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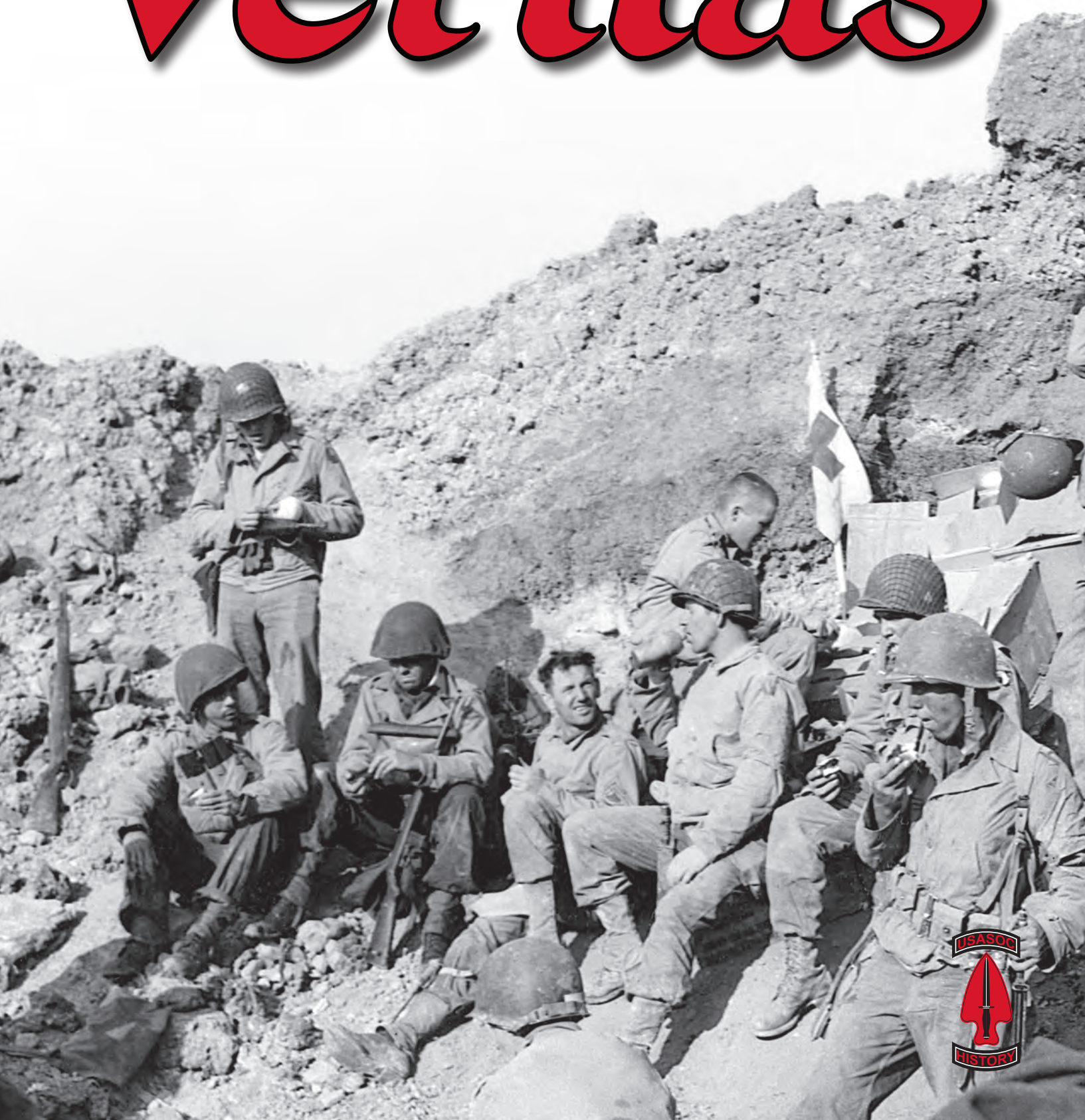
Veritas



Areas of Operations Covered in this *Veritas*...

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Cover Photo: A brief moment of rest at LTC James E. Rudder's command post, Pointe du Hoc, 6 June 1944. On the right, eating, is the S-2, Captain Harvey Cook. Immediately behind Cook is PVT Leonard Goodall (Item Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regt., 101st Airborne Division) who landed on the beach after his C-47 was hit and crashed. Only four paratroopers made it out alive, with two landing on the beach at Pointe du Hoc. Goodall and SGT Raymond Couch took shelter from the naval bombardment and then joined the Rangers on their assault up the cliff. Drinking from the canteen is the communications officer 1LT James "Ike" Eikner. Behind Eikner is medic SGT Frank South (without helmet) checking medical supplies. *(National Archives photo)*

Veritas

CONTENTS

The Azimuth of the USASOC History Office

The "Azimuth" in each *Veritas* explains what the USASOC History Office is doing and how it plans to provide well-documented Army Special Operations history. Command support continues to be strong. An apology is due. We missed our quarterly *Veritas* target on 4-2008 by two months. No excuse.

The consolation is that comments from the field on that special edition (4-2008) devoted entirely to the Special Forces mission to Bolivia in 1967, have rated it as "our best effort to date." It will be published as our first "big little" book (cover size like *All Roads Lead to Baghdad*, but thinner) by Fall 2009. The book, *Training Condors for Success*, will have a new introduction, an epilogue with Bolivian comments, index, and possibly a glossary.

Congratulations to retired COL Charles H. "Chuck" Fry for receiving the USSOCOM Colonel Arthur D. "Bull" Simons Award for 2009. During the 1950s, SFC Fry was a SCUBA and HALO pioneer in Special Forces. In Vietnam, CPT/MAJ Fry was an infantry rifle company commander in the 1st Cavalry Division, a Mike Force commander in II Corps, and a battalion executive officer in the 101st Airborne Division. After attending the Uruguayan staff college, MAJ Fry advised the Army in its successful destruction of the Tupamaro urban insurgency. As the 3/7th SFG commander, Fry masterminded a (Latin American) "Spectrum (Threat) Analysis" that got SF involved in El Salvador and preserved 7th SFG in the Army force structure. COL Fry was the SOCSOUTH who incorporated TF Black (theater SOF assets) in the Operation JUST CAUSE planning. Since retirement in July 1989, Chuck Fry has done security consulting and hostage negotiation throughout Latin America.

Congratulations to Dr. Christian J. Lambertsen. The inventor of SCUBA, OSS Maritime Unit veteran, and the "Father of Military Underwater Operations," will receive a Distinguished Service Award from The OSS Society on 2 May 2009. See sidebar in "Operation BOSTON: An OSS Operation in the Indian Ocean," by Dr. Troy J. Sacquety.

The article on U.S. Army advisors to the Army of Vietnam Rangers is an introduction to these ARSOF combat veterans. The "Black Berets" installed a memorial stone in front of the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, North Carolina at 10:30 AM on 28 March 2009.

Based on numerous requests, the fourth *Veritas* issue of 2009 (4-2009), will include an index of articles published to date. The article, "The Army Security Agency in Support of Army Special Operations" was not ready for publication. It will appear later in the year.

"First line" preservation of unit history is a unit responsibility. If that is accomplished, historians have a starting point. Annual unit histories are critical to presenting well-documented military history. If not, unit history becomes just another "war story."

We have moved. The USASOC History Office relocated from Bldg H-1715 on Son Tay Road to Bldg E-1930 [Headquarters & Headquarters Company (HHC), USASOC building] on Desert Storm Drive (look for the History Office sign). Our telephone numbers and mailing address remain the same. While this move puts us in the USASOC headquarters "footprint," open access to the History Office will continue. There's always hot coffee. CHB

The view from Forward Operating Base Heredia looking towards the city of Farah in Afghanistan, 2008.

OPERATION BOSTON:
An OSS Combined Operation in the Indian Ocean

by Troy J. Sacquety

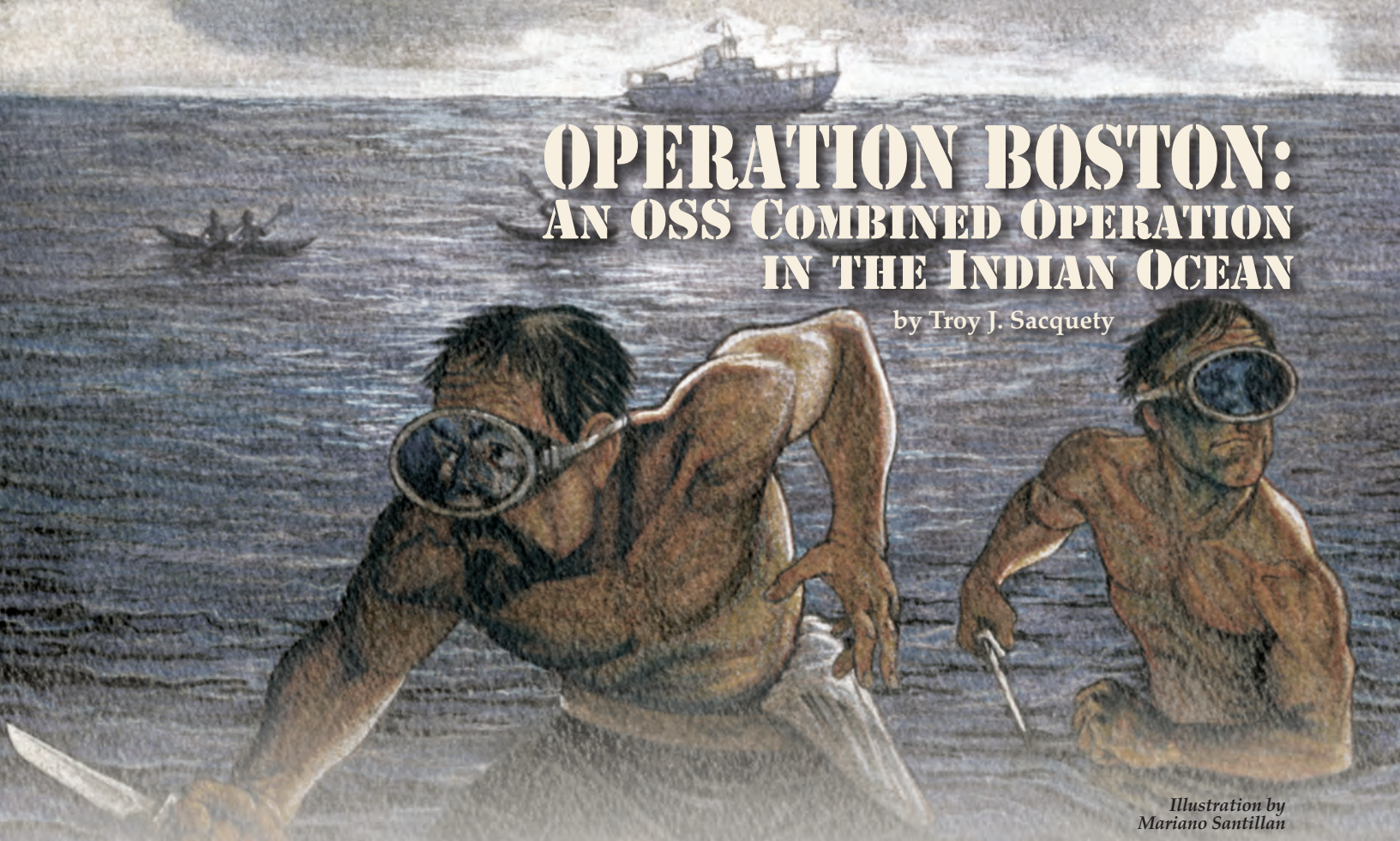


Illustration by Mariano Santillan

At 1025 hours on 20 February 1945, two high-powered Office of Strategic Services (OSS) Air-Sea Rescue boats eased out of Kyaukpyu harbor on the Arakan Coast of Burma to begin Operation BOSTON. Overloaded with men, equipment, and gasoline to the point of nearly sinking they headed south to go deep into Japanese-controlled waters. The boats carried a multi-service complement from two branches of the OSS. They had been tasked to reconnoiter Foul Island. Eight hours later, the forty-nine man force arrived at their destination at sunset. After circumnavigating the small island for a quick reconnaissance, the boats anchored. Twenty minutes later, four kayaks manned by eight OSS Maritime Unit (MU) swimmers cast off from P-564, commanded by U.S. Army First Lieutenant (1LT) Walter L. Mess. After silently paddling close to shore, Lieutenant Junior Grade (Lt (jg)) John P. Booth and Chief Boatswain's Mate (CBM) James R. Eubank of the U.S. Coast Guard slipped out of their kayaks into the water. They swam to the beach. Seeing no enemy, they signaled their two kayaks to come ashore. The "safe landing" signal, a flashing red light, was sent to P-564. Then, they split into two reconnaissance parties that moved in opposite directions along the beach, a kayak trailing each from the water. They were to determine if there were any hidden enemy positions along the beach before the OSS Operational Group (OG) landed.[1] It was a unique mission in an unheralded theater.

Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten was the commander of the South East Asia Command (SEAC). Here he is talking with the OSS Detachment 404 Operational Group (OG) in late 1944 in Teknaf, India.

The South East Asia Command (SEAC) was perhaps the least understood theater in WWII. British Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten had operational responsibility for an area that encompassed today's India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Southern Burma, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and parts of Vietnam. The only American combat troops in SEAC were two small contingents of the OSS; Detachment 404 and the Detachment 101 Arakan Field Unit (AFU). Because of their small size these OSS units had to be innovative. This article explains a reconnaissance mission conducted by the AFU OG and MU in February 1945. It is relevant today because it shows how integrated operational

Like all OSS OGs, those in the Detachment 404/101 Arakan Field Unit were cross-trained in special warfare skills. However, they did not have an indigenous language capability.

elements from separate military services could accomplish a Coalition objective, much like ARSOF does today. But first, who these operators were is important.

