



# The **Sixth** Ranger Company

*Look Sharp, Be Sharp, Stay Sharp*

by Eugene G. Piasecki

**“The mission of a ranger company as prescribed by [the] Department of the Army is to infiltrate through enemy lines and attack command posts, artillery, tank parks and key communication centers or facilities.”<sup>1</sup>**

**W**hen the North Korean Peoples’ Army (NKPA) invaded South Korea on 25 June 1950 the United States Army realized that its ability to defend and counterattack was extremely limited based on the massive demobilization of forces after World War II. Specialized units like the Rangers, Merrill’s Marauders, and First Special Service Force, trained to “take the war to the enemy” behind the lines by disrupting rear area operations and interdicting lines of supply and communication were deactivated by 1945. In July and August 1950, the Far East Command (FECOM) reacted to the situation in Korea by creating TDA units like the 8th Army Ranger Company and the General Headquarters (GHQ) Raiders from occupation forces already stationed in Japan. In September 1950, Army Chief of Staff General (GEN) J. Lawton Collins, announced his intent to activate and assign one Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne) [RICA] to every active U. S. Army and National Guard infantry division.<sup>2</sup> The purpose of this article is to describe how one of these, the 6<sup>th</sup> RICA, performed a deterrent role in Europe rather than a combat assignment in Korea.

The first step in putting GEN Collins’ concept into action occurred on 15 September 1950. The Commandant of the Ranger Training Center (RTC), Fort Benning, Georgia, Colonel (COL) John G. Van Houten, reported to the Chief of Staff, Office of the Chief, Army Field Forces and was informed that training of Ranger type units was to be initiated at the earliest possible date.<sup>3</sup> Simultaneously, an announcement was made Army-wide calling for Ranger volunteers. The RTC received the first group of volunteers, divided them into four companies, and started training them as company-sized units on 2 October 1950. Finished by 13 November 1950, these men formed the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> RICAs, and were already on their way to Korea when the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> RICA volunteers started their training cycle.<sup>4</sup> The officers and men who formed the 6<sup>th</sup> RICA, traced their lineage and honors from World War II’s Company B, 2nd Ranger Battalion, were assigned to the Regular Army on 2 November 1950, and formally activated on 20 November 1950.<sup>5</sup>

Almost from its first formation at Fort Benning, the 6<sup>th</sup> started earning a reputation as a ‘one-of-a-kind’ unit even among the other Ranger companies. One of the principal reasons for this was the WWII veterans who filled the



The Korean War era Ranger Flag (left) and the 6<sup>th</sup> RICA SSI.



MSG Eugene H. Madison was a WWII veteran of both the 101st Airborne Division combat jumps into Normandy and Holland. After combat in Korea he would be commissioned and retire as a Captain at Fort Bragg, NC.

company’s three top leadership positions. Chosen to command the company was Captain (CPT) James S. ‘Sugar’ Cain. CPT Cain earned his battlefield commission as a member of the First Special Service Force (FSSF) in 1944. Assisting him was CPT Eldred E. ‘Red’ Weber, the company executive officer. Starting as a member of the 1st Ranger Battalion (‘Darby’s Rangers’), CPT Weber was transferred to the FSSF when the Rangers were disbanded in 1944. Completing the company’s command team was its senior non-commissioned officer (NCO), First Sergeant (1SG) Joseph Dye, Sr. 1SG Dye’s combat record included Ranger assignments from Dieppe, France, in 1942, through North Africa, Sicily, Salerno, and Anzio, and Cisterna, Italy, in 1944.<sup>6</sup>

With the company headquarters established, the remaining spaces in the platoons were filled by men looking for the challenges, opportunities, and excitement

that Ranger units provided. By convention, those assigned to the 6th RICA came through the normal 'volunteer pipeline' in no particular order. This process was the same for the officers as it was for the enlisted men. For example, Second Lieutenant (2LT) Clarence E. 'Bud' Skoien, 11th Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky; First Lieutenant (1LT) Robert B. 'Buck' Nelson, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and CPT William S. Culpepper, 7th RICA, Fort Benning, Georgia, were all assigned to the 6th RICA as platoon leaders with little more than peace-time Army garrison experience.<sup>7</sup> On the other hand, a greater number of the enlisted men like MSG Eugene H. Madison reported for duty with either combat, post-war Regular Army experience, or both.<sup>8</sup> Through the combined efforts of the RTC cadre, CPT Cain, CPT Weber, and 1SG Dye, the knowledge gap between the two groups was soon non-existent.

