

# Company I Poopsheet



June 2004

Company I, 502 PIR, 101st Airborne

### WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL DEDICATION MAY 29, 2004

Ray and Ann Hershner, 5427 17th St. N., Arlington, VA, 22207 Phone: 703-538-4411

"Memorial Day Weekend 2004 was bia one for Hershners. On Saturday, the day of the dedication of the WWII Memorial, Ray, myself, and our oldest son. Ron. took the metro into the District of Columbia where we boarded a bus, after waiting in the line for the Section 2 bus quite a while. it took us on a meandering ride through the District to our place in Section 2. The crowd of other veterans and family members were friendly and verbal exchanges with them helped to make the wait less onerous. The weather was perfect temperatures in the low 70's and humidity very low. The view of the Lincoln Memorial, the reflecting pool, WWII Memorial and the Washington Monument all in a line was spectacular! Unfortunately, the large TV screens we watched were not up to those standards--the pictures were blurry and wobbly a lot of the time. Nevertheless. we enjoyed the speakers we heard, especially Tom Brokaw and Tom Hanks. Taps was very moving as always. We were glad that Ron had taken us one evening a couple of weeks

pefore to see the actual

monument...no crowds then. A middle-aged man came up to Ray (Ray was wearing the Captain's hat that Earl Kelly made for him) and thanked Ray for his service to his country. That led to quite a long conversation with the man, his wife, and mother.

Then on Sunday, May 30, we attended the traditional annual 101st service in front of the Screaming Eagle the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. This year we had more people than usual, and the traffic getting there was horrendous. We were surrounded by the Rolling Thunder motorcyclists a good part of the way from our house to the cemetery, and it took us more than twice as long to get there. But everyone else was late also, so we did not miss program. Speakers included the new commanding General of the 101st at Fort Campbell and General Taylor's son. Tom, who spoke for the Vietnam vets. The bus was unable to get to that monument due to traffic and closed roads. A very nice lunch followed at a hotel in Alexandria. One of the speakers there was General Kinnard (who recommended Gen. McAuliffe's famous reply of "nuts"). He began remarks by saving "I am very glad to be here, but at 89, I am glad to be anywhere". All this before the 60th anniversary of D-Day. Ray gave a talk about D-Day to the Men's breakfast at our church last Wednesday, and he did a fine job. Ron assisted him with the slides.

Ray and I hope some of our Company I friends will come visit us and go to see our WWII Memorial." Ann



Capt. Ivan Ray Hershner, Jr., 1944 and in 2001. (from website of Mark Bando) After serving as a platoon leader in Co. I, Hershner became company commander when the original C.O. Frank Lillyman left to head up the 101st Divisional Pathfinder school at Nottingham before D-Day. He broke an ankle on the Normandy jump and was ordered back to England several days later by Col. Moseley. remained in England during Market Garden, acting as Regimental Base Camp Officer, while his ankle healed. In the interim, Capt. Champ Baker commanded Co. I. Hershner returned to action with the 502 at Bastogne as a member of RHQ. He was awarded the Bronze Star on Christmas morning at Rolle. Belgium for dragging a wounded tanker from a burning tank destroyer. Later in that campaign, he briefly returned to command Company I. after Baker was WIA. He returned to Harvard after WW2 and earned a Phd in Math. He tutored at Radcliffe. where he met and married a pretty student named Ann. He is the only surviving D-Day 3/502 company commander.

## SHARING FROM OUR MAILBOX......

12/03, Ed Mobley, Wishing you the best gifts of Christmas, We love you all. Ed Mobley, Cecil and Barbara Slover — Ed's daughter & son-in-law. (Sorry we didn't get this into the April issue.)

