our lines." We were out front of everyone and Montgomery ordered us to pull back. This was the first and only time in WWII the 82nd Airborne retreated! Ground we held or retook from the Germans was conceded. We took twice as many casualties retaking it later! We were on line from December 18, 1944 to January 12, 1945, 24 hours a day. It was the coldest and snowiest winter of the 20th Century.

January 3, 1945 the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion took part in the counter attack at Rochelinal Trois Points. They were attached to the 82nd. Only 98 parachutists survived the fight out of a Battalion of 800 parachutists. What a cost for our Freedom!

In Bastogne, Belgium, the Mardasson Monument was erected to honor the Airborne



men who fought so valiantly at The Bulge. This is a five-pointed giant Star supported on pillars some 50' in the air.

From one point to another point of the Star is well over 100'. Each star point pointed to a battleground of the four Infantry regiments of the 101st Airborne. The plaques between the supporting columns have all the unit names

who took part in the battle of the bulge. The circular stairway takes you to the top. The thickness of the Star is about 3'-0" and the center of the Star is open. All 50 States are printed on the Star outside and inside. On July 4, 1946 a touching ceremony was held on Mardasson. A casket containing soil from the Hill of Heroism was sealed and sent to the United States. President Truman was President at that time and this Casket is in his Library in Missouri.

The day before Christmas and Christmas of 1944 has to be unforgettable for many of us. Thank You! Airborne, All The Way!

Lester Schwarm, Wausau,

325 GIR 82nd Airborne Division



2010 Wisconsin Airborne Year In Review



SF Capt. Ben Collins

Captain Ben Collins commanded a SF company in Afghanistan but was apparently not anti-worker enough to win a statewide election. Badger Paratroopers and Glider Riders joined the fight for Wisco Vets Secretary Col. John Scocos after he was summarily fired by the Vets Board and we continue to back John's suit for justice. No one fought harder for Vets' Rights than Col. Scocos. Absent the Scocos leadership, we

witness now the erosion of Wisconsin Veterans Benefits and Veterans Home care.

Former Wisco **Senator Russ Feingold** wrote President Obama on the Medal of Honor for Maggie. The Army again rejected the upgrade.

We now have Paratroopers Lenny Shier, 82nd; James Romlein, 101st; and, Dave Green, 173rd, 75th Rangers, newly appointed to the WDVA Board.

Former BSC 82nd Chair **Norb Studelska**, 508th PIR, WWII, a teacher, coach, civic leader and all-around Great Man was Grafton's Man of the Year.

Wisco Airborne Paratroopers, Glider Riders and activists Don Olson, Judy Durkee, Les Schwarm and Herb Huebschen participated in the Honor flights. Herb wrote a nice story about Finnegan RV sending more than a hundred Vets to DC.

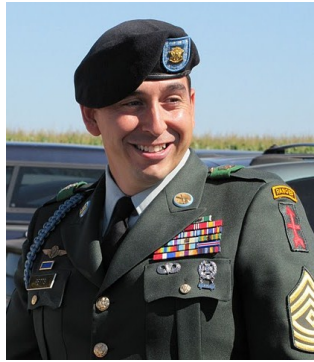
Judy did a terrific interview in DC on her Dad, Glenn Ward, who was killed in action when she was only three. Glenn died in Belgium rushing a machine gun to save his 508th PIR friends.

Dave Green, Doug Rasmussen and Lenny Shier continued their tireless work for the Troops through their VFWs, DAVs, Legion and AmVets clubs.

We continued to hear good - and, unfortunately bad - feedback on an outstanding Airborne Dad, **Ed Frawley**, Menomonie. Reportedly, some Ft. Bragg Brass still resent Ed's exposing the fact that the Brass was OK with housing for our Paratroopers that was not fit for dogs. Ed, a fearless, talk-between-the-eyes, kick-ass, former Dunn County Deputy Sheriff took on not only the Army but the U.S. government to elevate the quality of military housing above prisons and homeless shelters. Thanks to Ed's courage and tenacity our Paratroopers are now comfortably housed and spending more time training as Combat Soldiers than plumbers and painters. No matter what the Brass thinks, **because of Ed Frawley**, every Paratrooper, Marine, and Leg has a better place to live stateside now. Check out his site and you will see that Ed's devotion to his family and son Jeff. SSgt Jeff has fought with the 82nd in Iraq and Afghanistan and is covered on Ed's



Norb with Grandson Chase, Airborne Kid of the Year!



Sauk Prairie Honor Guard 1st Sgt.