Fully assembled at the RTC, the 6th RICA started training on Monday, 27 November 1950. Faced with the knowledge that training time was a precious resource not to be wasted, CPT Cain instituted eighteen-hour duty days by augmenting the RTC training schedule with additional

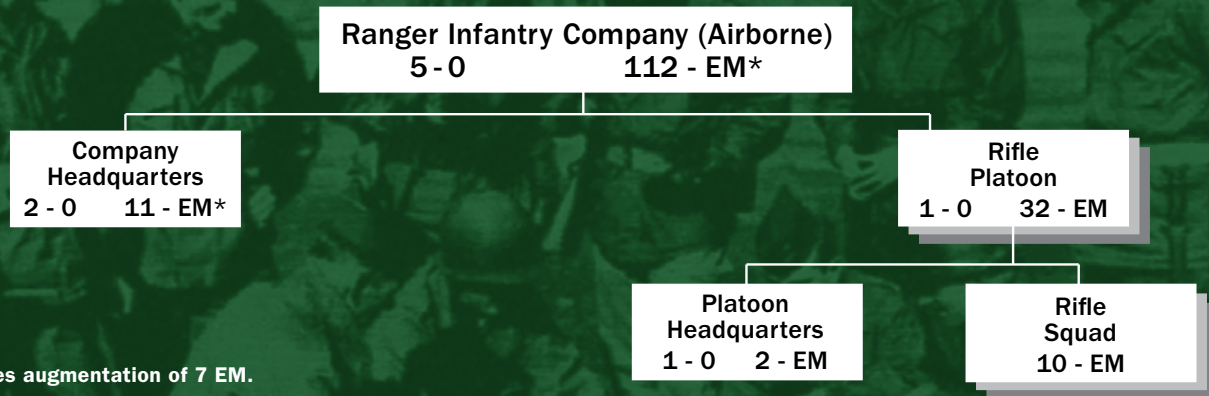
off-duty classes that ensured that every man was as fully familiar with every subject being taught as possible.<sup>9</sup> Private First Class (PFC) Edmund Kolby remembered that "both officers and non-commissioned officers were up at 0400 hours every morning and spent more time in the field than in the classrooms."<sup>10</sup> Individual physical, weapons, and tactical training were supplemented with other subjects like escape and evasion, village fighting, adjustment of artillery fire, and squad and platoon tactics. As an added task, each man's swimming ability was tested, and those who were weak or could not swim were given sufficient 'extra' time to practice and develop their proficiency.<sup>11</sup>

After six weeks of exhausting marches, physical exercises, long hours, and little sleep, the 6th RICA prepared for its final evaluation. To measure how well the Rangers were able to perform individual and unit missions, the RTC implemented a five-day field training operational readiness test (ORT).<sup>12</sup> Designed to meet specific training objectives, the test started with a night, low-level, tactical parachute drop. This was followed by individual platoons conducting drop zone assembly procedures, night tactical movements, and locating and destroying a series of bridges. With that

This company picture was taken at Fort Benning, GA on 18 January 1951 after COL Van Houten presented the 6th Ranger Infantry Company guidon to CPT Cain (seated on the first row far left). Seated immediately behind CPT Cain is 1SG Dye.



## Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne) Organizational Structure, 1950 era



This organizational structure was common to all of the 1950 era RICAs regardless of whether their parent divisional headquarters was in the active Army or Army Reserve.

completed, the platoons moved on their own at night into a designated area, reassembled into a company element, performed a final night tactical march, and attacked a company-sized objective located on a piece of key terrain.<sup>13</sup>

Unfortunately, the 6<sup>th</sup> RICA's final training mission did not begin as anticipated starting with the initial parachute insertion. As the Rangers troop carrying aircraft approached their intended drop zones, it became obvious that the aircrews assigned to the mission had limited airdrop experience. Flying at various altitudes and aircraft speeds, the 6<sup>th</sup> RICA found itself scattered across the Georgia countryside with few Rangers landing on their intended drop zones. Compounding this problem was the fact that these same miscalculations and aircrew operational inconsistencies contributed to significant losses of key items of equipment, and resulted in numerous Ranger parachute injuries.<sup>14</sup> These issues coupled with the fact that each of the four Ranger companies in the second cycle had already received reassignment orders resulted in the RTC terminating this final field training exercise after only three days.