The OSS OG was originally part of the OSS Special Operations (SO) Branch. They became an exclusively military branch in the paramilitary OSS on 4 May 1943. The OGs only recruited Army personnel. Their mission was to infiltrate enemy occupied territory and assist guerrilla movements.[2] In general, an OG operative was a bilingual parachutist, in top physical condition, cross-trained in weapons, explosives, and communications, and always operated in uniform. Separate ethnic OGs had already served in France, Italy, Yugoslavia, and Greece. The Burma OG was different because its members did not speak any of the numerous languages in the region.[3] Like the OGs, the MU branch also had its origins in SO.

The multi-service MU Swimming Group #2 was involved in SEAC operations along the Arakan Coast of Burma. Pictured: Cox Reeves, CPhM Becker, Sp(X) 3/c Abbott, Sp(X) 3/c Priano, Sgt Halbarrow, LT (jg) Booth, Lt Babb, MoMM 1/c MacDonald, Cox Thorigal, Sgt Rief, Lt.Cdr Lee, MoMM 1/c Carroll, Cox Fulton, Cpl Kniest, WO Medlicott, Sgt Morrissey, Cpl Smith, CBM Eubank.

Originating in April 1942 as SO's amphibious training component, MU became a separate branch on 9 June 1943 when it was apparent that the OSS needed a larger amphibious capability.[4] Composed of personnel detailed from the U.S. Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Navy, and Army, it was chartered to infiltrate agents or supplies by sea, conduct maritime sabotage, and to develop special equipment.[5] The pioneer of underwater warfare capabilities in the MU was Dr. Christian J. Lambertsen.

During WWII, the U.S. and Great Britain divided the globe into operational "spheres of influence" that determined which Ally commanded a particular theater; Burma, India, and that region's ocean areas were British, while China was relegated to the Americans. The British wanted control of the entire China-Burma-India (CBI) area, as well as the American-led fighting elements in the Northern Combat Area Command (NCAC) assigned to open a supply corridor to China from north Burma. However, NCAC commander, Lieutenant General (LTG) Joseph W. Stilwell, the overall American commander of the CBI, and the commanding general of the Chinese

XV Indian Corps. (UK) SSI

China-Burma-India Theater SSI

Unofficial Detachment 101 patch worn by U.S. personnel. The term "Jinghpaw," misspelled on the patch, is another name for Kachin.

Southeast Asia Command SSI

A typical mangrove-covered *chaung* in which the MU carried out nighttime operations.

Both the MU and the OG of the Arakan Field Unit trained extensively in the use of LCRs (Landing Craft, Rubber). The waters of the mangrove-infested *chaungs* (tidal creeks) were often too murky for the MU swimmers to use the LARU rebreathers.

Army in India, as well as Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek's nominal Chief of Staff, would have none of it. Neither he nor OSS chief, Major General (MG) William J. Donovan, wanted Detachment 101—the paramilitary force given operational responsibility for all of Burma—under British control.

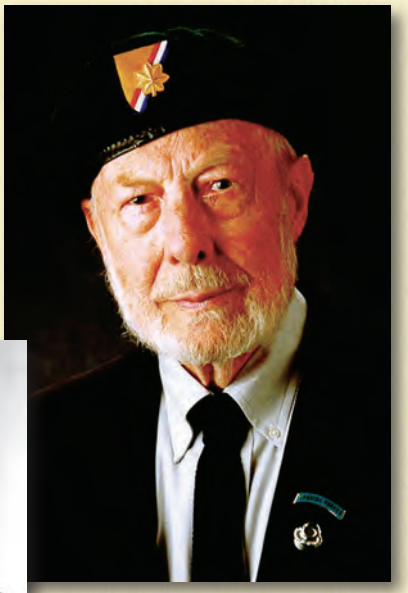
British Prime Minister Winston Churchill tried to solve this conundrum by creating the SEAC in June 1943. However, this only complicated the situation in an area already divided into one operational and three geographic theaters.[6] But, SEAC proved beneficial to the OSS. In return for British acquiescence to Detachment 101 retaining control over its clandestine operations, OSS/SEAC was created. Based at Kandy, Ceylon, its operational unit—Detachment 404—was under British supervision. The OSS post-war history explained that "had inter-Allied relationships been harmonious in the China-Burma-India Theater, it is probable that Detachment 404 would never have been created."[7] Because it was the smallest OSS paramilitary unit in the Far East with the largest operational environment, unique assets were required; the MU and the OGs. They were employed together along with other OSS elements in late 1944 along the Arakan Coast of Burma. The MU and OG worked so well together that years later, Dr. Lambertsen described it as "absolute."[8]

The Detachment 404 Arakan Field Unit (DET 404 AFU) began reconnaissance operations from Cox's Bazar in India (now Bangladesh) to assist the Indian XV Corps in its drive south to secure the Burmese capital, Rangoon.[9] The AFU also gathered full-spectrum tactical and strategic intelligence while conducting a propaganda campaign to destabilize the Japanese. But, the DET 404 AFU still had to react to Allied political changes. In October 1944, the American CBI Theater was dissolved. The new command structure, the India-Burma Theater (IBT) and the China Theater, caused the OSS to mirror the change.[10] OSS/SEAC was replaced by OSS/IBT in mid-February 1945.[11] The OSS administratively moved the AFU under Detachment 101 (DET 101 AFU).[12] The reassignment did not change the AFU mission nor reduce its operational area.

The Arakan Coast was predominately a mosquito-infested mangrove swamp with poisonous snakes and other dangers. MU swimmer CBM James R. Eubank recalled one operation when his team was paddling a rubber boat to recon a *chaung* (tidal creek) in enemy-

Camp Ritchie, near Cox's Bazar in modern-day Bangladesh (then India), was named for OG Captain Dolan S. Ritchie, who had been killed in a training accident in Ceylon. It was the first base for the Detachment 404 Arakan Field Unit.

Aquatic Pioneer: Dr. Christian Lambertsen



As a member of the OSS Maritime Unit, Dr. Lambertsen, seen here in this 1996 photo, was retroactively awarded the Green Beret, the Special Forces tab, and the U.S. Army SCUBA Diver Badge.

Dr. Lambertsen was detailed to the OSS from the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He served overseas in Ceylon and Burma.

Dr. Christian J. Lambertsen pioneered military underwater operations during WWII. Today, they are important capabilities of Army Special Operations. In the late 1930s, Lambertsen became interested in developing equipment that would enable a swimmer to breathe while swimming underwater. He invented a rebreathing device, to "scrub" carbon dioxide from exhaled breath, which allowed the swimmer to stay underwater for long periods of time. Since the air was recycled internally, no tell-tale exhaust bubbles were emitted. While still a medical student at the University of Pennsylvania, he demonstrated his device for the U.S. Navy Experimental Diving Unit and to staff members of the Coordinator of Information, the predecessor of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). After he was awarded his Doctor of Medicine (MD) in 1943, Lambertsen joined the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He was forthwith detailed to the OSS, and then assigned to the Maritime Unit (MU). There, Lambertsen perfected his rebreather, the Lambertsen Unit (LARU), an early form of SCUBA, and proceeded to train OSS operatives on the system. He was assigned to Ceylon and Burma with the MU. OSS Chief Major General William J. Donovan awarded Captain Lambertsen the Legion of Merit in 1945. Dr. Lambertsen left the U.S. Army in 1946 as a Major.

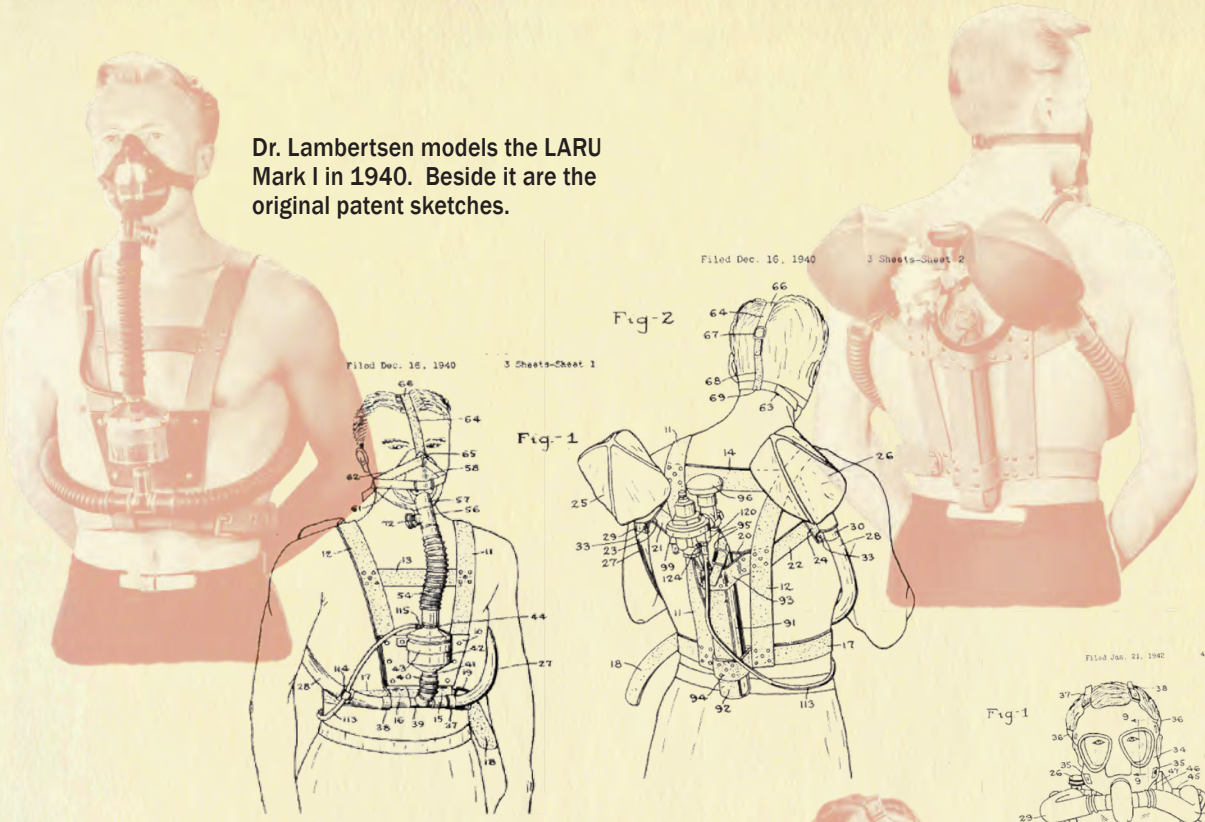
Since 1946, Dr. Lambertsen has worked in the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine. He founded the Institute for Environmental Medicine in 1968 to determine the benefits of combining various gas mixtures at varying atmospheric pressures. One benefit he discovered was that at several atmospheres of pressure, pure oxygen will significantly speed healing for burn patients and help people with breathing problems. Lambertsen holds several patents for underwater breathing devices and has written or co-written over a hundred scientific articles. His atmospheric pressure research has allowed man to expand his frontiers underwater and in space.

Dr. Lambertsen continued to help both the Army and Navy expand their underwater operational capabilities with improved equipment. He worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on the Mercury, Gemini, and Skylab space programs, as well as the undersea Tektite habitat. He has received lifetime achievement awards from the U.S. Army Special Forces Underwater Operations School and the UDT-SEAL Association, been awarded the U.S. Army Special Forces Green Beret, the U.S. Special Operations Command Medal, and a Department of Defense Citation. The U.S. Coast Guard presented him with their Distinguished Public Service Award. For these and other achievements that date to WWII, Dr. Lambertsen is considered to be the father of military underwater operations.

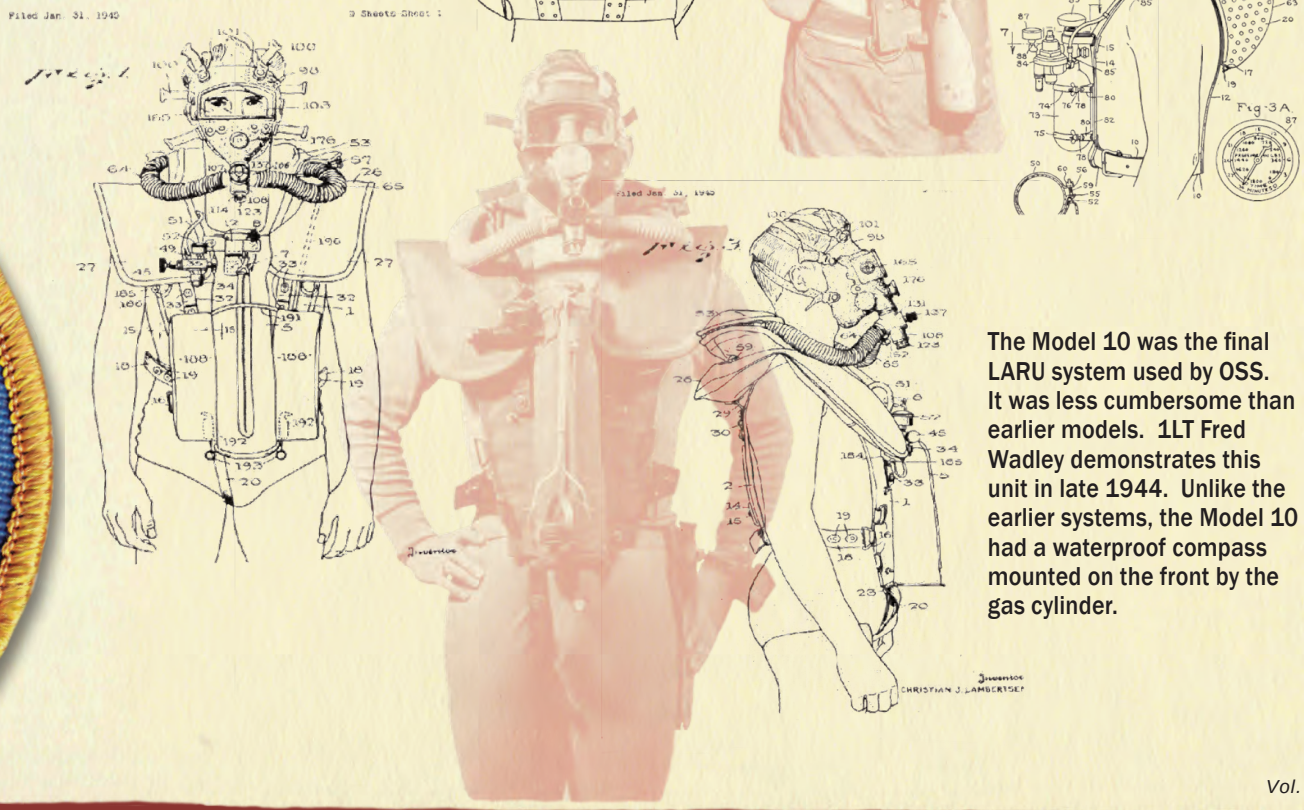
This brochure, co-authored by Dr. Lambertsen in 1952, is the first published reference to Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA).