4/1/04, Don & Pat O'Neill, 2312 Elfin Way, Sarasota, FL 34231 - Dear Bob and Family, Was shocked to receive special edition and to read about Marie and your bouts with illness. We have missed you. Our prayers and good thoughts are with you. Pat & Don O'Neill

#### 4/2/04, Harold Parham -

Bob, I trust this reaches you in better health. We must be careful at our age —mine 80 yrs. Thank you. Let me know if I can help or need money. Harold Parham...new address is 5151 Yacht Club Road, Jacksonville, FL 32210

4/3/04, Lydia Altomare, 1814
Palo Cir., Halethorpe, MD
21227 - Dear Hartzell Family,
my deepest sympathy and my
love I send you. Your devotion
over the years in the care of
your Mother was exceptional
and I know the Heavenly Father
loves you & blesses you for
caring for one of his children. I
pray this card finds your father
much improved. Lydia Altomare

4/3/04, Lydia Altomare. Halethorpe, MD - Betty, Thank you so very much for the "Poopsheet". I was truly sorry to hear of Bob's illness and accidents. He's been so faithful in sending in all the news of old friends. John really enjoyed receiving those letters. Also, sorry to hear of Marie's passing. She suffered so long, but was fortunate to have such a loving devoted husband & family. Pray this note finds you well. Thank you again! With love, Lydia

4/3/04, Mrs. Ralph Casas, 601 Lance Dr., Barstow, CA 92311 -Dear Bob & family. shocked and saddened when I received the new "Poop Sheet" yesterday to learn of Marie's passing. Couldn't believe how many we lost in 2003. John Altomare and Richard Stephens were friends Ralph's. Hope your health has improved since I spoke with you last. Best wishes. "Pete" Petra

4/3/04, Mary Cavanaugh, 954
Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort, PA
18704 - Bob, I was so sorry to
hear of Marie's passing away.
These things are never easy
but God will see you and your
family through. Hope you are
well & feeling better. Regards
to all, Mary (Mrs. Mike
Cavanaugh)

4/3/04, Mrs. Agnes Hoskinson, 2572 Columbia Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 - Bob, So sorry for the loss of your wife of many years. Hard on us to be left alone but memories do help. Hope that you too are on the mend and will be fit as ever by now, I too had a time with pneumonia the whole month of Dec. was lost to me. I was not able to enjoy any of the great services for Christmas the whole month at church. Everett (Hoppy) has been gone for 14 years now, and I have not really been well since 2002 so have sold my home and will move soon to a condo for seniors in Oceanside. My son retired and will live with me then too. I wanted you to take me off your mailing list, so few of the names do I remember any more and it costs to mail the Poop Sheet. In the past, I enjoyed it very much but with my added years it is a struggle to get each day in. Thank you for all the mailings in the past years. You did such a good job all the time. Many of God's blessings on you that your recovery is good.

Regards, Anne Hoskinson, wife of Everett (Hoppy)

4/5/04. Ray and Marilyn Olson, 201 Grant St., PH4, Sewickley, PA 15143 - Bob and Betty, Congratulations! What a beautiful job you both did with the special edition of the much missed Poop Sheet! You made the National Assoc. magazine look like the "rag" that it is. Our first issue of the new format was chewed up in the mail, the past issue, the post office saw happening what was enclosed it in a P.O. envelope. Anyone else have experience? We cannot thank Bob and Betty enough for the superb effort to keep Co. I 502 together. Bob, we hope and continued pray for vour recovery, you can't keep a trooper down. I expect I will be able to care for Ray again at home in a couple weeks, a 24/7 job. His constant companion is his 101st scrapbook that his son and grandson put together for him. He is so proud its kept in the basket of his walker. Enclosed is a donation in memory of Marie. Our best to all. Marilyn Olson

445/04, Mrs. Sybil Hatfield, PO Box 162, Pawnee, OK 74058 - Hello, I hope you are feeling OK now. I'm sorry to hear your wife passed away 17yrs ago Mar. 16 '87 & still miss him. It was nice of Betty Hill helping with the Poop Sheet for you. I've missed it too...take care & enclosed is money. Maybe it will help a little for stamps. Sybil Hatfield (Denver Hatfield's wife)

4/7/04. Wilfred Matte. 50 Cardinal Dr., Apt. 219. Agawam, MA 01001 - Bob. I am sending you my new address. Sorry to hear about your wife. I lost my wife, Eva, October 30th, heart attack. I sold my house. I am living at Quail Run in Agawam with my cat. I love it here. My apartment is nice, and the food is good - 3 meals a day. Yours in 101, W. Matte