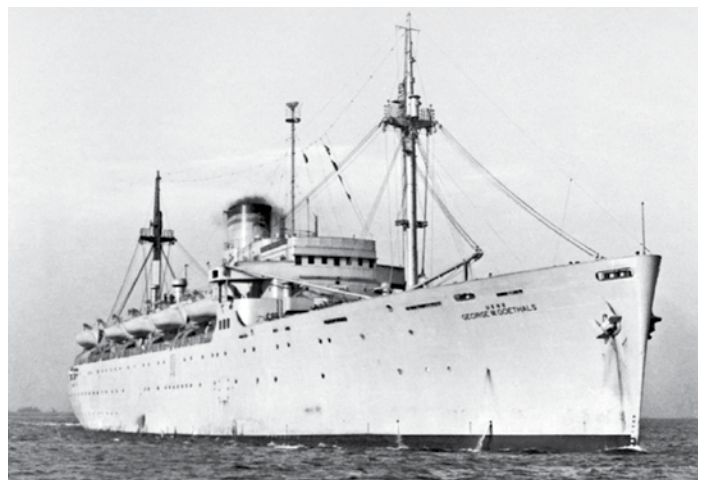
With their last training parachute jumps completed at Fort Benning and their Ranger Infantry Company guidon received from COL Van Houten on 18 January 1951, CPT Cain assembled the company in the unit mess hall to tell them that the 6<sup>th</sup> RICA was being assigned to Germany instead of going to Korea. Ranger reaction to the news was nothing less than total shock and disbelief. PFC Ed Kolby probably best summed up the feelings of the many of the Rangers when he recalled that the attitude among the men was, "We were pissed. There was talk about going to the 5th or another company, but nothing ever happened."<sup>15</sup>



Major General (MG) Dahlquist and CPT Cain at *Flak Kaserne* in Kitzingen, Germany.



MG John E. Dahlquist commanded the 1st Infantry Division during the majority of the time the Rangers were in Europe. His last assignment was as the CG, U. S. Army Continental Army Command (CONARC) at Fort Monroe, VA.



From 7 to 17 February 1951 the USNS *George W. Goethals* transported the 6th Ranger Company from the Brooklyn Navy Yard to Bremerhaven, Germany.

2LT Bud Skoien recalled, “The feeling in the room was like someone had let the air out of a balloon with a pin.”<sup>16</sup> Sensing that there might be problems, Skoien remembered that Cain quickly regained control of the situation and removed any options the men may have had to quit the company by telling them: “Don’t think that way; there will be enough war for all of you.”<sup>17</sup> With the situation temporarily resolved, the 6th RICA grudgingly accepted its fate and began preparing for Germany.

On 1 February 1951, the five officers and one-hundred eighteen enlisted men of the 6th RICA departed Fort Benning by commercial train for Fort Dix, New Jersey, to complete their final overseas processing requirements before traveling to Germany. After a brief stay at Fort Dix and a much welcomed three-day pass, the 6th RICA boarded the USNS *George W. Goethals* at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and sailed for Germany on 7 February 1951. Landing at Bremerhaven, Germany, on 17 February 1951, the Rangers were treated to an overnight train trip, arriving at their initial home on *Flak Kaserne* in Kitzingen, Germany.<sup>18</sup> As they began unpacking and settling in, they learned that they were assigned to the 1st Infantry Division (1st ID), commanded by Major General (MG) John E. Dahlquist; under the staff supervision of the Division, G-3 Operations and Training section. Their mission was to

**“The feeling in the room was like someone had let the air out of a balloon with a pin.”**

— 2LT Clarence E. Skoien

conduct Ranger-type operations throughout the Seventh Army area of responsibility.<sup>19</sup> Quick to realize that this situation could work to the Rangers’ advantage, CPT Cain developed and implemented a training program that he hoped would deflect attention from at least four of the major issues that plagued the Rangers throughout their time in Europe.

First among these was the fact that despite Cain’s ‘Fort Benning pep-talk,’ 6th Ranger morale remained at an all-time low with both officers and men repeatedly requesting a transfer to combat duty with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team (ARCT) in Korea. Second, the lack of adequate training facilities, areas, and ranges did not support, develop, and maintain the advanced skills required to complete basic Ranger missions. Third was the lack of additional assigned and qualified unit administrative personnel to fill the positions of clerk-typist, records clerk, and armorer. Finally, with no vehicles assigned to the



## European Zones of Occupation

By the time the Rangers arrived in Germany, the country had already been divided into its respective post-WWII Zones of Occupation. As indicated the city of Berlin was also divided among the former allied powers despite being completely encircled by the Russian Zone of Occupation.

- American
- British
- French
- Soviet
- Joint Control



The 6th RICA command vehicle. Formally identified as truck, utility, 4 x 4, ¼ ton, this vehicle was best known among American and allied soldiers as ‘the Jeep.’



Because of the number of rivers and streams in Europe, the Rangers practiced field expedient stream crossing techniques. Here they are constructing and utilizing poncho rafts to cross part of the Main River.

company, the Rangers had to borrow them as needed from one of the division motor pools. Of these, this situation was the easiest to fix and was partially resolved when the company was issued two, one-quarter ton trucks (jeep) and one, two-and-one-half-ton truck (deuce-and-a-half).