Patch for ODA 15 Company A, 8th Special Forces Group, circa 1971. Dr. Lambertsen's legacy is reflected in U.S. Army underwater swimmers.

Dr. Lambertsen models the LARU Mark I in 1940. Beside it are the original patent sketches.

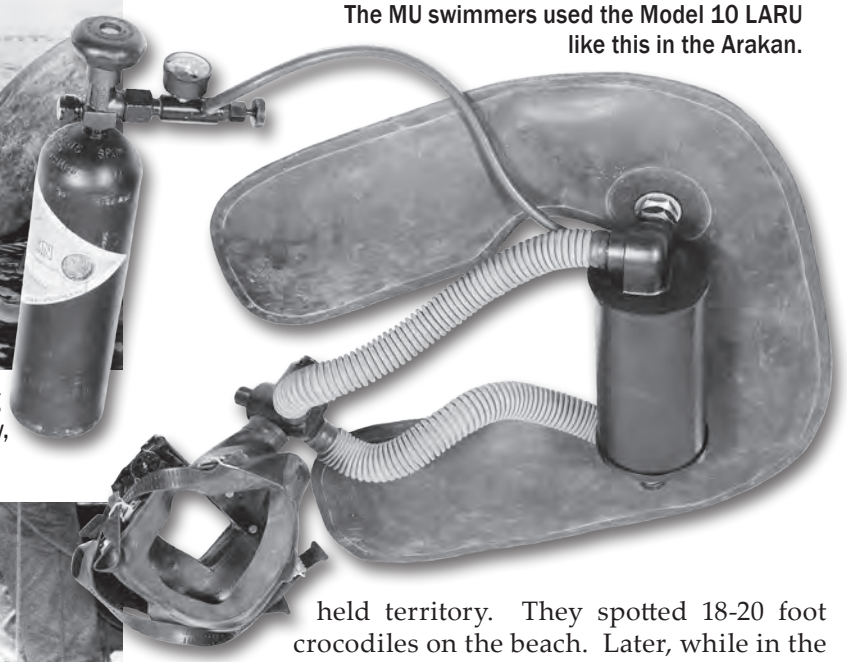


A refinement of the Mark I, the LARU Mark II was used in 1943. On this and subsequent models, the oxygen supply was moved to the front, and the air purification system at the rear was protected by a steel cage.



The Model 10 was the final LARU system used by OSS. It was less cumbersome than earlier models. 1LT Fred Wadley demonstrates this unit in late 1944. Unlike the earlier systems, the Model 10 had a waterproof compass mounted on the front by the gas cylinder.

A MU swimmer wearing a Model 10 LARU, training to breach anti-submarine nets at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 1944.



The MU swimmers used the Model 10 LARU like this in the Arakan.

1LT Walter L. Mess on the bridge of P-564.

At Kyaukpyu, P-564 had to be refueled from 55-gallon drums transported from shore in amphibious DUKW "ducks" because destroyed port facilities prevented the Air-Sea Rescue Boats from docking.

held territory. They spotted 18-20 foot crocodiles on the beach. Later, while in the water, "all of a sudden, a school of fish hit me, just all over, and I thought that one of those crocs got me. Those salt-water crocs are the most vicious in the world . . . I kind of sweated that one out."[13] The AFU leapfrogged down the coast against a stubbornly withdrawing enemy. It was mid-February 1945 when they reached Kyaukpyu, Burma. By then however, better equipment had finally reached the theater.

When the first MU boats arrived, they found Kyaukpyu's harbor conditions far from ideal. Several Coast Guard MU swimmers donned Lambertsen Units (LARUs) to search for Japanese mines and underwater obstacles. The port facilities had been destroyed. Underwater debris was everywhere. There were no docks from which to fuel the MU's Air-Sea-Rescue "P-Boats." That was accomplished by a dangerous procedure. Highly volatile aviation gasoline that had been transported from shore was hand-pumped from 55-gallon drums aboard amphibious trucks (DUKWs). It was a tedious but critical process. The boats had to be kept operational to assist the British.

When SEAC secured port areas previously held by the Japanese, they often found them unusable. Sunken craft and debris, the result of the effectiveness of Allied bombing, blocked access to the docks.

The plan for Operation BOSTON, a combined MU and OG operation, was finalized on 19 February 1945.[14] The British wanted a reconnaissance of Foul Island, located about 20 miles off the coast "because it was in the shipping lane," said CBM Eubank.[15] Because the P-boats always operated in pairs in enemy waters, P-101, under U.S. Navy LT(jg) Ralph N. Hubbard, and P-564, commanded by Army 1LT Walter L. Mess, were assigned to the mission.[16]

Older and better educated than most of the servicemen, Virginian Walter Mess possessed critical skills that served him well. He grew up sailing, earned several college degrees, and was an entrepreneur during the Depression who managed foreclosed properties in Washington DC.[17] That's where he learned leadership and personnel management and why he was made the Senior Officer Afloat of the MU's flotilla in the Arakan. Five combat missions before Operation BOSTON gave him and the P-564 crew time to develop standing operating procedures.[18]

A pre-operational checklist was mandatory. First, the twelve-man crew ventilated volatile aviation gasoline fumes from P-564. Then, they got the motors running. That was a chore "because the oil was so heavy that it had to be electrically heated for fifteen minutes before you could start the engines," said Mess.[19] Simultaneously, a crewman briefed the passengers. "We got them settled and put their stuff away below decks. We did not allow them (in) the engine room or the deck. They had to go below . . . and keep their mouths shut . . . They did not like it and wanted to wander around, but we could not contend with that," said Mess.[20] The P-564's crew was told not to talk to the passengers. "You have your job to do. You do it . . . we stayed away from them . . . There were no questions, ever. You did not know who they were, except to get their names into the log."[21] The P-564's medic treated the new arrivals differently.

He examined them all. "He'd want to know if anyone had any diseases . . . crabs or anything else. He did not want that on the boat." Once the passengers left, the crew had to contend with whatever diseases or infection the passengers might have brought aboard. He also issued a bucket to everyone. Mess preferred this way to handle seasickness because the buckets could be dropped overboard to be emptied and retrieved by their attached lanyard. "We did not want those unaccustomed to the rolling decks up top," Mess said. "One of our people would handle the bucket when it was brought up . . . It got to be routine once [the passengers] got used to the idea.[22] While the crew still had a lot to do, it proved to be the best solution.

P-564 was the most heavily-laden boat of the two on Operation BOSTON. It carried four kayaks, one LCR (Landing Craft, Rubber), and 18 additional OSSers, while the 63-foot P-101 carried 11 men and its crew.[23] P-564's crew stored the OG equipment forward, next to the two spare propeller shafts that weighed a ton apiece. Their relative immobility made them ideal stanchions to secure the equipment. "When you are running into the wind and going about 14 knots, you had a pretty good breeze. Things had to be tied down," said Mess.[24] The OGs were put in the larger crew's quarters in the forecastle, while the MU swimmers occupied the mate's quarters. Mess told them, "Go below decks and stay there until I allow

On Operation BOSTON, the crew of P-564 stored the MU's British kayaks at the bow of the boat, as shown here on Operation SOUTH DAKOTA.

The crew of P-564 ate, slept, and lived on the boat. Because of the close quarters, they had to screen any passenger for illness or "critters" lest the crew succumb to the same ailment.

Sgt Willard R. Floyd, a mechanic in P-564's engine room, cleans out one of the courtesy "comfort" buckets provided to the boat's passengers.

The OSS "Navy" in Burma

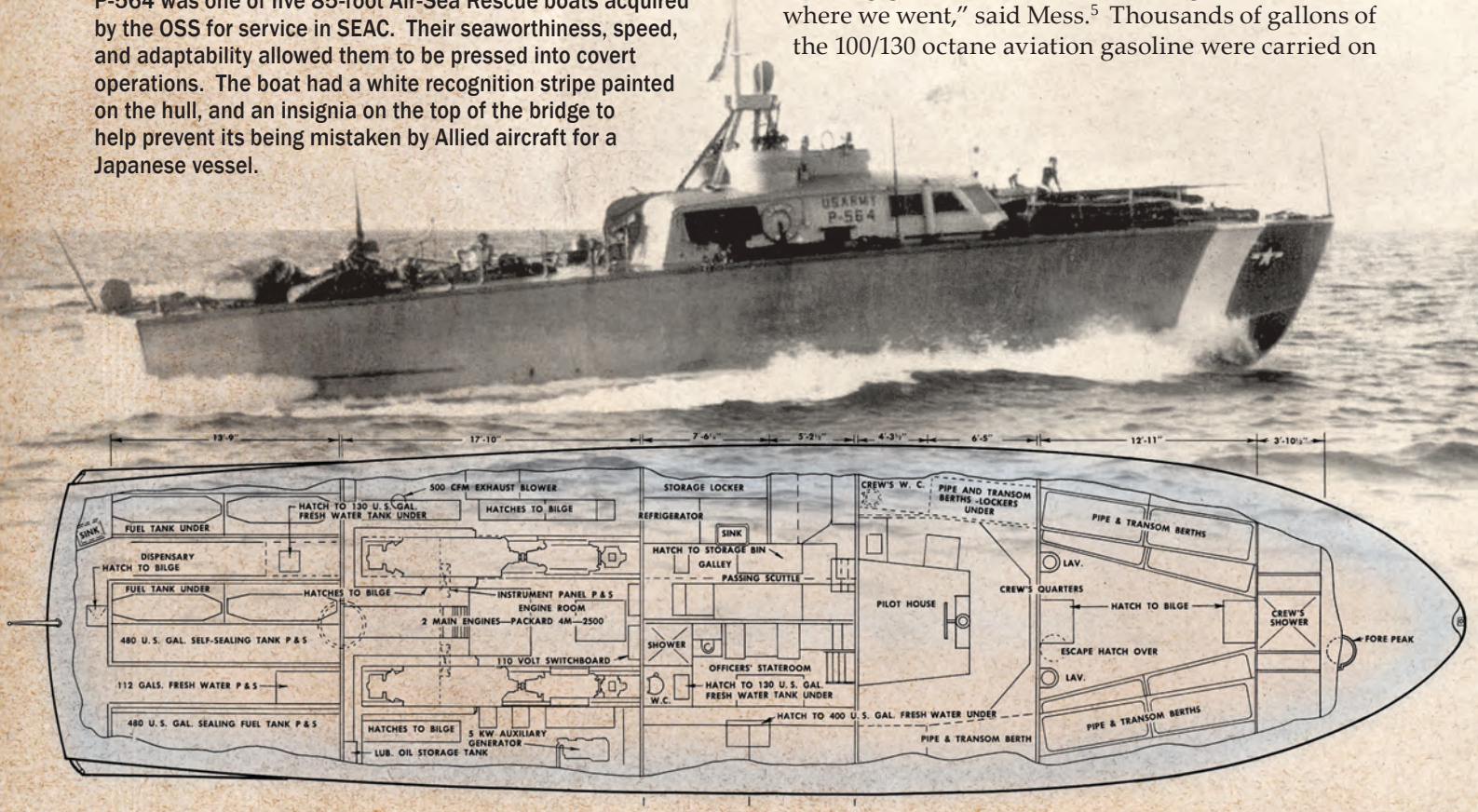
In April 1943, COL Carl F. Eifler, a former U.S. Customs Service officer commanding OSS Detachment 101, requested a fast speedboat like those used by liquor smugglers during Prohibition. It was to conduct reconnaissance and to insert and recover small contingents of OSS swimmers, operators, and agents.[1] The solution to OSS Washington was the U.S. Army Air Force's Air-Sea Rescue or "crash" Boats that came in several lengths. P-564 was one of five 85-foot OSS boats used in the Far East.[2] The boat was nicknamed the *Jeanie* for the wife of its captain, First Lieutenant (1LT) Walter L. Mess. Although the OSS boat crews came from all services, those on P-564 were all Army.[3] The boat had four men in the engine room: a Chief Engineer, Assistant Engineer, and two Sergeants. There were three below decks: a medic, cook, and radioman. On deck there was a deckhand, a boatswain's mate, and the captain. Every crewman was cross-trained, but also part of a well-integrated team. "Everyone had a job to do," said Mess.[4]

Coded orders were received on P-564's Hallicrafters radios. They were powered by a separate 10kw generator, but could also operate off a bank of batteries for 14 hours if necessary. The crew tried to keep the batteries fully charged at all times. The radio was a navigation tool as well, augmenting the sextant and stars. The radioman monitored a frequency that beeped at exactly 1600 hours. Everyone's watches were synchronized to the beep, critical when navigating by compass, speed and time alone. Most importantly, P-564 was designed to be fast.