4/10/04, Becky Parker, Jeannette, PA - Just a note to et you know Della Hahn's new address: C/O Wm. Penn Care Center, 2020 Ader Rd., Jeannette, PA 15644. She still enjoys reading the "Poopsheet" and wants to make sure she will continue receiving it. Thanks for keeping her in the loop. Della's daughter, Becky

4/20/04, Charlotte Lindstrom, 2616 E. Los Altos, Fresno, CA 93710 - Bob I was sorry to read about your wife's death and your illnesses. Hope you are doing much better by now. Betty Hill did a good job with putting out the "Poop Sheet". I am enclosing a check for expenses towards the paper. Harry Nivens called me and is mailing me a book concerning the war. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Char

4/26/04, Marjorie Steadman - 406 Union St., Gaffney, SC 29340-2239, Thanks so much for the Co I Poop Sheet. It means so much to stay in touch. You did a great job, and I appreciate it very much. May you receive a special blessing today. Sincerely, Steadman (Willie O.)

4/27/04 - Charlotte Lindstrom,
Sister of John Painschab,
Fresno, CA - Bob, I am still
working on my family history. I
came upon this letter written by
my brother, John, to my father
in April of 1944 just before the
jump. I thought you would be
interested in reading it. He was
very proud of his men. I thought
you might like to put it in the
Poopsheet for the veterans who
knew him to read. Hope you

are feeling better each day. Harry Nivens mailed me a copy of "Rendezvous with Destiny". I really appreciated that. I think both he and you have sent me clippings from that book. I also "101st Airborne have at Normandy" and 101st Airborne, Screaming Eagles Normandy". One of these days I'll check and see if I am still missing some of his papers. My niece in Minnesota has his Purple Heart plus a few other things, but maybe I'll make a book on him myself, plus my other three brothers who were in the same war. If you ever have a reunion in Nevada again I may try and come to it. The Eastern states are a little distance away. Thanks again, Charlotte Lindstrom (sister of John Painschab)

### John Painschab to his Dad:

April 20, 1944 Dear Father,

Am having an awful time getting a letter started your way. I'm sorry to hear that you finally had to go to a hospital. yet you are probably better off there. At least you'll be getting into no mischief by starting to work on something vou shouldn't. Hope you find the nurses as nice as the ones I had. They weren't only nice but efficient also. Yep, took darn good care of me. Sure enjoyed having my meals in bed, quite a change from canned rations in the field. I wasn't in long enough to get really tired of lying around. Felt good to get back on my feet, to once again get out and around. It's good news to know that Mother (Rose) and you are giving up farming and moving to town. Just so you have a small piece of land, enough to have a garden so that you can putter around but not work yourself into getting sick.

Father. I wish you could see our men. The weather's been fairly nice; we've had a few reviews and parades. Morale is better than ever. They really look good in formation. We've been getting some darn good training now that the weather is in our favor. I'm proud of the men, proud to be in this unit. biggest disappointment Mv would be to miss the big jump. I've had some fears on that score, but that has been erased. I'm not bragging when I say we have a good outfit. I have that confidence which can come only from knowing. All we ask is that we're given an equal chance to prove it. Man for man, physically, mentally, and in preparation for combat duty, I would want only one outfit and that is ours.

We know we can do the job that lies ahead. We've got the men and equipment to do it with. We'll come out on top and that's exactly what you've got to do—that's an order. Here's hoping this finds you much better. As always, John

FROM CHAMP BAKER, SEPTEMBER 1944 Susanne (Susie) Baker Nall, In a note from Susie. Champ Baker's daughter, she shared this:

"My Dad (Champ Baker) wrote to my grandmother during the war Thank God she saved all that, and his sister gave it all to me when my grandmother died. I found one letter that he had written to her on Sept. 30 from Holland.

This is some of what he said: September 30, 1944

"No doubt vou've read the paper and know about the operations in Holland, Needless to say I'm here as a result. I've come through everything safely. though at times I thought I had seen my last. Sherman was right about war as I have found out lately. I think it was a little worse for the Germans than us though. After waiting for a crack at them for nearly four years, I finally got within shooting distance of them. We really kicked hell out of them. My company alone took over four hundred prisoners and killed around three hundred of them. They are not nearly the fighters thought they would be. Evidently they are on the down grade in a big way. They're a little tricky, but I found our boys are more than a match for them. Really proud of my company since we fought them. Have nine of them in for medals as a result of the action we participated in against them. Wouldn't trade a one of them away for anything. Sure have a fighting group of men. "

Susie, thanks for sharing!