In the meantime, Cain refined his individual training concept so the Rangers would be ready for the company’s spring field training exercises scheduled for Grafenwohr, Germany. Starting with physical training (PT) the Rangers soon were conducting daily runs around Kitzingen’s military airfield and ‘occasional’ forty-mile forced marches in eight hours carrying full field equipment and weapons for the first ten miles.<sup>20</sup> Cain’s program swung into high gear with the assistance of 1st ID combat engineers who provided demolitions training tailored to a European battlefield. It consisted of preparation of charges, minefield breaching operations, timber cutting, bridge destruction,

and construction and emplacement of booby traps. Once these tasks were mastered to Cain’s satisfaction, he shifted his emphasis back to refreshing those basic skills that the Rangers had learned at the RTC at Fort Benning. These included advanced map and compass work, infiltration and guerrilla tactics, camouflage and concealment, communications, combat intelligence, and aggressor organization and tactics.<sup>21</sup>

Arriving at Grafenwohr in mid-May 1951, the Rangers went straight into training. Beginning with 60mm mortar and 57mm recoilless rifle range firing, Ranger squads and platoons soon became highly proficient at integrating these fires into maneuver training that focused on executing retrograde movements, raids, ambushes, and information collection and reporting. After a second week of individual tactical training and more range firing, the Rangers returned to Kitzingen where they finished the cycle by emphasizing squad and platoon employment and control techniques and field expedient stream crossings of the Main River. If the Rangers had any questions about the reasons behind CPT Cain’s training program, they were soon answered the more the company was integrated into the 1st ID’s annual field training exercise schedule.

Realizing that Rangers provided an additional capability to the 1st ID that it did not normally have, MG Dahlquist quickly put them to work as aggressors for every unit in the division.<sup>22</sup> Starting at the squad level, the Rangers quickly demonstrated that their operational tactics, techniques and procedures could be used to assist in evaluating the preparedness of selected 1st ID units. For example, unchallenged squad penetrations into unit areas demonstrated that, except for the Air Control Warning Station at Hertz Base which was patrolled by Polish guards and dogs, other units and installation security procedures were not as efficient as they should have been. One case in particular involved the 5th Artillery Battalion where, after breaching one battery’s internal security, ‘painted wooden block’ demolitions simulated destruction of key facilities and equipment and tactical wire communications were actually disabled. The infiltration of the Giebelstadt Army Airfield produced a roster of the base commander and his staff, a list of the types of aircraft and armaments located there, and a detailed area map.<sup>23</sup>

In July 1951, the 6th Rangers sharply increased their involvement with 1st ID maneuver units. Beginning with tank-infantry platoon-level training with the 63rd Tank Battalion, the Rangers also provided company support to the 16th and 26th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) exercises at Grafenwohr. When the RCT’s concluded their training at the end of July, the Rangers stood-down for two weeks to prepare for their next major training exercise

# 6<sup>th</sup> Rangers

# FREEFALL



On 4 August 1951 while celebrating the 1st ID's Organization Day at Harvey Barracks in Kitzingen, Germany, the division's guests, soldiers, and families were treated to a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Approaching the parade field where the last 1st ID unit had passed the reviewing stand, was a C-82 *Packet* airplane from the 60th Troop Carrier Group stationed at Rhein-Main Air Base. On board the *Packet* were ten Rangers from the 6th RICA about to make European military aviation history. Under the watchful eyes of MG Thomas S. Timberman, CG, 1st ID; Brigadier General (BG) Charles E. Hart, CG, 7th Army Artillery, and BG Theodore L. Futch, CG Wurzburg Military Post, these Rangers were about to make a 'mass freefall parachute jump' to climax the anniversary review of 1st ID units stationed at Kitzingen.



Broken into two, five man 'sticks,' the first set of jumpers was comprised of 1LT Cecil Kidd, Corporal (CPL) Donald Traynor, Private (PVT) Willard V. Moore, CPL Walter E. Kimmel, and Private First Class (PFC) Alfred F. Kelly. The second 'stick' contained 1SG Joseph Dye, Sr., PFC Lawrence R. Brown, CPL Jesse E. McDonald, PFC Virgil R. Hill, and Sergeant First Class (SFC) Howard Griggs. Jumping from an altitude of 1900 feet, this event was made even more noteworthy by the type equipment the Rangers were using. Rather than wearing the standard static-line equipped, twenty-eight foot diameter, T-7 parachute and harness, each man wore an AN-6510 seat-type parachute. Preferred by pilots because it allowed greater freedom of movement, the AN-6510 with its slightly smaller twenty-four foot diameter canopy allowed each man to individually open his canopy by using a 'pull-type' ripcord grip.

**1** The C-82 *Packet* was adopted by the Air Force after World War II and was the predecessor to the C-119 *Flying Boxcar*.