Chair of the 101st Airborne Old Abe Chapter, the 82nd Chapter was invited to sell beer with the Screaming Eagles and raised \$1000 for Wounded Warrior. We represented the Airborne in many places. Howard Rennhack started pinning Combat Jump Wings on WWII Vets who never got them. Howard and Tom Laney made Airborne Chili in the Highground contest. Thanks to Howard we made friends with Don Olson, 502PIR, 101st; Floyd Pratt, 513th PIR, 17th, Black River Falls. We also declared Cassie Colson, Jackson County News reporter, an Honorary Paratrooper for her outstanding stories on our Troops.

We went to Cross Plains to remember 82nd hero **Knobby**

site.

Ed Frawley—Giving Airborne gifts that keep on giving! All The Way to you Sir! (Need a German Shepard? You will also see he is the pre-eminent dog trainer in America.) Check this out: <http://leerburg.com/barracks.htm> Lots of Troopers helped organize and attend LZ Lambeau. Props to the Packers for hosting this highly moving and long overdue thanks to the RVN Vets. 82nd Paratrooper Mark Anderson hosted an Airborne BBQ at his home next to Lambeau. Thanks to Jim Romlein, Chair of the 101st Airborne Old Abe Chapter, the 82nd Chapter was



WWII 325 Sgt. Walt Paukalski spoke at the Airborne Bridge Flag Day. Walt did the grunt work in winning the All Airborne Memorial. (Laney photo)



Varsity Combat Jumper Floyd Pratt, 513th PIR, 17th Abn, Black River Falls with Wisco Airborne Reporter Thanks Certificate presented by Howard Rennhack along with Combat Jump Wings. (Laney photo)

Walsh, 504 PIR, DSC, a Badger 82nd member who is now memorialized in the new American Legion Monument there.

We continue to place Airborne Memorial Cases around the state. Airborne displays are/were in Ripon, Mukwonago, LaCrosse, Menomonie and Portage.

Mike Brennan, Madison, announced Sgt. Giunta would get the MOH for his heroics in trying to save his son Josh.

Col. James L. Williams, USMC, a Force Recon Paratrooper, two Silver Stars, RVN, joined the Badger 82nd Chapter honoring us with our first Marine member!

82nd Badger Vice Chair Bob Shrader organized a gun raffle and raised \$3200 for Wounded Warrior with Gerry Diemel and Frank Morris selling massive amounts of tickets!

The 101st Old Abes hosted their Eagle Watch and the Badger 82nd Chapter sponsored Airborne Displays at the Baraboo and Sauk Prairie Air Shows and held an Airborne Flag Day at the Airborne Bridge Memorial in Stevens Point.

Maggie was honored in Pulaski with a Megellas Tribute Jump by Gary Bauman, Badger Vice Chair Bob Shrader and the Marine Corps Fond du Lac Human Dynamo, **Edward Preston Barnes** who is everywhere

at all times for Maggie's MOH. With Gary's and Bob's intense training,



Ed made his first jump at, I think, age 78.

The 82nd Badgers nominated 4-Combat Jumps, Gordy Starck, 505 PIR Combat Medic, and former Mayor of Franklin for the Wisconsin Vets Lifetime Achievement Award which Gordy received at Port Wash-



Badger Chapter Chair Mike Haller presented Ssgt Jose Gonzalez, Baraboo 32nd Infantry NG, a Badger 82nd Airborne Certificate of thanks for his work for the Badger Chapter at the Baraboo Air Show. Ssgt Gonzalez arranged for a display tent for the 82nd! He probably should be a Sgt. Major!

ington. **Badger Airborne News** won the Best 82nd Airborne Association Newsletter Award at the 82nd's Convention. Tom Laney attended the Midwest Airborne Alliance Picnic and posted pictures on Facebook. There's lots of Airborne information on Facebook now, including Alliance and Badger Airborne pages.

Our Airborne Friend, **Sara Witter-Connor** led the 2nd National Glider Symposium in Madison which drew WWII Glider Riders and Paratroopers including Maggie, Lester Schwarm, Herb Huebschen, Bob Herriot and, 325 1st Sgt. **Ray Anderson** from Janesville. 82nd Badger Chapter Vice Chair Bob Shrader was there to provide his usual outstanding support.

Wisconsin's 32nd Infantry provided an Honor Guard as we remembered our fallen at the 82nd Badger Chapter's Vets Day meeting at King. Thanks to 505 Secretary & Badger Chapter Trustee **Bert Schmitz**, the 82nd sent an Honor Guard to the Packer-Dallas game to back up



Aaron Isaacs, 325 Assoc., Klawik, AK, with Howard Rennhack at the 82nd Convention. Aaron is President of the Prince of Wales Veterans Memorial and is working on an Airborne Totem Pole! (Laney photo).