5/01/04. Robert (Bob) and Stelle Molsberry. 382 Glenwood Pines Ct. Grass Valley, CA 95945 - Dear Bob & family. We share in your sadness at this time. I only met Marie once when we went to Pittsburgh, our loss for not knowing her better. I see Bob getting weaker by the day. He still goes for the mail as I cannot walk too well. I do have an electric chair but try to stay on my feet as long as I can. We are both from large families, but I have only a younger brother now, and Bob also has one who was in Patton's Army of World War II. Our daughter and son keep an eye on us. Bob called Earl Kelly about We did call Mabel Howell, and Jim Norris called Bob. Also, Edwina Shepard called a while back. She was worried for not hearing from vou. Her husband and Bob were quite close during Holland battle. Bob talked about Corey Shepard a lot, and they visited us when we lived at Lake Tahoe. He was also close to Ed Tyree, who was killed in the Bulge. Bob talks about funny things that happened, but he has nightmares about it also, so I guess it is never really forgotten. When Bob was in the hospital after being wounded in Bastogne, his foot locker was sent to my home with his goodbye letter to be sent to me if he should be killed. But, also it had about a thousand dollars he had won in a poker game before going into Bastogne. It and a couple of pistols and any medals he had been awarded in Holland were missing. I got a couple of parachutes, mess kit. etc. I wrote to the address you had for getting these medals and asked to get them. We had long given up on getting them. so I wrote once more and after all these years they arrived. They are quite beautiful. I still have his dress jacket, and he has Captain's bars for having been promoted as the Santa Rosa National Guard Commander. After we moved to Lake Tahoe, the roads were not (snow) plowed in those days, so he had to resign, never able to attend the required meetings which would have been in Reno. Nevada. I am having his jacket, with medals, framed by a local company. A sort of shadow box type, supposed to be moth proof. I need to get my scrap book finished. Our grandson is coming in today from San Diego, going back to school near here to study landscape and design, so he will be our house guest for a few months. Bob helped me plant my annual tomatoes today. He is all worn out and in bed now for a rest. Me too-all worn out, but no nap. We are going to the Veteran's (Hospital) May 8th to see a doctor and also ask for their advise on getting help to come in. Although I doubt they will help as Congress didn't fund it again this year. Never enough money for Vets., but always for their pork barrel ideas....Will get off my "soap box" now and close. Wishing

you good days ahead. Will always think of you when we met in Vegas with your big smile! Stelle & Bob

#### **EMAIL NOTES**

For those with email, Agnes (Aggie) Hartzell Welling is emailing for Bob Hartzell. you can send him a note through this email address, wwelling@woh.rr.com

### 6/1/04-Aggie Hartzell Welling, Tiffin, OH (Bob's daughter) wwelling@woh.rr.com

Dad is doing very good. He's driving now. My sister and my brothers have his garden all planted. He loves to do things in the garden as he is able. He does a lot of canning when harvest time comes around. He is very glad To be able to hear how the guys are doing when I get e-mails from them and you. Summer is coming but we've been getting a lot of rain. Everything is so green and beautiful because of that. Love, Aggle (& Bob).

# 6/6/04 Charlotte and Marvin Cartwright Box 212,

Elk Mound, WI 54739, challie@cvol.net

Thank you for passing on all the information. This E-Mailing still amazes me. What a way to keep in touch! Well, this weekend's big community yard sale is over, and we were so thankful our family came to help us both Friday and Saturday. We did pretty well and have decided what sells the best is the sweets—Caramel com, fudge, brownies, rice krispy

bars and donuts. We sold 40 bags (6 donuts per bag) during the 2 days. Who would think it?