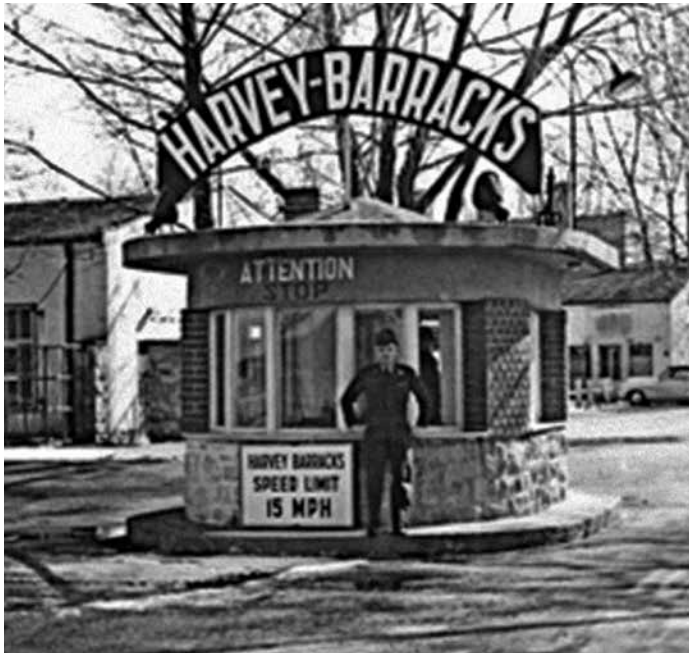
**2** This is the parachute seat type AN-6510 worn by the members of the 6th Ranger Company during the freefall parachute jump that commemorated the anniversary of the activation of the 1st Infantry Division on 24 May 1917.

**3** SGT Jim Bozeman, Jr. was the primary jumpmaster for the Ranger's freefall jump on 4 August 1951.



**4** SGT Bozeman (L) conducts a pre-jump inspection on CPL Jesse E. McDonald to ensure his parachute and other equipment will function safely during the jump.

The procedures for the jump were quite simple. SGT James Bozeman, the primary Ranger Jumpmaster remained on-board the *Packet* and controlled each stick of five Rangers lined up at the left and right jump doors. When the 'green-light' indicated that the *Packet* had reached the proper location, altitude, and jump speed, Bozeman signaled the left stick to jump first followed by the right stick. To avoid possible mid-air entanglements, each Ranger in the left stick made a three-second count before pulling the ripcord grip, while those in the right stick counted to five.<sup>1</sup> With the exception of PFC Brown, who was temporarily knocked unconscious on landing but left the drop zone under his own power, all other jumpers landed successfully. While this would not be the last freefall demonstration, at this time it was a unique insertion capability not readily available elsewhere in Europe.<sup>2</sup>



During their assignment in Germany, the Rangers' permanent home was Harvey Barracks in Kitzingen, Germany.

with the 18th Infantry Regiment at Wildflecken, Germany. This time though, the Rangers were teamed-up with the 63rd Tank Battalion and 1st Engineer Combat Battalion to form the task force that would aggress against the 18th Infantry. At the conclusion of the exercise in mid-August, the Rangers remained in Wildflecken to “perfect various techniques in map and compass, river and stream crossing expedients, and infiltration and guerrilla tactics.”<sup>24</sup>

Returning to Kitzingen, little did the Rangers realize that their participation in next trilogy of major training events would be their last ones as a unit. Starting with the 1st ID's Exercise DRAWBRIDGE (11 September 1951), they moved to V Corps' Operation JUPITER (27 September 1951), and ended with the annual European Joint Command (EJCOM) maneuver FTX-51 (Exercise COMBINE) (3 October 1951). Building upon the original operational concept of employing the Rangers as a theater asset, these exercises additionally showcased the unique skills and capabilities for which all the Ranger companies had been created. Despite the 1st ID change of command from MG Dahlquist to MG Thomas S. Timberman, and the lack of any division-sized exercises since October 1950, recently promoted Major (MAJ) Cain was more ready than ever to prove his Rangers' effectiveness.