Maggie as he was honored on Lambeau Field before kickoff thereby giving the 82nd a big part in our march to our 13th World Championship. At year's end, the indomitable, Jim Romlein began work towards hosting the 2014 101st Airborne Reunion in Wisconsin. **Bob Phillip's** B Co held a farewell party for him and said this in their newsletter: "Finally, the week ended on a sad note as we held a farewell dinner for the outgoing Executive Officer, 1LT Robert Phillips. Members from the platoon and company leadership met at the King Restaurant for a nice dinner and to send a great officer off on a good note. After the dinner, SGT Martinez and SSG Kraus presented a plaque to the XO for his hard work and dedication to the unit. 1LT Phillips was especially excited to watch the game to cheer on his home team, the Green Bay Packers. 'It has been a week of mixed emotions for me. I was so excited when my Green Bay Packers won the Super Bowl, but now I have to say good bye to a great group of Soldiers. I wish all Bravo Soldiers the best in their future endeavors. This plaque is amazing by the way.' B Co wishes 1LT Phillips best of luck in his future endeavors. He will be greatly missed as he heads off to be the S6 OIC for 2- 12 Cavalry."

The world lost Paratroopers Millard Edgerly, Bob Mingus, Walter Reineking and Buzz Larson, Troopers we were honored to call our friends. God bless them **All THE WAY!**



Don Olson, 502 PIR, 101st and 325 2000+ Jumper Howard Rennhack presented Report Cassie Colson with an Honorary Paratrooper Certificate for her outstanding coverage of our Troops at Don's 90th Airborne birthday party. (Laney)

WISCO ALL AIRBORNE REPORTER

E6304 866th Ave.
Colfax, WI 54730

Phone: 715-962-4365
Cell: 651-492-9309
E-mail: tlaney1776@gmail.com



Airborne



Thank you Mr. hard-boiled Paratrooper Bert Schmitz, 505 PIB National Association Secretary for the terrifically designed 82nd BSC challenge coins below!

A fundraiser for Wounded Warrior, these coins can be had for only \$12 bucks! (Plus postage)
Contact Reuben Clark, Treasurer, 82nd Badger Chapter, 5318 Greenbriar LN, Madison, WI
Email: InClark@aol.com
608-222-4833



82nd Wisco Friend, 1st Lt. Andrew Malon is home!



LT. Andrew Malon with wife Stephanie and future Troopers, is back home in Fayetteville after picking poppies and blowing up the bad guys in Afghanistan with the 82nd's 2/321st ABN Arty and the 508th PIB. Andrew graced our Baraboo Airborne Air Show two years ago as one great Paratrooper! An All The Way Welcome Home to you and the family Sir! (You can track the Malons on Facebook.)

All American Photog Justin Connaher gets Alaska job!

Wisconsin's All American Photog Justin Connaher will soon be leaving Fond du Lac.

Justin, a member of the Badger Chapter, 82nd Assoc. and presently a reporter/photographer with the Fond du Lac Reporter, is taking a job with the PR Dept. at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska.

<http://www.jber.af.mil/units/index.asp>

That base is shared with Ft. Richardson, the home of the 501st Parachute Infantry Brigade, now attached to the 25th infantry



**Paratrooper Justin Connaher
All American Photographer**

Division.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/501st_Infantry_Regiment_\(United_States\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/501st_Infantry_Regiment_(United_States))

Justin will be missed, as will wife Jess and Airborne/Spiderman /Ranger Steven, 6.

Justin leaped into the blast a few years ago and his main parachute failed to open. Then his

reserve failed. He survived by a miracle but broke most of the bones in his body. Nevertheless, he got his degree with the GI Bill and studied art and photography and became an outstanding photo-journalist.

Much of the photo work in recent years on Jim Megellas has been done by Justin and is absolutely top rate!

Moving date has not been set and rumors are that there will be an Airborne Farewell Party for the Connaher Fire Team soon. We will relay that date as soon as we get it. Watch the Airborne messages on Facebook!

We will miss the Connahers but look forward to Justin's pictures and stories on the Air Force as well as our Brothers in the 501st!

Godspeed to Justin, Jess and Airborne Spiderman Steven!
(Click Ctrl then link:)

<http://www.wix.com/jconnaher/fotog>



**Airborne Spiderman Ranger
Steven Connaher**