Charlotte & Marvin Cartwright,

# 6/1/04, Hank and Trudy van Zeldreren, vzelkra@aol.com

These are our Florida friends formerly of Holland who attend the Snowbird Reunion each Betty, I lived about a vear. mile from the bridge in Best and going by the description given to you where your brother was killed. I say that was at the intersection in Best going north to Den Bosh, west to Oirshot, east to ST- Odenrode and south to Eindhoven.I am happy for you that you were able to contact some people who knew Lester and gave you some information about the person he was, it must be of great comfort to you. The temporary cemetery between Son and ST-Odenrode is one I remember being there after the fighting ended. Yesterday. Memorial Day we went to the cemetery with our airborne friends and after the service we went for lunch, the quest speaker this vear was a retired admiral and he told a moving but true story about a father and his son who he later lost in Iraq.

Barbara 6/6/04. Slover. sloverba@aol.com, daughter of Ed Mobley, Dad and Clara are very happy. It is nice to see him happy once again and going places. He says to tell everyone hello, and he will see them in Feb '05. Barbara

> From the website of 101st Airborne Association. Ft., Campbell, KY

### Change of Command at Fort Campbell

5/28/04 Ft. Campbell recently had a change of command ceremony. Major General Turner assumed command from Major General Petraeus on Friday, May 14, 2004.

Major General Petraeus will be leaving for his assignment in Iraq within a few days. He has also been nominated for his third star and just waiting for congressional approval. This is just a formality. We wish Major General (P) Petraeus and his family the best and God's speed in their future and in his next assignment.

(Major General Petraeus was the speaker at the 2003 Snowbird Reunion.)

### COMPANY 1/502 PIR -TREASURY REPORT

January 2004. Our balance was \$1028.16. 'Received \$65.00 donations and .11 interest on bank account with a balance of \$1093.81. Recent expenses were \$256.48 for producing our April Poopsheet, leaving a balance of \$836.79, prior to this issue.

We have these email addresses. Please send Betty any corrections and your new email address.

Betty Taylor Hill bith23@vahoo.com Aggie Hartzell Welling wwelling@woh.rr.com Susanne Baker Nall xandq16@aol.com Ted Nivens tednivens@msn.com Barbara Mobley Slover sloverba@aol.com Peter Kelly airborn@comcast.net Mabel Howell kmhowell@ebicom.net Pat Callery pcallery@optonline.net Marvin & Charlotte Cartwright challie@cvol.net Hank & Trudy van Zeldreren vzelkra@aol.com

Please help us keep updated on your address and phone number. We need an email address if you have one.

Address Changes/Additions:: Wilfred Matte, c/o Quail Run, 50 Cardinal Dr., #219, Agawam, MA 01001, Phone (413) 789-9189 Kathleen Burns (daughter of Bob Burns) 2305 E. Sioux St., Sioux Falls. South Dakota 57103 Mrs. George (Viona) Yutzey, 3310 Poprika Ct., Adamstown, MD 21710

### Addresses Removed:

The following April "Poopsheets" were returned (undeliverable): Yarnell, John Richardson, Jesse J. Gravelle, Mrs. Lerov Carty, Mrs. Benjamin F. Lanzone, Mrs. Dominic Burns, Mrs. Robert G. Swan, Gina and Darrin,

Please write or call with news, photos, or just to say hello to everyone --- keeps us in touch!

Betty Taylor Hill 15255 Gray Ridge Dr. #816 Houston, TX 77082 Phone 281-497-9468 Email bjth23@yahoo.com

Robert (Bob) Hartzell 313 Wentz St. Tiffin, OH 14883 Phone 419-447-0448 Email: wwelling@woh.rr.com

Contact Bob for any of the items listed on the back cover.

For those with access to computer and the internet. The followina website has some awesome pictures of the D-Day celebration in Normandy, as well as other venues of WWII.

Peter van de Wal, from whom we used some pictures here, has created an excellent exhibition 2004 from the D-Day commemoration in France.

http://members.lvcos.nl/bandofbr otherse506pi/3updates.htm site is an excellent portrayal of the 101st Airborne experiences in WWII. Click the flag for English language. Also, selecting the "Start" button on the left side of the home page of www.bandofbrothers.ontheweb.nl the next page shows a drop-down list on the left side of the page. labeled as "heroes" to select a name. Of Company I, 3/502, Sqt. Lester A. Taylor, is on the list. It includes his family photos and Betty's story of locating five of his Co. I buddies, and the Dutch family who tended his gravesite near Son, Holland, and finding all of you in

Co. I, more than 57 years after his God bless you all and thank you.

death in 1944.