During Exercise DRAWBRIDGE, the 6th Ranger Company's second platoon, led by 1LT Buck Nelson, successfully swam a rope across the Main River and established a crossing point at 0430 hours on 16 September 1951. Under MAJ Cain's direct command, the 1st and 3rd platoons in assault boats, crossed the Main River

undetected, secured vital road junctions, sealed off the battlefield, blocked retreat routes, and prevented supplies and reinforcements from reaching 'enemy forces'.<sup>25</sup> This same level of success was also achieved during Operation JUPITER when the Rangers crossed the Rhine River. This time, though, the first and third platoons led by 2LT Bud Skoien, secured the area near the Frankenthal Bridge while 1LT Nelson's second platoon guarded an engineer tactical bridge site near the town of Worms. Having the Rangers conduct their crossing thirty minutes prior to the planned 26th Infantry Regiment assault enabled the 26th Regiment to shift its timetable forward, begin moving fifteen minutes after H-hour, and being completely across in one hour.<sup>26</sup>

Exercise COMBINE, the last European operation for the 6th RICA was unique in that it was also the first tactical parachute drop of American paratroopers in Europe since the end of World War II in 1945.<sup>27</sup> Supplied with parachutes and air delivery items from the 557th Quartermaster Parachute Aerial Supply Company, the Rangers jumped from a twelve-plane formation of C-82 *Packet* aircraft of the 60th Troop Carrier Group on 3 October 1951.<sup>28</sup> Leading the Ranger 'aggressors' against the Seventh Army's 'friendly forces' was MAJ Cain whose mission was to seize and hold a key *autobahn* bridge across the Rhine River to cut 'friendly' supply lines. Following this, the company reorganized into platoon-sized elements and operated behind the 7th Army's front lines to harass and raid at random.<sup>29</sup> Completing all assigned missions, the Rangers returned to Kitzingen at the end of COMBINE on 10 October 1951.



Arriving back at Harvey Barracks the Rangers received the second-worst piece of news in their brief history. After considerable study, the Department of the Army decided to disband all the RICAs and had issued a message on 29 September 1951 that the 6th RICA was to be completely inactivated by 1 December 1951.<sup>30</sup> This time though, each man was given a choice of one of three options: (1) remain in Europe, (2) return to the U. S., or (3) volunteer for Korea. As the men made their choices they were reassigned as quickly as possible. MAJ Cain and Bud Skoien returned to the 11th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY, but would not remain there for long. Cain volunteered to go to Korea and Skoien became one of the original members of the newly forming 10th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, NC. Eugene A. Kuta, future editor of the RICA newsletter, volunteered for Korea and was assigned to Company A, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team (ARCT) from 1951 through 1952. Ed Kolby, Red Weber, and Joe Dye were among the approximately forty Rangers who remained in Europe in a classified assignment.



Corporal Eugene A. Kuta volunteered for combat duty in Korea after the Rangers and was a member of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team from 1951 through 1952.



1SG Joseph Dye was a WWII veteran whose service with the Rangers began at Dieppe, France, in 1942 and went through Cisterna, Italy, in 1944. His final assignment was at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, where he was an advisor and trainer with the Cadet sport parachute club.

The 557th Quartermaster Parachute Aerial Supply Company supplied the Rangers with parachutes, air delivery items, and rigging support during the entire time they were in Germany.



# Ranger Infantry Companies (A)

## Assignments



**1<sup>st</sup> RICA**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division  
(Korea)



**2<sup>nd</sup> RICA**  
7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
(Korea)



**3<sup>rd</sup> RICA**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division  
(Korea)



**4<sup>th</sup> RICA**  
1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division  
(Korea)



**5<sup>th</sup> RICA**  
25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
(Korea)



**6<sup>th</sup> RICA**  
1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division  
(Germany)



**7<sup>th</sup> RICA**  
Ranger Training Command  
(Fort Benning, Georgia)



**8<sup>th</sup> RICA**  
24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
(Korea)



**9<sup>th</sup> RICA**  
31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division  
(Alabama National Guard)



**10<sup>th</sup> RICA**  
45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
(Oklahoma National Guard)



**11<sup>th</sup> RICA**  
40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
(California National Guard)



**12<sup>th</sup> RICA**  
28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
(Pennsylvania  
National Guard)



**13<sup>th</sup> RICA**  
43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division  
(New England [CT, ME, RI, VT]  
National Guard)



**14<sup>th</sup> RICA**  
4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
(Fort Carson, Colorado)



**15<sup>th</sup> RICA**  
47<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
(Minnesota & North  
Dakota National Guard)



**RICA "Able"**  
Ranger Training Command  
(Fort Benning, Georgia)



**RICA "Baker"**  
Ranger Training Command  
(Fort Benning, Georgia)



**GHQ Raider Company**  
Special Activities Group  
X U.S. Army Corps (Korea)  
(12 November 1950- 1 April 1951)



**8<sup>th</sup> Army Ranger Company**  
25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Korea)  
(25 August 1950- 28  
March 1951)

**NOTE:** a. RICAs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 inactivation ordered 25 July 1951;  
b. RICAs 10, 11 inactivation ordered 13 September 1951;  
c. RICAs 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 inactivation ordered 29 September 1951.