Skipper Walter L. Mess named P-564 after his wife, Jeanie, holding their daughter, Jean.

It had twin supercharged 1550 horsepower Rolls Royce engines license-built by Packard. Each engine burned 110 gallons per hour at the 14-15 knots cruising speed [17 miles per hour]. Consumption was exponentially higher at "full bore." "I once clocked P-564 at 52-53 knots [62 miles per hour]," recalled Mess. The boat carried less than 4,000 gallons in its internal tanks, limiting its "official range" to 600 nautical miles. By using the wind and currents, and occasionally running on one motor to conserve fuel, Mess could extend the range to 800 miles. Often, this was not enough for a round trip. On long-range operations, P-564 was little more than a floating gas tank. "There were no gasoline stations where we went," said Mess.[5] Thousands of gallons of the 100/130 octane aviation gasoline were carried on

P-564 was one of five 85-foot Air-Sea Rescue boats acquired by the OSS for service in SEAC. Their seaworthiness, speed, and adaptability allowed them to be pressed into covert operations. The boat had a white recognition stripe painted on the hull, and an insignia on the top of the bridge to help prevent its being mistaken by Allied aircraft for a Japanese vessel.



U.S. Army Air Force Air-Sea Rescue Boat Inboard Plan and Profile: Weight - 102,000 pounds,

The crew of P-564. Back, from left to right: M/Sgt Earl L. Williams, Cpl Joseph P. Jones, S/Sgt Lester H. Linville, T/5 Joseph E. Viola. Front, left to right: Sgt Willard R. Floyd, T/Sgt Harry F. Johnson, 2LT John A. Swayze, 1LT Walter L. Mess, WOJG James H. Flynn, Sgt Benjamin W. Brunaugh, T/Sgt Louis K. Woodland, and Cpl Robert L. Philpott.

P-564's main armament was a 20 mm Oerlikon cannon, mounted at the stern. Operational equipment, such as the LCR in this photograph, was also stowed there.

deck in 55-gallon drums. "We would load up the boat just about to the point that she would sink," chuckled Mess. "And, no one smoked on my boat."[6] The reality was that "a single incendiary bullet would convert one of these craft into a 70-ton funeral pyre for all hands on board."[7] The boat also had other special modifications for clandestine missions.

Since its high performance motors were loud, special valves routed the exhaust underwater and the engine compartment was enclosed in eight inches of insulation. Although not completely silent, these modifications muffled the sound considerably. "At night a person would have to be within 10 feet of the boat to hear it," reflected Mess.[8] The boat had another surprise. Although not designed for combat—the boat's hull was only 1 1/2 inch plywood—P-564 had several crew-served weapons. The heaviest was a 20 mm Oerlikon automatic cannon mounted on the stern. Each side of P-564 had a gun tub with twin .50 caliber M2 machineguns. P-564 could defend itself and support an endangered MU force if necessary. P-564 with 1LT Mess as captain completed six operations.

Endnotes

1 COL Carl F. Eifler to BG William J. Donovan, "Detailed Report of My Activities Covering the Period December 26, 1942 to Date," 6 April 1943, F 49, B 39, E 190, RG 226, NARA. For more on the 85-foot boats, see the original manual, T.O. NO. 19-85AB-1, "Handbook of Instructions for 85-Foot AAF Rescue Boats," 1 February 1945.

2 LCDR Kenneth M. Pier to LT Guy Martin, "Maritime Capabilities and Requirements," 6 December 1944, Box 1, Folder "Arakan Operation," Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

3 Until established as a separate service by the National Defense Act of 1947, the Air Force belonged to the Army. This meant that in WWII, the Army had part responsibility for rescuing pilots that were downed at sea. The P-564 started its journey from New York in September 1944. Maj. Alfred M. Lichtman to LTC Richard P. Heppner, "MUSEAC #12," 13 September 1944, B91, E 133, RG 226, NARA.

4 Walter Mess, interview by Dr. Troy J. Sacquety, 24 March 2008, Falls Church, VA, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

5 Walter Mess, telephone interview by Dr. Troy J. Sacquety, Fort Bragg, NC, notes, 5 January 2009.

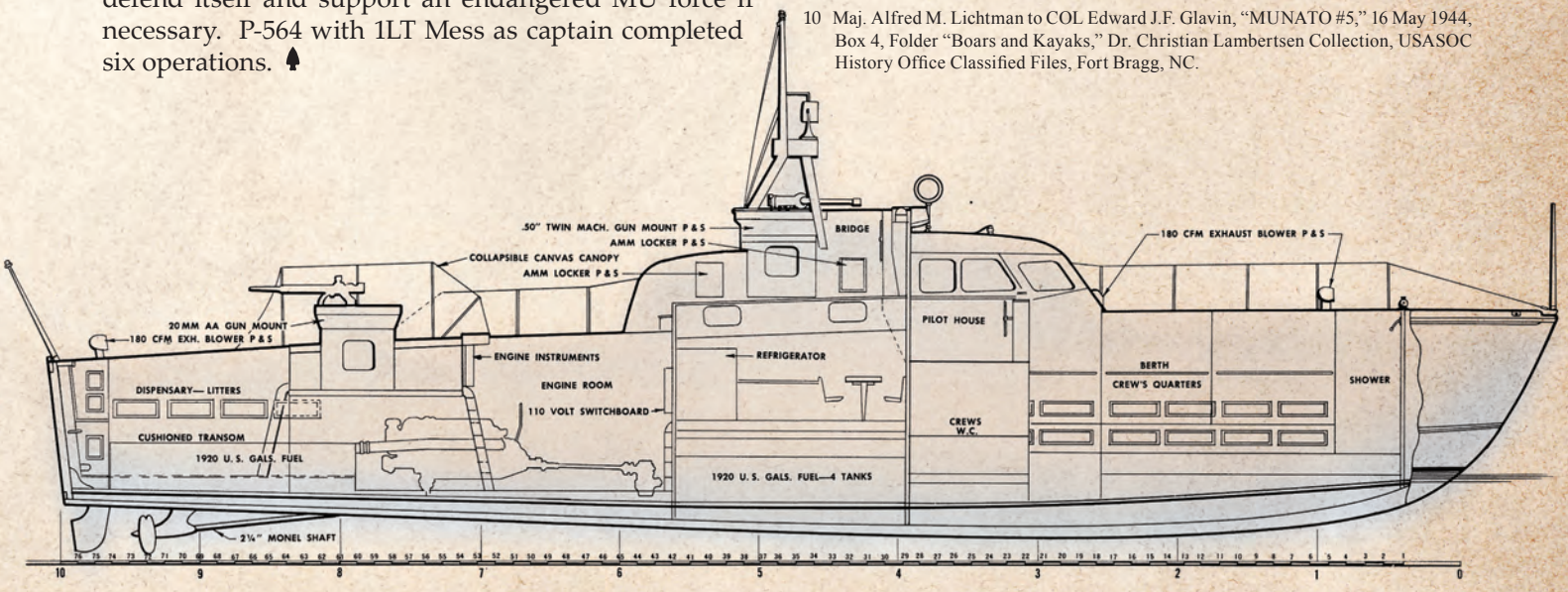
6 Walter Mess, interview, 24 March 2008.

7 "AFU DET 101 and the Arakan Campaign," [May 1945], F 76, B 43, E 190, RG 226, National Archives and Records Administration.

8 Mess interview, 5 January 2009.

9 LCDR Kenneth M. Pier to LT Guy Martin, "Maritime Capabilities and Requirements," 6 December 1944, Box 1, Folder "Arakan Operation," Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

10 Maj. Alfred M. Lichtman to COL Edward J.F. Glavin, "MUNATO #5," 16 May 1944, Box 4, Folder "Boars and Kayaks," Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.



Length - 85 feet, Beam - 20 feet, Draft - 6 feet, Internal Fuel Capacity - 3840 gallons, Cost - $200,000.

When allowed on deck of P-564, non-crew members were to stay in the small area behind the bridge. On the bridge, one man is at the wheel while another keeps watch.

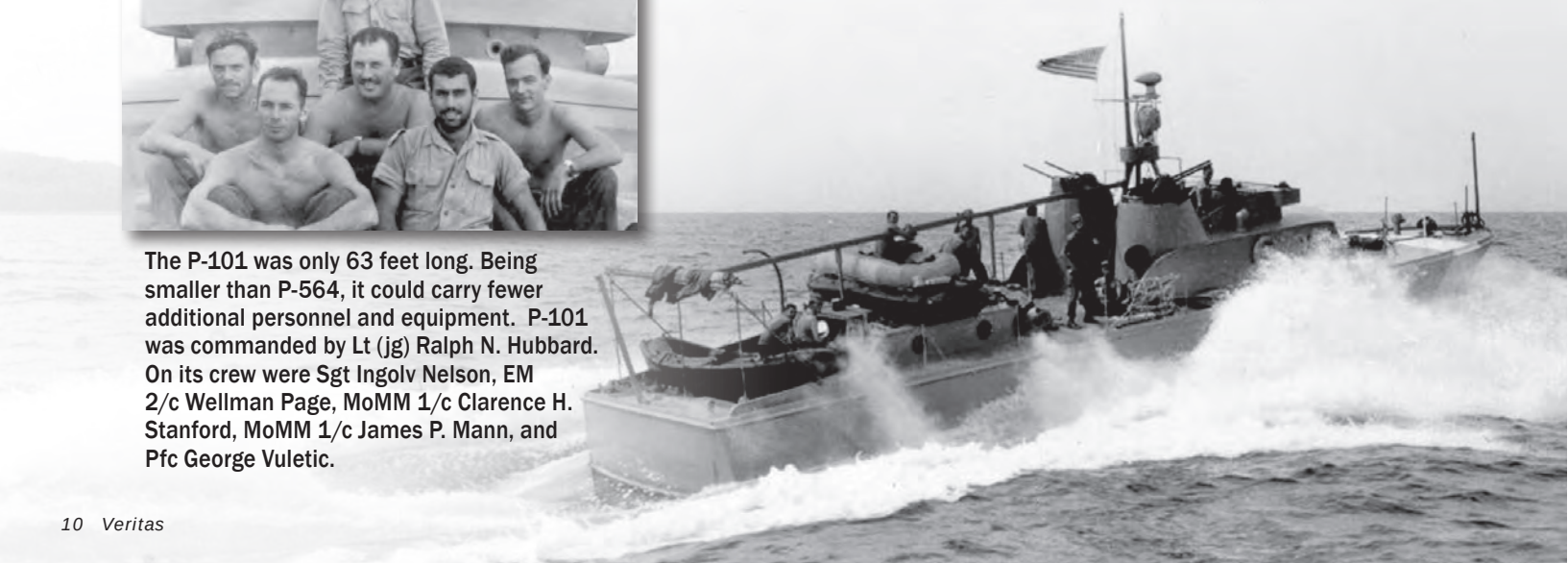
you to come up and eat." When up on deck, they were confined to the open area amidships behind the bridge. "They could visit, get some air, (and) see what was going on. It might be night; it might be day, depending on what I thought was best," said Mess. The only rules were: "No smoking;" and to "stay away from us," chuckled Mess.[25] Often passengers outranked Mess and "misunderstood who was going to be the boss" on the boat. Just like an airplane or helicopter pilot today, he was in charge onboard the vessel. All passengers obeyed the ship captain's orders.[26] The passengers had to follow orders because the crew was fully engaged operating the boat.

Managing fuel consumption was a critical task. "The object was to save gas so we could make it back home," related Mess. Sometimes the boat was run on one engine. Gasoline from the 55-gallon drums on deck was used first. A garden hose was used to siphon the gas into the internal tanks. Empty drums were thrown overboard and a crewman shot them full of holes. "Every one of those things that we put overboard, we sank," said Mess.[27] "We had to take advantage of the wind and tides . . . That's why the tide tables were so important," the P-564 captain explained.[28] Crewmen always had to be alert.

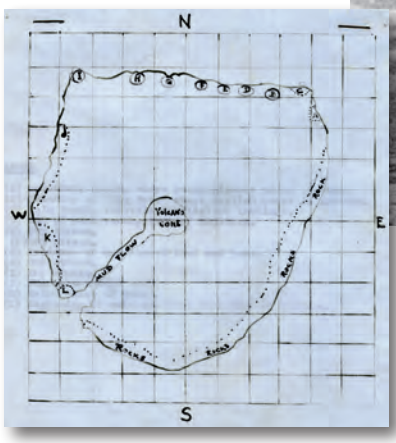
Although the voyages were stressful, the "crew did things automatically without a lot of yelling or talking. They knew what their jobs were. We [were] a team, and that's what made it successful." said Mess. [29] To keep alert and the boat safe, helmsmen rotated every three hours and a lookout was continuously posted to watch for obstacles forward. The hatch to the engine room in the stern, was always open for the wind to "cool the (crewmen) and keep them happy."[30] Then the crew tried to ensure that their passengers were comfortable. "The whole idea was to handle them, keep them in order, keep them fresh with plenty of sleep, food, water and everything else . . . all this time they are preparing weapons or whatever they had to do," remembered Mess.[31] Coordinating the effort required the full attention of Mess. "I might nap in the chartroom . . . but that would be it. When she was underway, I would be there all the time. You get used to it."[32] Eight hours later, the two boats had Foul Island on the horizon.

Although aerial photographs indicated that the island was unoccupied, P-564 and P-101 waited until dark to approach.[33] P-564's crew readied the swimmers' four kayaks. With an A-frame on the stern, they "swung the [boat] up on it, brought it overboard, and brought it around the side," said Mess.[34] Then they waited until 0045 for the swimmers to return. When they did, the men reported having seen no sign of the Japanese.[35] It was time for the OGs to go in for a more thorough reconnaissance.