Right: The missing man fly-over at the 2004 Memorial Day ceremony at the Margraten Cemetery, Holland. More than 8,000 people attended. (Photo by Peter Van de Wal of Eindhoven, Holland)



Above:

Lt. Col. Robert Cole, 3rd Battalion 502 Commander, who was killed in action on September 18, 1944, near Best in Holland is buried at Margraten Cemetery.

(Photos from "Hell's Highway" by George Koskimaki)

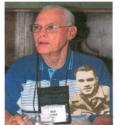


Gravesite of Col. Cole Jim Howell, September 20,1999 101 St. Gemetery, Morgraten, Holland

Right: Champ Baker, Co. I, Bob Jones, Co. H George Barrett, Co. G Company Commanders 3/502

Left: Photo of Jim Howell at Col. Cole's grave is from his book, "Highlights of a Short Military Career" published in 1999. Jim passed away in 2001.





Right: Bob Jones, Co. H 3/502, May 29, 2004, in Eindhoven for Holland's Memorial Day ceremonies. (Photo by Peter Van de Wal)



Colleville sur Mere, U.S. Cemetery, Omaha Beach, June 6, 2004, 06:00 a.m. (copied with permission from Peter van de wal)

I watched the flag pass by one day, It fluttered in the breeze.

A young Marine saluted it, And then he stood at ease..

I looked at him in uniform So young, so tall, so proud, With hair cut square and eyes alert He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought how many men like him Had fallen through the years. How many died on foreign soil How many mothers' tears?

How many pilots' planes shot down? How many died at sea How many foxholes were soldiers' graves? No, freedom isn't free. I heard the sound of Taps one night, When everything was still, I listened to the bugler play And felt a sudden chill. I wondered just how many times That Taps had meant "Armen."

When a flag had draped a coffin. Of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children, Of the mothers and the wives, Of fathers, sons and husbands With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard At the bottom of the sea

Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
No, freedom isn't free.

CO. L SOR PARACHUTE



In Care of: Betty T. Hill 15255 Grav Ridge Dr. #816 Houston, TX 77082

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

### SOME ITEMS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FROM OUR COMPANY I ACCUMULATION AND ARE LISTED HERE:

FROM BOB HARTZELL: If you want any of these items listed below, they are yours simply by asking

for them, and they are yours at no charge.

Items available are: Company I picture taken at Fort Bragg in 1943 - Roster of names of the men in this Company I picture - Company I pre-Normandy Invasion Roster of May 1944 - Company I Holland Invasion Roster of September 17, 1944 - Copy of the Citation for the Award of the French Croix de Guerre with Palm to the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment - Copy of the Citation for the Award of the Belgian Fourragere 1940 to the 101st - Copy of the Citation for the Award of the Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 with Palm to the 101st - Copy of the Award of the Presidential Unit Citation to the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment - Copy of the Citation for the Award of the Dutch Orange Lanyard to the 101st - Copy of the Award of the Presidential Unit Citation to the 101st Airborne Division -Pamphlet on how you can receive your Medals and Awards - Sterling Miniature Paratroopers Wings and 101st Insignia Combination Pins, given to us to distribute to you by Mrs. John (Elmeda) Lachkovic-Hill - Company I cassette tape made in 1980, recalling the names of Company I men killed in action, and those who died since 1945 - Copy of the Citation of a Qualified Paratrooper given at Fort Benning, Georgia - Cassette tape of "D-Day Jump June 6, 1944" by NBC reporter Wright Bryant, as seen by him from Col. Robert G. Cole's plane - Copy of an 8-1/2-11 picture of a fully equipped paratrooper ready to make a Combat Jump - List of all Company I men who were killed in action, along with their date of death - List of all the men who ever served in Co. I

Bumper sticker of the year:

"If you can read this, thank a teacher,...and since it's in English, thank a soldier."