By direction of the Department of the Army, all of the Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne) [RICA], to include those in the Army National Guard, were inactivated by 1 December 1951. The personnel spaces that resulted from these units were not lost to the U. S. Army, but were then used to form the Psywar Center and 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, NC.

The inactivation of all the Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne) did not mark the end of U. S. Army Rangers or Ranger training. The Ranger spirit, developed during World War II and passed on to the Korean War-era Ranger Infantry Companies, remained alive in the Ranger Training Command, transferred to the Infantry School's Ranger Department in 1951, and is now an integral part of the current Ranger Training Brigade at Fort Benning, GA. Although the men of the 6<sup>th</sup> RICA did not experience combat as a unit, they can always be proud of the fact that in Europe they were the 'Tip of the Spear' and were prepared to sacrifice everything to preserve freedom. Perhaps the greatest tribute to this small group of volunteers was provided by Mrs. James S. Cain, MAJ Cain's widow, when she confided to 'Ranger' Eugene A. Kuta some years later, "his (MAJ Cain) proudest accomplishment was being the commanding officer of the 6th Airborne Ranger Company."<sup>31</sup> ▲

#### EUGENE G. PIASECKI

Eugene G. Piasecki is a retired Special Forces officer who has been with the USASOC History Office since 2006. A USMA graduate, he earned his Masters Degree in military history from Norwich University and is currently pursuing a PhD. His current research interests include the history of Army Special Forces, Special Forces since its beginning in 1952, and the History of Camp Mackall, NC.

## Endnotes

- 1 The Infantry Center, Fort Benning, GA, *Ranger Company (Tentative) Revision No. 1*, The Ranger Training Command, 28 March 1951, 1.
- 2 Directive issued by the G-3, Department of the Army, to the Chief of Army Field Forces dated 7 September 1950. This information was part of a Staff Study concerning Ranger type Units prepared by the Ranger Training Center, Fort Benning, Georgia on 26 December 1950. Record Group 339, Entry 190, Box 10, Folder "Ranger History," National Archives.
- 3 Status Report, Headquarters Ranger Training Center, Fort Benning, Georgia, to CG, Office of the Chief, Army Field Forces, 7 November 1950. Commissioned in the regular Army Infantry in 1926, COL John G. Van Houten served in various Infantry Regiments in New York, the Philippines, and Texas, as well as three years in the Civilian Conservation Corps. During World War II, he served in combat with the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division as chief of staff, regimental commander, and assistant division commander. Known as the father of U. S. Army Ranger School, Van Houten was inducted into the Ranger Training Brigade as a Distinguished Member on 21 April 2005.
- 4 Robert W. Black, *Rangers in Korea* (New York: Random House, Inc., 1989), 28. Of these four companies, only the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> RICAs would go to Korea. The 6<sup>th</sup> went to Germany and was attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, and the 7<sup>th</sup> RICA's 6 officers and 90 enlisted remained at the RTC at Fort Benning as the Ranger holding company pending the beginning of the third training cycle. During this second cycle, an extra platoon of 44 black enlisted and two officers would be assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup> RICA.
- 5 U. S. Army Center of Military History, Washington, DC. *Lineage and Honors Information*. "75th Ranger Regiment Lineage and Honors Information as of 31 January 2012." Annex 2. <http://www.history.army.mil/html/forcestruc/lineages/branches/inf/0075ra.htm>. Accessed on 9 April 2012.
- 6 Howard L. Katzander, "The Rangers are Here," *Stars and Stripes*, 15 April 1951, Features Section, Volume 8, Number 360, VI.
- 7 Clarence E. Skoien, "The Story of an Airborne Ranger Company: November 1950-December 1951," undated, "unpublished", USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. CPT William S. Culpepper, USMA 1946, was commissioned in the Infantry and served in Japan from 1947-1950 with the 19th Infantry and Headquarters, Far East Command (FECOM). Returning to the 14th Infantry at Fort Carson, Colorado, he then went to Fort Benning, Georgia, as a member of the 7th RICA until he was transferred to the 6th. In 1951 he deployed with the 6th RICA to Germany, but was quickly reassigned to the 26th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. CPT Culpepper later transferred into the Ordnance Corps, and spent the remainder of his tour in Germany with the 7th Army. Culpepper Family Tree – Captain William Stephen Culpepper, Jr. <http://gen.culpepper.com/ss/p50182.htm>. Accessed on 11 April 2012.