The P-101 was only 63 feet long. Being smaller than P-564, it could carry fewer additional personnel and equipment. P-101 was commanded by Lt (jg) Ralph N. Hubbard. On its crew were Sgt Ingolv Nelson, EM 2/c Wellman Page, MoMM 1/c Clarence H. Stanford, MoMM 1/c James P. Mann, and Pfc George Vuletic.



The landing beach at Foul Island. Barely visible are range markers laid out by the MU swimmers.



The environmental and cartographic intelligence of Foul Island gathered by Operation BOSTON was disseminated by the OSS to SEAC. Aerial reconnaissance photos indicated that Foul Island was unoccupied. The OSS mission on Operation BOSTON was to verify that assumption.

Area of Operations of the Arakan Field Unit.

The OG force was led by Army 1LT Louis A. O'Jibway. They left the P-boats at 5 a.m. in three rubber boats: two 7-man LCRs and a 2-man LCR.[36] O'Jibway's 7-man LCR landed first and provided security while the others came ashore. Then, O'Jibway divided his force. Sergeant (Sgt) Thompson, Corporals (Cpls) Starkey, Armer, Devereaux, and Private First Class (Pfcs) Kostrevic and Hess, stayed on the beach under the command of Master Sergeant (M/Sgt) Zimmerman. They had an SCR-300 radio to contact P-564. 1LT O'Jibway and his team headed to the north, but after 400 yards, they stopped to wait for daylight because it was so dark. At 6 a.m., 1LT O'Jibway sent Staff Sergeant (S/Sgt) Krueger and four men to reconnoiter the island's north side. O'Jibway and two men returned to the beachhead for two others, and then checked the south

1LT Louis A. O'Jibway, on right, led the OG mission to Foul Island. A native American, he was known to many simply as "Jib."

side. They climbed the volcano on Foul Island and noted its geologic features.

While the OGs reconnoitered the interior, Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade John E. Babb and Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Herman L. Becker kayaked to shore to take beach sand samples.[37] Everyone was back aboard the P-boats by 0935.[38] Mess gave the swimmers and OGs freshwater to clean their weapons afterwards.[39] One of the most memorable aspects of the operation was the panoramic photography of the island taken from the deck of P-564.

Mess described how that was accomplished: "We practiced on Ceylon . . . to figure out how to get photographs of shorelines." The best way was to take the charts and figure out where there was enough water depth to allow circumnavigation of an island from a similar distance without running aground. The photographers steadied the cameras on the boat's .50 caliber "gun tubs." P-564 idled at 6 to 8 knots. Cruising at the same speed and distance from Foul Island, it was a simple matter for the photographers to periodically snap their Leica cameras.[40] The only trick was it had to be done at "slack tide" because P-564 would have been pushed around by the incoming or outgoing tides. A slack tide at either flood or ebb allowed the boat to remain relatively stationary with the currents around the island.[41] Mission accomplished, the two boats headed back to Kyaukpyu, eight hours away. But what had the MU and OG teams found out?

U.S. Coastguardmen LT (jg) John P. Booth and CBM James R. Eubank had been the first OSS personnel on Foul Island. They returned to the island the next day by donning fins and swimming to the island.

Lieutenant John E. Babb, USN, and Chief Petty Officer Herman J. Becker, USCG, kayaked to the island after the OGs landed to gather beach samples. Seen here returning to P-564, they are using a British kayak because the OSS versions failed to arrive in the Arakan.

First Mate WOJG Flynn and 1LT Mess relax as they wait for the shore parties to return.

Once the mission was complete, the boats left at top speed. The cameraman on board P-564 captured P-101 in his last shot of the island.

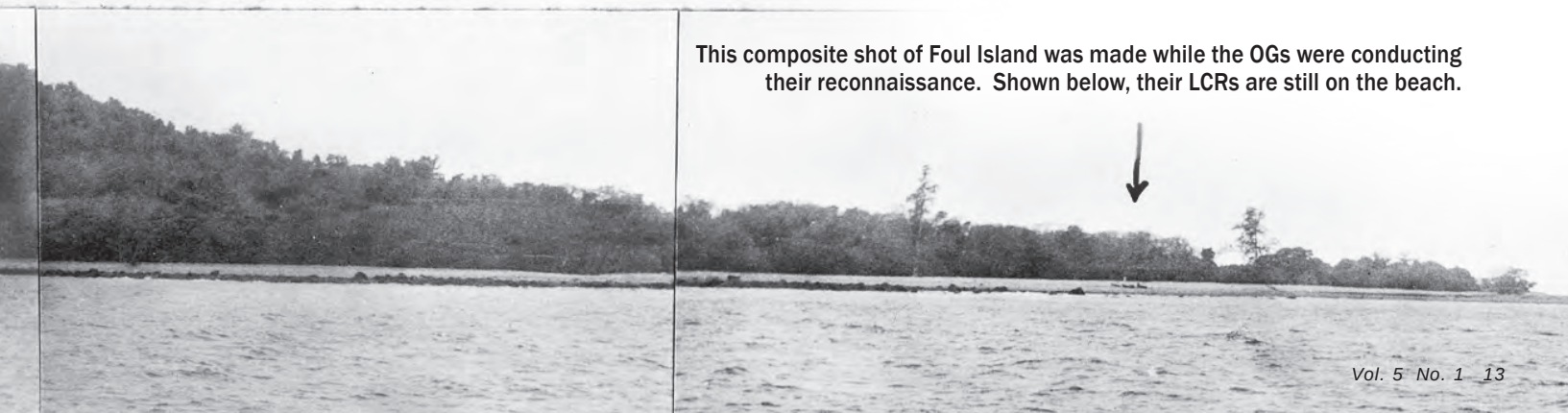
The primary signs of human life that the MU and OG teams found on Foul Island were not Japanese, but British. At the base of this tree was an emergency cache of supplies for downed pilots.

The mission confirmed that the island was not in enemy hands. This was vital to the SEAC's invasion plan for Rangoon in May. The OSS mission explained why the Japanese were not on Foul Island; it had little military value other than as a temporary coast watching station. There were no food sources other than a few coconut palms and fish, and no fresh water. An outpost would have to be resupplied regularly, which was difficult for the Japanese then. Geographic and hydrologic data was reported to SEAC.[42] The only evidence of the Japanese were several old ship mines that had washed up on shore, and an abandoned Burmese fishing camp. Interestingly, the most visible sign of human activity was British. They found an emergency British supply cache buried at the base of a tree. Booth said, "apparently the British had to know about [it] but they never told us. That's how good the communication was."[43]

But, the mission was a success. As Booth recalled years later, "We weren't there to start a firefight, we were there to get information." [44] Now, MU boats did not have to avoid Foul Island on future missions.[45] Operation BOSTON was Mess's and P-564's last. Because additional OSS P-Boats had arrived in SEAC, P-564 was ordered to Calcutta to undergo maintenance. Soon however, the entire P-Boat fleet was withdrawn from the Arakan Coast in anticipation of the upcoming monsoon season, and returned to their permanent base at "Dead Man's Cove" outside Trincomalee Harbor, Ceylon.[46] The success of Allied operations in Burma meant that the fleet was disbanded in mid-June after Rangoon's liberation.[47] As for his experiences as the skipper of P-564, Mess shrugs it off by saying "I was just a taxi driver." [48]

1LT O'Jibway and his party surveyed the south side of the island by crossing the flow of the island's mud volcano, shown below.

This composite shot of Foul Island was made while the OGs were conducting their reconnaissance. Shown below, their LCRs are still on the beach.



After the SEAC-based Maritime Unit was dissolved in mid-June, 1LT Mess was assigned as a door "kicker." He helped supply a budding OSS-trained guerrilla movement in Thailand.

Thank You

I would like to thank OSS MU veterans Walter Mess and Dr. Christian Lambertsen for their extensive help with this article. A thank you is also extended to Ms. Virginia Stanford, widow of P-101 veteran Clarence Stanford, and LCDR Michael E. Bennett, USCG. Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues Pedro Felliciano, Earl Moniz, Laura Goddard, and Alejandro Lujan, Chief Archivist at the USAJFKSWCS Archives, Fort Bragg, NC, for going out of their way to provide assistance.

Troy J. Sacquety earned an MA from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and his PhD in Military History from Texas A&M University. Prior to joining the USASOC History Office staff he worked several years for the Central Intelligence Agency. Current research interests include Army and Office of Strategic Services (OSS) special operations during World War II, and Special Operations units in Vietnam.

Endnotes

1 LCDR Derek Lee and LT John E. Babb to LTC Harry Berno, "Report on Operation "BOSTON" (Reconnaissance of Foul Island), 21 February 1945, F 2141, B 118, E 154, RG 226, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).;also in Box 1, Folder "Maritime Units in the Arakan," LCDR Derek A. Lee "Report of Proceeding," [late February 1945], Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. Also see Box 1, Folder "Misc Mission Reports from SE Asia," Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

2 Kermit Roosevelt, *The War Report of the OSS* (New York: Walker and Company, 1976), 223-224.

3 Unlike what would be done for the Norwegian, Italian, French, Greek, German or Yugoslav OGS, there was no Burmese community in the United States to speak of to provide a pool of recruits.

4 "Office of Strategic Services Maritime Unit: A History," (*The Blast*, 1st Quarter 2000), 16-17.

5 Roosevelt, *The War Report*, 81; 226.

6 Charles F. Romanus and Riley Sunderland, *Stilwell's Mission to China* (Washington DC: Center of Military History, 1970), 364.

7 Kermit Roosevelt, *The Overseas Targets: The War Report of the OSS Volume II* (Washington DC: Carrollton Press, 1976), 393.

After Operation BOSTON, P-564 was withdrawn to Calcutta, India for repairs. It had to be put in drydock so that the hull could be dried out and inspected.

8 Dr. Christian Lambertsen interview by Dr. Troy J. Sacquety, Philadelphia, PA, 25 September 2007, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files.

9 Maritime Unit Arakan, [June 1945], F 13, B 549, E 92, RG 226, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

10 Charles F. Romanus and Riley Sunderland, *Stilwell's Command Problems* (Washington DC: Center of Military History, 1987), 468-469.

11 Kermit Roosevelt, *The Overseas Targets: The War Report of the OSS Volume II* (Washington DC: Carrollton Press, 1976), 364.

12 LTC William R. Peers to MG William J. Donovan, "Report Covering Period 1 February to 29 February, 1944, inclusive," 29 February 1944, F 52, B 39, E 190, RG 226, NARA.

13 John P. Booth and James R. Eubank interview by Dr. Joseph Fischer, March 1998, ARSOF Archives, JFK Special Warfare Museum, Fort Bragg, NC.

14 The OSS created a new command structure for SEAC when MG Donovan flew to New Delhi, India, in November 1943 to meet with Vice Admiral Mountbatten. They set up "P" Division, a joint supervisory panel that deconflicted both British and American clandestine operations in the region. As the P Division coordinator for north Burma, Colonel (COL) William R. Peers retained autonomy of Detachment 101's operations. Operation BOSTON was cleared by P Division on 16 February. Moscrip to Farr, Priority Cable, 16 February 1945, F 2482, B 141, E 154, RG 226, NARA.

15 Booth and Eubank interview, March 1998; Operation "BOSTON" Operation Order and "Questionnaire No. 20 Foul Island, [19 February 1945], Box 1, Folder "Misc Mission Reports from SE Asia," Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

16 Maritime Unit Arakan, [June 1945], F 13, B 549, E 92, RG 226, NARA.

17 Mess earned a BA from George Washington University, MBA from Temple University, and a LLB, MA, and Doctor of Laws from Catholic University.

18 Maritime Unit Arakan, [June 1945], F 13, B 549, E 92, RG 226, NARA. The P-564 had been involved in Operations CLEVELAND (25-26 January 1945) , TARGET (1-2 February), SNATCH (6 February), NORTH CAROLINA (11-13 February), and SOUTH DAKOTA (16 February). It is a testament to the crew that the boat was able to function reliably throughout the entire period.

19 Walter Mess part I, interview by Dr. Troy J. Sacquety, 24 March 2008, Falls Church, VA, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

20 Mess part I interview, 24 March 2008.

21 Walter Mess part II, interview by Dr. Troy J. Sacquety, 24 March 2008, Falls Church, VA, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

22 Mess part I interview, 24 March 2008.

23 Operation "Boston" Operation Order, 19 February 1945, Box 1, Folder "Misc Mission Reports from SE Asia," Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

24 Mess part II interview, 24 March 2008.

25 Mess part II interview, 24 March 2008.

26 Mess part I interview, 24 March 2008.

27 Mess part II interview, 24 March 2008.

28 Mess part I interview, 24 March 2008.

29 Mess part II interview, 24 March 2008.

30 Mess part II interview, 24 March 2008.

31 Mess part II interview, 24 March 2008.

32 Mess part II interview, 24 March 2008.

33 Mess part I interview, 24 March 2008.

34 Mess part II interview, 24 March 2008.

35 LCDR Derek A. Lee "Report of Proceeding," [late February 1945], Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. Also see Box 1, Folder "Misc Mission Reports from SE Asia," Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

36 LT Louis A. O'Jibway, "Operation "RUGBY," [22 February 1945], Box 1, Folder "Misc Mission Reports from SE Asia," Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. Operation RUGBY was the OG part of Operation BOSTON.

37 LCDR Derek A. Lee "Report of Proceeding," [late February 1945], Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. Also see Box 1, Folder "Misc Mission Reports from SE Asia," Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

38 LT Louis A. O'Jibway, "Operation "RUGBY," [22 February 1945] , Box 1, Folder "Misc Mission Reports from SE Asia," Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

39 Mess part II interview, 24 March 2008.

40 Mess part I interview, 24 March 2008; The photographers were Captain T. Johnson (Army-OG), Lieutenant John E. Babb (MU-USN) and Lieutenant Commander Derek A Lee (MU-Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve). The OSS Field Photo Branch opted not to cooperate. LCDR Derek A. Lee "Report of Proceeding," [late February 1945], Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

41 Mess part II interview, 24 March 2008.

42 LT John E. Babb, "Answers to Questionnaire No. 20 on Foul Island," 22 February 1945, Box 1, Folder "Maritime Units in the Arakan," Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

43 Booth and Eubank interview, March 1998.

44 Booth and Eubank interview, March 1998.

45 MU used Foul Island as a temporary "harbor" when they dropped off indigenous agents in Operations AKRON I-III on 21-22 March 1945.

46 LCDR Kenneth M. Pier, "M.U. Plans," 10 May 1945, Box 3, Folder Misc Notes on Use of MU in Arakan," Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. Also see Box 1, Folder "Misc Mission Reports from SE Asia," Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

47 Coughlin to Hunter, radio transcript 140, 11 June 1945, Box 5, Folder "MU Program," Dr. Christian Lambertsen Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. The entire MU in SEAC was also disbanded at the same time.

48 Mess part I interview, 5 January 2009.

BEYOND THE BEACH

The 2nd Rangers Fight Through Europe

by Robert W. Jones, Jr.

Under the cover of a sunken road near a cemetery, two companies of Rangers waited to begin the assault. The bitter cold of the winter morning clung to them like a blanket. The Rangers faced a daunting task, assault across the open snow-covered field, protected by dug in German positions, and then climb the steep slopes of Hill 400. The "Castle Hill" seemed impossible; several other units had already tried and failed. It was 7 December 1944 and the 2nd Ranger Battalion, like the 5th Rangers, had been fighting in Europe since 6 June 1944.[1]

The exploits of the Rangers at Pointe du Hoc and Omaha Beach at Normandy are well known. Few people realize that the 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions fought in Europe until May 1945 ("V-E Day"). While their combat history began on D-Day, the two battalions fought across France, in the Hürtgen Forest, and then through Germany, and were part of the Army of Occupation after May 1945. Although separate and distinct, the histories of the 2nd and 5th Rangers were linked together for most of World War II.

Both battalions were created for one mission, to lead the invasion of Europe. Both trained in England for specific D-Day objectives. The successes at Normandy led to their retention in theater to serve as "fire brigades." They were usually attached to a Corps and then attached to fight with a division.

The six Ranger battalions that fought in World War II were not a homogeneous unit with a senior command and control structure. The six Ranger Infantry battalions fell into three separate operational "spheres" – William O. Darby (the Mediterranean), James E. Rudder (Europe), and Henry Mucci (the Southwest Pacific). While all were organized in a similar fashion, each "sphere" had its own history.[2] Two previous articles in *Veritas* covered the Rangers in the Mediterranean Theater (North Africa, Sicily, and Italy).[3] This article explains the origins and combat operations of the 2nd Ranger Battalion in Europe, particularly after D-Day. A future article will explain the origins and combat operations of the 5th Ranger Battalion.

The 2nd Ranger Battalion was activated on 1 April 1943 at Camp Nathan Bedford Forrest, outside of Tullahoma, Tennessee. During the spring of 1943 volunteers from units throughout the United States assembled there to form the new unit. The well-publicized exploits of Lieutenant Colonel William O. Darby's Rangers in North Africa increased the number of volunteers. Many of them had attended the popular two-week "Ranger" courses conducted by the Armies in the United States after the invasion of North Africa. Others saw it as a way to get overseas sooner.

One such Ranger volunteer was Sergeant Herman Stein. After finishing training with the 76th Infantry Division, he had been assigned to Fort Meade, Maryland as a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) and machinegun instructor to train replacements, while the rest of the unit went to England. After a few months he was ready to get into the war, "My first attempt to get out [of Meade] was to join the ParaTroopers [sic]. This failed, so when the call came in March [1943] for a brand new spangled outfit called the Rangers – that was it." SGT Stein was accepted.[4]

Another 76th Infantry man, First Sergeant (1SG) Leonard Lomell had completed the Second Army two-week Ranger course. While eager to join the Rangers, he did not want to lose his rank by transferring to the new unit. Only 60 of 200 had graduated from his Ranger class. Coincidentally this was roughly the size of a Ranger company. The 20-year-old First Sergeant boldly proposed to bring an entire company of Ranger-trained soldiers from the 76th Infantry Division.[5] His gamble worked, "On or about April 1st, 1943, I took with me, from the 76th Division, one whole Ranger Company," said Leonard

During World War II Camp Nathan Bedford Forrest, located near Tullahoma, Tennessee, grew from a small National Guard training site to one of the Army's largest training bases. The camp was a major training area for infantry, artillery, engineer, and signal units. It also became a temporary camp for troops during maneuvers, including Major General George S. Patton's 2nd Armored Division, "Hell on Wheels," and the Tennessee Maneuvers in 1944. Camp Forrest was also the birthplace of the 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions.

At Fort Dix the 2nd Ranger Battalion received its own distinctive shoulder patch. At Camp Forrest they had worn the Second Army patch. The new insignia was a horizontal blue diamond, bordered in gold with the word "RANGERS" in gold, inside. As Colonel Robert Black notes, no one had bothered to ask the 1st Ranger Battalion about its insignia. The 2nd and the 5th Rangers would wear the blue diamond Ranger Patch until September 1944. Then the Rangers adopted the scroll, based on Darby's Rangers.[19]

The 2nd Army SSI with early version of the Ranger Tab worn below the Army patch.

The Blue Ranger Diamond SSI

The 2nd Ranger Battalion Scroll

"Darby's Rangers"

Major William Orlando Darby formed the 1st Ranger Infantry Battalion on 19 June 1942, at Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland, twenty miles north of Belfast.[1] After spending three months at the British Commando Center in Scotland, the 1st Ranger Battalion boarded ships to lead the Allied invasion of North Africa in November 1942 – Operation TORCH. The 1st Rangers seized the Algerian port of Arzew on the night of 8 November 1942.[2]

From November 1942 to March 1943 the 1st Ranger Battalion, attached to the II Corps conducted several highly successful operations. They raided Italian and German positions throughout Tunisia.[3] Perhaps the most successful was to seize the pass at Djebel el Ank and the high ground at El Guettar.

Darby wrote that "with El Guettar in hand, General [Terry de la Mesa] Allen [the 1st Infantry Division commander] could develop his plan of attack against the heights to the east and southeast. The pass at Djebel el Ank had to be taken first in order to anchor the division's left flank." [4] On 20 March 1943, the 1st Ranger Battalion, with mortars and engineers attached, force-marched ten miles at night across mountains. Just before dawn, the Rangers swarmed down into the enemy defensive positions from the rear completely surprising the Italians. The capture of Djebel el Ank and El Guettar enabled Lieutenant General George S. Patton's II Corps to attack Tunisia. The 1st Ranger Battalion received its first Presidential Unit Citation for these battles and Lieutenant Colonel Darby was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.[5]

Based on the successes of the 1st Ranger Battalion in North Africa, LTC Darby was directed to form two additional Ranger battalions. With 1st Battalion cadre, the 3rd and 4th Ranger Battalions were activated at Nemours, Algeria, in April 1943.[6] The new units received hundreds of combat-tested soldiers from Seventh Army units. Major Herman Dammer assumed command of the 3rd Battalion, Major Roy Murray the 4th Battalion, and Darby remained as the 1st Battalion commander. Darby was, in effect, the commander of what became known as the "Darby Ranger Force."

The 1st Ranger Battalion Scroll

The Rangers took part in the invasion of Sicily and in three major campaigns in Italy. They led the amphibious landing near Salerno, on 9 September 1943, and then captured and defended the Chiunzi Pass. After spearheading the Allied drive on Naples, the Rangers fought as line infantry on the mountainous German Winter Line. The battered Ranger battalions were pulled off the line to prepare for the amphibious landing at Anzio on 22 January 1944.

The provisional Darby Ranger Force was decimated eight days later at Cisterna di Littoria (Cisterna). While ordered to lead a breakout attack from the Anzio beachhead, the 1st and 3rd Ranger Battalions ran headlong into a major enemy counterattack. In the ensuing combat only eight Rangers made their way back to American lines. The two battalions suffered 12 killed, 36 wounded, and 743 captured.[7] Among those killed in action (KIA) was the 3rd Battalion commander, Major Alvah Miller and the 1st Battalion commander, Major John Dobson, was badly wounded. The 4th Battalion suffered 30 killed and 58 wounded as they attempted to fight their way to the trapped battalions.[8] Intelligence afterwards revealed that the Ranger attack at Cisterna thwarted the planned German counterattack. The cost was extremely high for the Rangers. The battle of Cisterna was the death knell for the Ranger units in the Mediterranean Theater.[9] Many of the surviving Rangers were transferred to the First Special Service Force.

Endnotes

1 William O. Darby and William H. Baumer, *Darby's Rangers: We Led the Way* (San Rafael, CA: Presidio Press, 1980), 24-25; General Orders 7, United States Army Northern Ireland Force, 19 June 1942, USAJFKSWCS Archives, Fort Bragg, NC; Robert W. Black, *Rangers in World War II* (New York: Presidio Press, 1992), 3; Lucian K. Truscott Jr., *Command Missions: A Personal Story* (New York: Arno Press, 1979), 22–23, 37–38.

2 Darby and Baumer, *Darby's Rangers*, 17–18; David W. Hogan Jr., *U.S. Army Special Operations in World War II* (Washington, DC: Center of Military History, 1992), 24; Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 52.

3 Darby and Baumer, *Darby's Rangers*, 55–60; Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 64–65; Hogan, *U.S. Army Special Operations in World War II*, 24; Murray interview; David W. Hogan, *Raiders or Elite Infantry: The Changing Role of the U.S. Army Rangers from Dieppe to Grenada*, (Westport CT, Greenwood Press, 1992), 24.

4 Darby and Baumer, *Darby's Rangers*, 69.

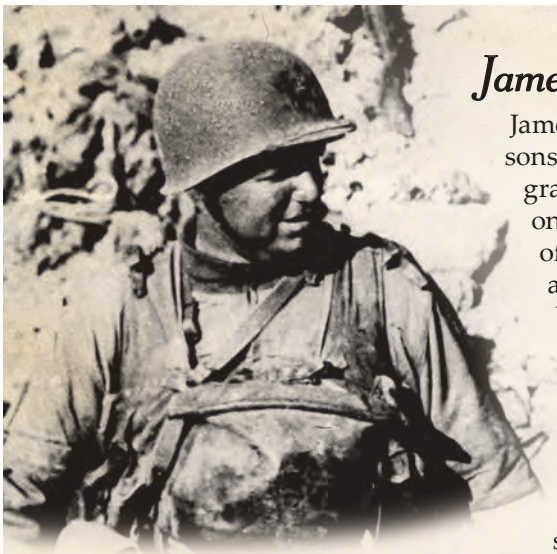
5 James J. Altieri, *The Spearheaders* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1960), 242; Hogan, *Raiders or Elite Infantry*, 26; Darby and Baumer, *Darby's Rangers*, 70–72; Michael J. King, *Rangers: Selected Combat Operations in World War II* (Fort Leavenworth, KS: Combat Studies Institute, 1985), 18–20.

6 James J. Altieri, 1st and 4th Ranger Battalions, interview by Linda Thompson and Sergeant Martello, 18 May 1993, Fort Bragg, NC, interview transcript, ARSOF Archives, Fort Bragg, NC; Colonel (Retired) Roy Murray, 1st and 4th Ranger Battalions, interview by William Steele, 23 January 1997, El Paso, TX, interview transcript, ARSOF Archives, Fort Bragg, NC.

7 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 165.

8 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 165.

9 Hogan, *Raiders or Elite Infantry*, 60; Truscott, *Command Missions*, 252.



James Earl Rudder

James Earl Rudder, born in Eden, Texas, on 6 May 1910, was one of six sons. His father was a prosperous farmer and cattle broker. Rudder graduated from Texas A&M College in 1932 where he had been center on the football team. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in the Army Reserves. In 1933, Rudder began teaching and coaching football at Brady High School. He married Margaret Williamson, a 1936 University of Texas graduate, in 1937. A year later, Rudder became the football coach and taught at John Tarleton Agricultural College.

In the summer of 1941, First Lieutenant Rudder was ordered to active duty and assigned to command a company at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. In the next two years Rudder attended the Infantry School and the Command and General Staff School and served as a Battalion Executive Officer and Assistant Division G-3 in the 83rd Infantry Division at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. On 30 June 1943 he took command of the 2nd Ranger Battalion. He led the 2nd Rangers until 7 December 1944 when he assumed command of the 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division.

After the war Rudder stayed in the Army Reserves and became active in Texas politics. He retired as a Major General after commanding the 90th Infantry Division ("Texas' Own"). After serving as the Mayor of Brady and Texas Land Commissioner, Rudder was appointed vice president of Texas A&M in 1958. He became president of Texas A&M the next year and served until his death in 1970.[1]

Endnotes

1 JoAnna M. MacDonald, *The Liberation of Pointe du Hoc: The 2d Rangers at Normandy: June 6-8, 1944* (Redondo Beach, CA: Rank and File Publications, 2000), 19; Robert W. Black, *The Battalion. The Dramatic Story of the 2nd Ranger Battalion in World War II* (Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2006), 20.

(Photo courtesy of the Texas A&M Archives.)

Lomell. "I was the First Sergeant of Dog Company of the 2nd Ranger Battalion from Day One." [6] Ranger selection was not as unambiguous.

Long road marches, log-lifting drills, and obstacle courses weeded out candidates who lacked stamina and strength. A stringent physical examination eliminated others who were returned to their former units. Those with disciplinary problem histories were likewise rejected, although some found Ranger training to their liking. Physical conditioning was combined with basic infantry tactics. Officers and men arrived at intervals to join the unit.