- 8 Skoien, "The Story of an Airborne Ranger Company." Eugene H. Madison was a WWII veteran of the 101st Airborne Division and jumped into both Normandy and Holland and then fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Remaining in the Army after the war, he became a platoon sergeant in the 6th RICA, and volunteered for duty in Korea. There he served as a 1SG in Company C, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, was awarded the Silver Star, and received a battlefield commission. He retired as a Captain in 1963.
- 9 COL (ret) Clarence E. Skoien, 6th Ranger Company, interview by Eugene G. Piasecki, 22 December 2011, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. Robert B. Nelson, "Sixth Company Unit History," *The Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne) of the Korean War*, Winter 2007, 6. USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 10 Edmund Kolby, 6th Ranger Company, interview by Eugene G. Piasecki, 5 January 2012, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 11 Nelson, "Sixth Company Unit History," 6. MAJ Jesse L. Morrow of the Ranger Training Command was detailed to give this extra swimming instruction for two hours at a time during the 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th weeks of Ranger Training.
- 12 Larry E. Ivers, "The 6th and 7th Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne), 1950-51," *The Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne) of the Korean War*, Fall 1997, 12. USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 13 Nelson, "Sixth Company Unit History," 6.
- 14 Nelson, "Sixth Company Unit History," 6.
- 15 Kolby interview, 5 January 2012.
- 16 Skoien interview, 22 December 2011.
- 17 Skoien interview, 22 December 2011.
- 18 Nelson, "Sixth Company Unit History," 6. Also going to Germany on the same ship with the Rangers were members of the 280 mm, M-65, Atomic Cannon Company that was assigned to the 7th U. S. Army. *Flak Kaserne's* name was changed in 1962 to Larson Barracks in honor of CPT Stanley L. Larson, Company C, 10th Engineer Battalion. CPT Larson was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for minefield clearing operations at Anzio on 23 May 1944.
- 19 Skoien interview, 22 December 2011 with follow-on comments provided on 18 June 2012.
- 20 Skoien interview, 22 December 2011. Kolby interview, 5 January 2012.
- 21 Nelson, "Sixth Company Unit History," 6.
- 22 Skoien interview, 22 December 2011.
- 23 Robert B. Nelson, "Sixth Company Unit History," *The Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne) of the Korean War*, Spring 2007, 6. Copy in USASOC USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 24 Nelson, "Sixth Company Unit History," 6-7.
- 25 "'Foe' Gains 30 Miles in UK Zone Exercise," *The Stars and Stripes (European Edition)*, 17 September 1951, Volume 9 (Ninth Year), No. 152, page one, continued on Page 12, Column 2. USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 26 Bernard H. Liebes and Campbell Sanders, "Ike Sees Yanks, French assault Rhine in games," *The Stars and Stripes (European Edition)*, 29 September 1951. <http://www.artipes.com/news/from-the-s-s-archives-ike-sees-yanks-french-assault-rhine-in>. Accessed on 5 January 2012.
- 27 "Enemy Paratroopers Attack Vital Rhine-Autobahn Bridge," *The Stars and Stripes (European Edition)*, 4 October 1951, Volume 9 (Ninth Year), No. 169, page one, continued on page 12, Column 1. USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.
- 28 Skoien interview, 22 December 2011. "United States Air Forces Europe (USAFE)," *C-82 Operating Units and Markings*, <http://www.c82packet.com/unitmarkings.html>, accessed on 10 May 2012. U.S. Army Quartermaster Foundation, "Aerial Delivery and Parachute Rigger History," [http://www.qmfound.com/aerial\\_delivery.htm](http://www.qmfound.com/aerial_delivery.htm). Accessed on 5 January 2012. In his interview Bud Skoien states that the 557th was assigned to Headquarters, Seventh Army, European Command and supplied and maintained all the parachute and air delivery items used by the Rangers. He also states that Cain's relationship with COL Jay D. Bogue, commander of the 60th Troop Carrier Group worked to the Ranger's advantage when the Group needed parachutists for its Operational Readiness Test (ORT). Breaking the company into squad 'sticks', as many sticks as were available were assigned to as many C-82s as possible to qualify the crews to conduct parachute operations.
- 29 Nelson, "Sixth Company Unit History," Spring 2007, 7.
- 30 Robert W. Black, *Rangers in Korea* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1989), 206. Brigadier General (ret) Russell W. Volckmann, letter to Mrs. Beverly Lindsey, 21 March 1969, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. The 3,000 spaces that formed the 10th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg came from the disbanded Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne).
- 31 Eugene A. Kuta, "Sixth Company News," *The Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne) of the Korean War*, Fall 2004, 12. USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

## 6th Rangers Freefall Sidebar

- 1 Private Bob Stock, "Rangers Demonstrate First 'Free' Fall Parajump," *Army Times*, 21 August 1951 (Europe). Property of Mr. Eugene A. Kuta.
- 2 Arthur Noyes, "Free-Fall 'Chute Jump Features Kitzingen Fete," *The Stars and Stripes*, 5 August 1951, Volume 9 (Ninth Year), No. 109, 2. USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. Accessed 5 January 2012.