Combat veterans from the 1st Ranger Battalion became a small training cadre for the new battalion. Most were wounded Rangers who had been evacuated to the States to recover and assigned as instructors. Some still had physical limitations, like Captain Dean H. Knudson, the training officer. He was on a limited duty status because of foot injuries suffered in North African. As one would expect, Captain Knudson and his veterans based their training program on that of the 1st Ranger Battalion and the experiences gained in Scotland and North Africa.[7]

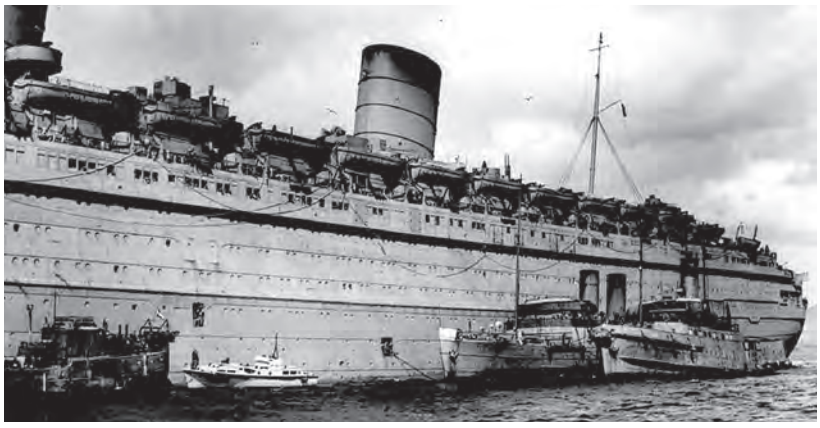
Command of the 2nd Rangers proved problematic. Between April to June 1943 the battalion had several commanders and numerous acting ones. The former commandant of the Second Army Ranger School at Camp Forrest, Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) William C. Saffarans, was the first commander. He soon transferred to Hawaii.[8] Major Charles Meyer, a former West Point football player, took another assignment within weeks. Major Lionel E. McDonald, a newly mobilized Indiana National Guard officer at Camp Forrest, followed Meyer. McDonald raised the indignation of the soldiers when he rode along in his jeep during road marches encouraging the men to keep pace.[9] Morale sagged and the future of the unit floundered. That changed when Major James Earl Rudder took over on 30 June 1943.

The former Texas high school and college football coach demanded nothing less than excellence from his men. Soon after arriving he seated the battalion in a circle. "*I've been sent down here to restore order and get going with realistic training. Now let me tell you, I am going to work your asses off and before you know it, you're going to be the best trained fighting men in this man's army. Now with your cooperation, there will be passes from time to time . . . . I'll grant as many leaves and passes as I can. If I don't get your cooperation, we'll still get the job done, but it will be a lot tougher on you. Now if such a program does not appeal to you, come up to the office, and we will transfer you out. So much the better for you and us. Any questions?*"[10] The battalion finally had a leader who was intent on preparing them for combat.

Major Rudder insisted on high standards in the unit and intensified the training. As it grew harder Rudder led by example and earned the respect of his Rangers. He instituted monthly "gripe" sessions with his men. As a result the cooks were sent to school to improve their

skills. The battalion was moved from tents into wooden buildings.[11]

As soldiers were weeded out, new volunteers were recruited. At training camps throughout the United States notices were posted advertising the new Ranger Battalion, the first to be stateside. "On the day of interviews, the line was over a block long, and I was in the middle just before noon . . . at least a dozen men interviewed us, including a doctor and a dentist. The last man was Major James Earl Rudder," said Sergeant Owen L. Brown, who was accepted and assigned to the communications section.[12] Private William "L-Rod" Petty had broken both legs at parachute school. He disliked his subsequent assignment and new chain of command. Looking for a better unit he volunteered for the Rangers. The dentist rejected him because he had two false teeth. Petty demanded to see the commanding officer. He told his story to Major Rudder concluding with, "Hell, Sir, I don't want to eat'em. I want to fight'em." Impressed, Rudder kept the irrepressible Petty, who rose to platoon sergeant in Fox Company.[13]



The 2nd Rangers sailed across the Atlantic on the SS *Queen Elizabeth*. The fast luxury liner sailed without escorts. It carried 14 to 15,000 soldiers each trip.

Strong physical prowess, stamina, and good intellect were critical to accomplish Ranger missions. A private may have to take over a squad. The leaders had to be able to follow as well. Everyone was trained in all weapons, hand-to-hand combat, and infantry tactics. Unknown to most, this new outfit would be spearheading the amphibious invasion of Europe.

> *"The training at Bude was centered on cliff climbing. I'd had mountain climbing training but nothing like this. The first time I stood on the beach and looked up at those 90 foot high cliffs it just scared the crap out of me," — Bob Edlin.*

After completing advanced combat training the 2nd Battalion moved south to the U.S. Navy Scouts and Raiders School at Fort Pierce, Florida, for amphibious training. Living in tents on insect-infested Hutcheson Island, the Rangers practiced squad, platoon, and company amphibious raids using rubber boats and U.S. Navy landing craft. Since time was critical the Rangers completed the two-week course in eight days. The battalion then moved by train to Fort Dix, New Jersey on 16 September 1943.[14]

While the 2nd Ranger Battalion trained in the United States, Allied planners in England came to the conclusion that another battalion of assault troops was needed for the invasion of France. This prompted the formation of an additional Ranger Infantry Battalion, the 5th, on 1 September 1943 at Camp Forrest, Tennessee.[15] Major Owen H. Carter, the battalion commander, and Captain Richard P. Sullivan, the executive officer, presided over the selection of officers and men. In just three days, thirty-four officers and 563 enlisted men were selected and training began. In the meantime, the 2nd Rangers were at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Physical fitness was still paramount as MAJ Rudder pushed for excellence using daily long runs and road marches to toughen his men. On 21 October 1943 the battalion relocated to Camp Ritchie, Maryland, for training by the Army Intelligence School in German and Japanese weapons and tactics. The newly promoted Lieutenant Colonel Rudder and his staff made the final cuts in the battalion at Fort Dix before loading 25 officers and 488 soldiers aboard the *SS Queen Elizabeth,* a luxury liner turned troopship, in New York on 22 November 1943.[16] Since its beginning at Camp Forrest 37 officers and 536 enlisted men had been eliminated from the battalion.[17] To keep his men busy Rudder volunteered the entire battalion to police the 15,000 soldiers crammed on board for the journey across the Atlantic.[18]

Arrival in England meant more training. The 2nd Rangers went by train to Scotland in early December 1943, just as the 1st Ranger Battalion did, to go to the British Commando School. After a short Christmas celebration in Scotland, the unit moved to Bude, on the west coast of England. "The training at Bude was centered on cliff climbing. I'd had mountain climbing training but nothing like this. The first time I stood on the beach and looked up at those 90 foot high cliffs it just scared the crap out of me," said Bob Edlin.[20] Each day the battalion ran the five miles from town to the cliffs, climbed the 90-foot cliffs three to five times and ran back for lunch. The afternoon was a repeat of the morning. Later, the 2nd Ranger Battalion moved to Swanage to practice cliff climbing with ladders. "The amphibious duck [DUKW] had an automatic ladder attached. We used to make beach landings in this vehicle, press the button and watch as the ladder shot skyward 100 feet. We then placed it against the cliff and clambered up," said Morris Prince.[21]

While training progressed, Rudder and his staff officers worked with Combined Operations Headquarters to develop plans for two raids against German installations on the French coast. However, rough weather cancelled

both missions. Some individual Rangers accompanied British commandos on raids to gain combat experience.[22]

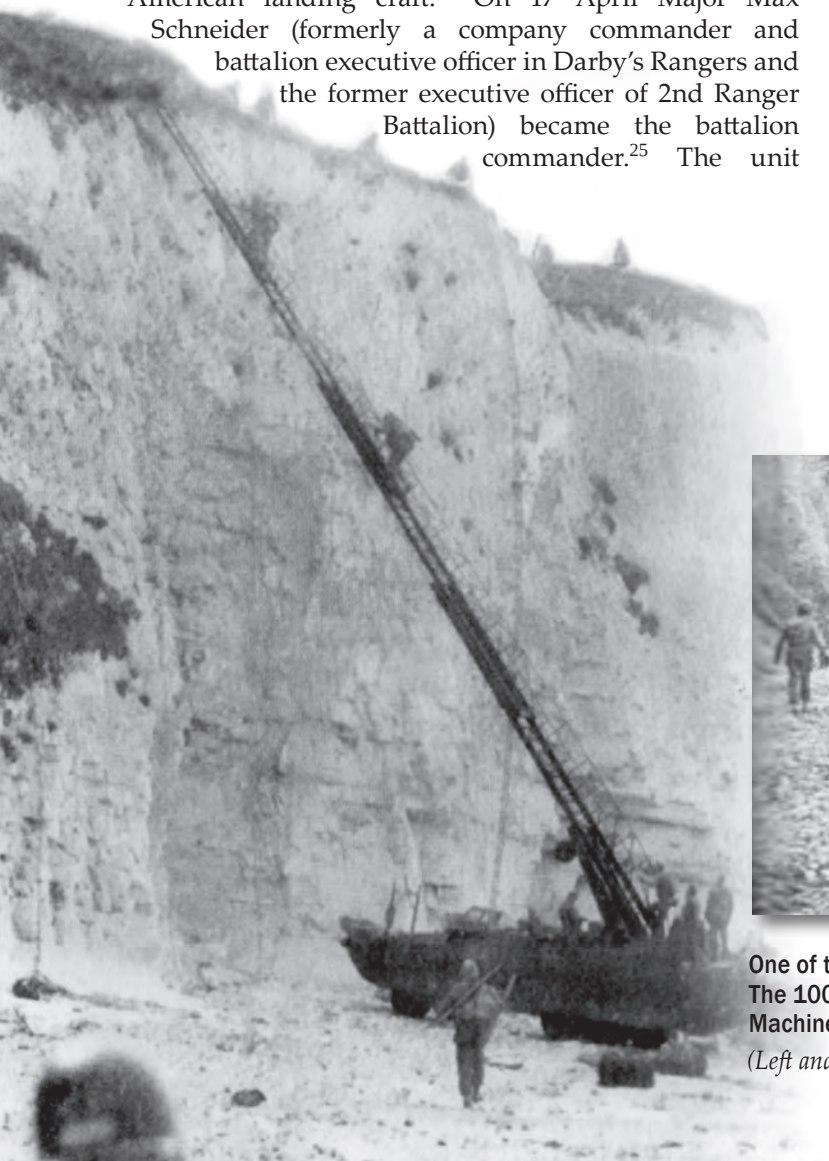
As the unit continued training LTC Rudder added firepower to the battalion. Based on LTC William O. Darby's experience in North Africa and Sicily he acquired four M-3 half-tracks mounted with 75 mm cannons in March 1944. For extra firepower and close-in protection, .30 caliber machine guns were attached. Experienced crewmen were recruited from the 3rd and 5th Armored Divisions for the new Ranger "Cannon Platoon."[23] The newly minted Rangers had to be proficient as infantrymen on the ground as well as with the heavy weapons. The crews had to put rounds through the slit of a pillbox.

Back in the United States the 5th Ranger Battalion continued its training. Major Carter and his staff followed the same training program as the 2nd Rangers at Camp Forrest, Fort Pierce, Camp Ritchie, and Fort Dix. After four months of demanding training, the battalion departed Camp Kilmer, New Jersey for New York. At the port of embarkation they boarded the HMS *Mauritania* on 8 January 1944, and arrived in Liverpool, England, ten days later. Months of training followed in England and Scotland. On 2 April 1944 the 5th Rangers moved from Scotland to the Assault Training Center in Braunton, England, where they practiced with both British and American landing craft.[24] On 17 April Major Max Schneider (formerly a company commander and battalion executive officer in Darby's Rangers and the former executive officer of 2nd Ranger Battalion) became the battalion commander.[25] The unit moved to Swanage for cliff climbing to complete its preparation for combat. Time was of the essence as the two battalions joined to plan for the invasion.

The M-3 half-track was intended to serve as a mobile anti-tank weapon (tank destroyer). The concept was abandoned after North Africa for larger vehicles with heavier guns. The Rangers used the vehicle for direct fire support.

On 9 May 1944 the 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions were united to form the "Provisional Ranger Group" for Operation OVERLORD planning. Previously the European Theater G-3 section controlled the two battalions. There was no overarching "Ranger" headquarters. As the senior battalion commander, LTC Rudder was designated group commander. Based on the plan the two battalions were further divided into three Ranger task forces.[26] Task Force A was made up of Dog, Easy, Fox Companies, and elements of Headquarters Company, 2nd Ranger Battalion. Task Force A had the daunting task of destroying the six 155 mm guns at Pointe du Hoc. This mission was critical because the guns could fire on both Omaha and Utah beaches, as well as ships supporting the landings. Led by LTC Rudder, the force would land and then use rocket fired grapnels with ropes to climb the 90-foot cliffs. Four specially equipped DUKWs would cross the beach and place their fire ladders on the cliff. Once on top of the cliff the Rangers would destroy the guns.[27]

The British Landing Craft Assault (LCA) firing four rocket-propelled grappling hooks. English beaches with similar cliffs to Pointe du Hoc were used for training.



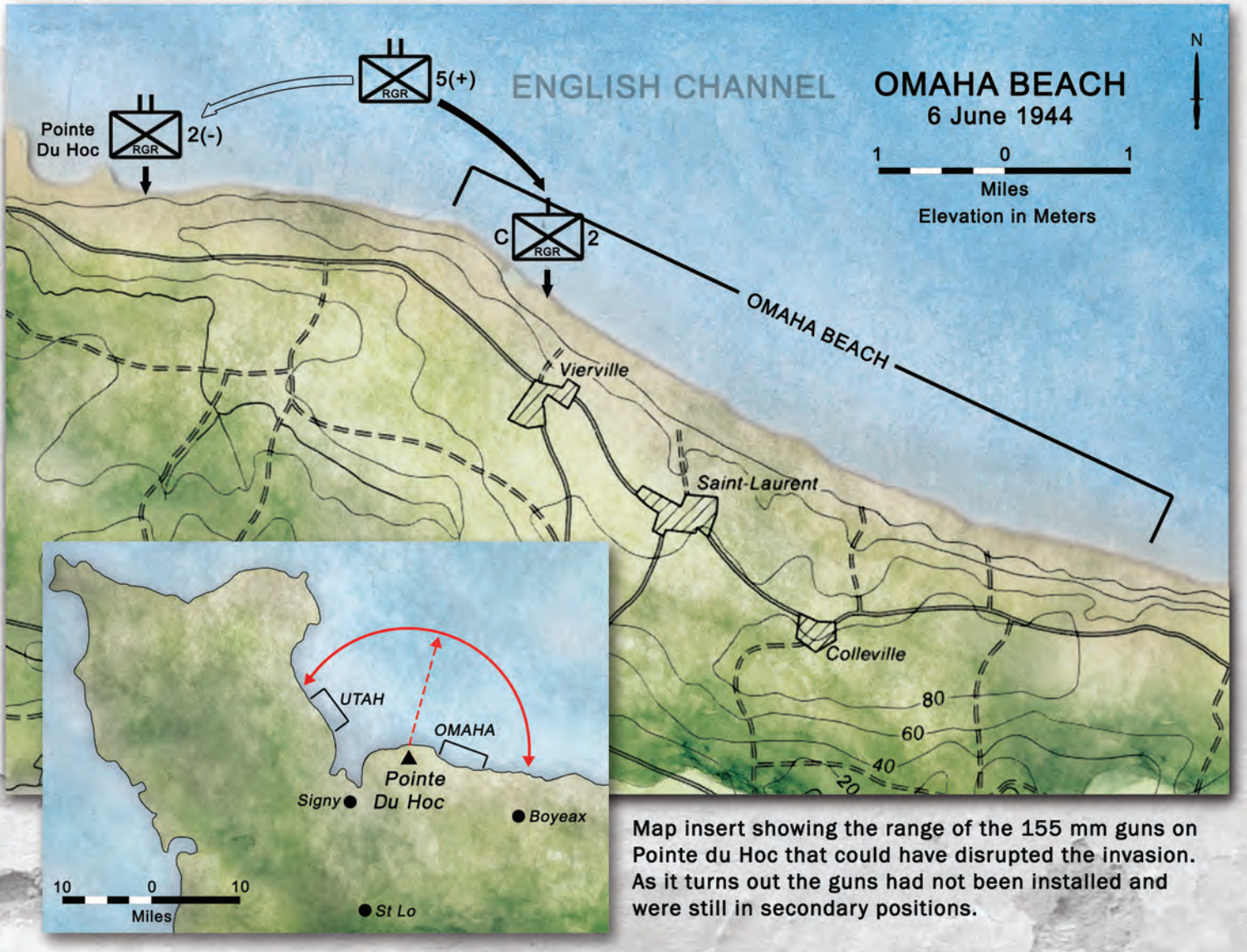
One of the four DUKWs equipped with ladders from the London Fire Dept. The 100-foot ladders were to be used on the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc. Machinegun mounts on the top of the ladder were used for fire support.

(Left and above photos from the U.S. Army Military History Institute)

Rangers on D-Day

At Pointe du Hoc supplies are hauled up one of the routes used by the Rangers on 6 June. The combination of naval gunfire and aerial bombardment brought down a large section of the cliff face, shortening the distance the Rangers had to climb. The inset is the often seen photo of Rangers climbing the same cliff, using ropes, ladders, and toggle ropes, but does not give the true scale of the task at hand.

At D-2 relief forces had reached the Rangers at Pointe du Hoc. The American flag had been spread out after some American P-47s erroneously attempted to strafe the cliff top. In the upper left some Germans prisoners are being brought to the beach. Watching them to the right is LTC Earl Rudder. (The "point" of Pointe du Hoc is in the upper right).

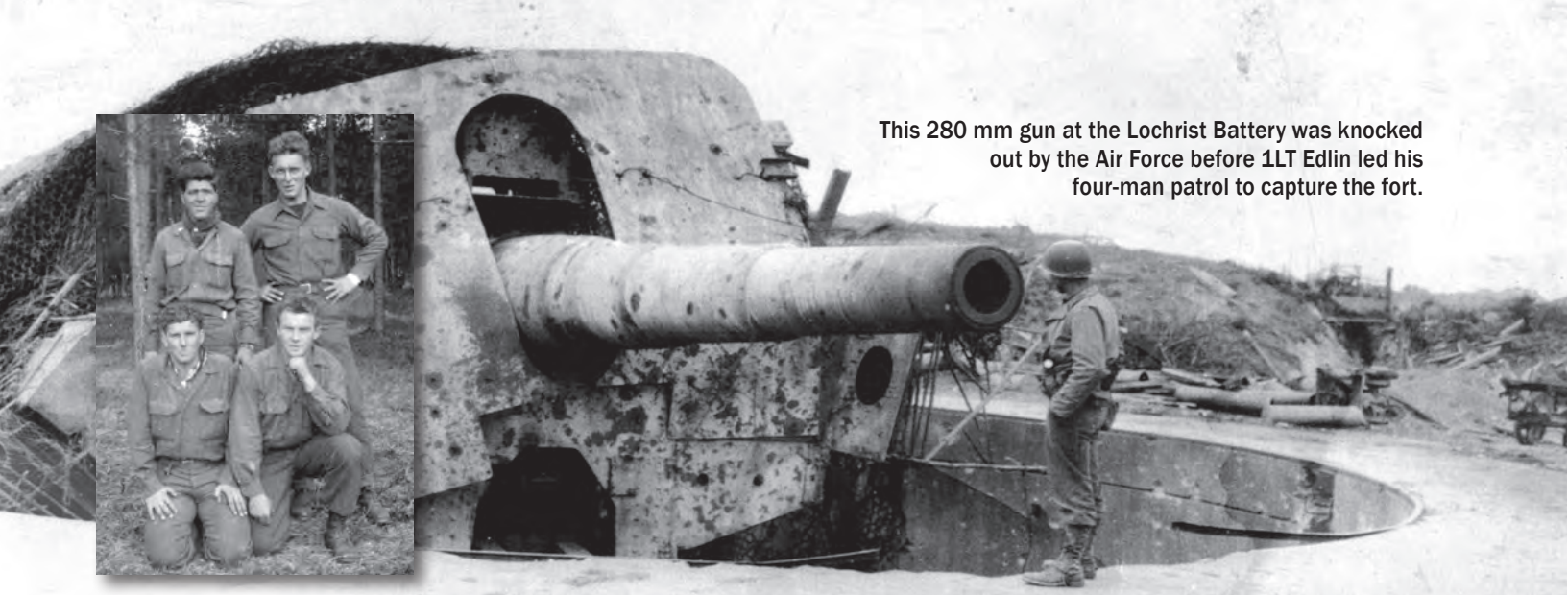


Map insert showing the range of the 155 mm guns on Pointe du Hoc that could have disrupted the invasion. As it turns out the guns had not been installed and were still in secondary positions.

Rangers move along the beach carrying supplies and weapons for Force "A" at Pointe du Hoc. Ammunition became a major concern following repeated German counterattacks.

Landing Ship Tank (LST) offloading vehicles, troops and cargo on Omaha Beach a few days after the invasion. Barrage balloons were deployed to deter low flying German aircraft.

(Photos courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Texas A&M Archives. Map by D. Telles.)



This 280 mm gun at the Lochrist Battery was knocked out by the Air Force before 1LT Edlin led his four-man patrol to capture the fort.

The "Fabulous Four" Patrol. 1LT Robert T. Edlin, SSG William Dreher, SSG William J. Courtney, and SGT Warren D. Burmaster captured the Lochrist Battery with its 850 German defenders.
(U.S. Army Military History Institute photo)

The smallest of the units, Task Force B consisted of CPT Ralph Goranson's Charlie Company, 2nd Ranger Battalion. Landing on "Charlie Sector" of Omaha Beach, Task Force B had two contingencies. The first was to follow Able Company, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division on their assault on Vierville and then on to a German strongpoint at Pointe et Raz de la Percee. The Ranger force had the fire support from a platoon of amphibious tanks from Baker Company, 743rd Tank Battalion. The second contingency was for the company to attack Pointe et Raz de la Percee by climbing the cliffs, if the Vierville route was blocked. After clearing Pointe et Raz de la Percee, CPT Goranson would move his unit east to link up with Task Force A at Pointe du Hoc.[28]

Commanded by LTC Max Schneider, Task Force C was an exploitation force, made up of the 5th Ranger Battalion and Able and Baker Companies, 2nd Rangers. The eight company force would wait offshore for a prearranged signal from LTC Rudder. At 0700 Task Force C would either land at Pointe du Hoc to support Task Force A, or land at Omaha Beach, to fight its way through the Vierville draw and then east to Pointe du Hoc.[29]

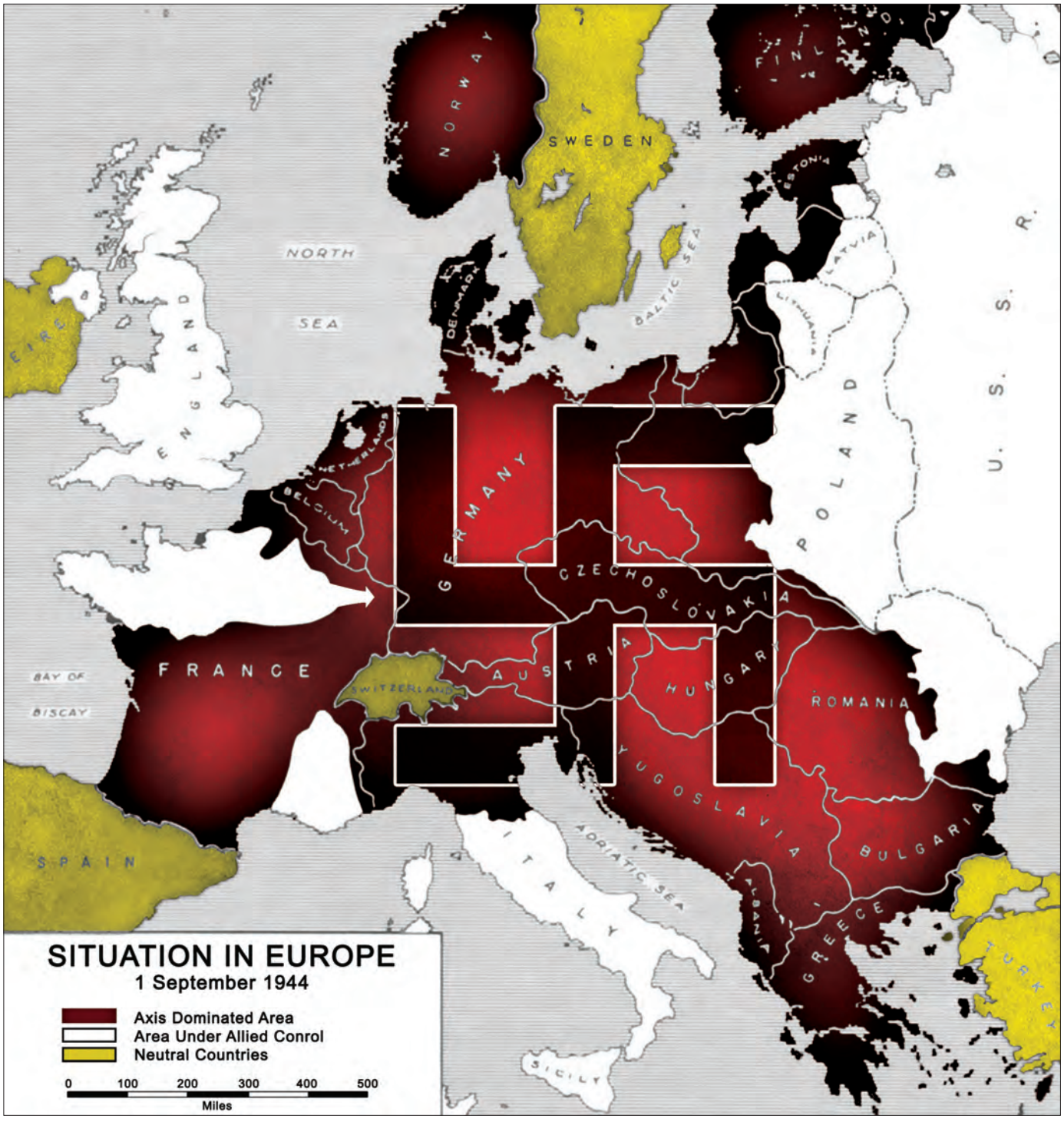
The Brittany Campaign

Following the successful seaborne and airborne invasion Allied forces had pushed inland from the beachhead. Surviving enemy forces withdrew to secondary defensive positions and regrouped. As the majority of Allied forces pushed eastward, other forces swung southwest, along the French coast into the Brittany Peninsula. The Germans had fortified several of the major French ports and garrisoned them with five divisions. The German garrisons had to be eliminated to open more ports to flow supplies from England.[30]

As the Allies moved east they fought against three enemies, the Germans, weather, and lack of supplies. One of the two "Mulberry" floating docks had been ripped apart by a summer storm. The Allies could no longer be supplied en masse over the invasion beaches, especially with the stormy weather of fall and winter approaching. The Allied army needed thousands of tons of supplies daily to fight their way through German-occupied Europe. The port cities of Cherbourg, Le Havre, and Brest had to be taken to expand the supply flow.[31] In Brittany both Ranger battalions were employed as "fire brigades" to push into hot spots. When they weren't "fighting fires" they guarded German prisoners and trained replacements to fill the casualty attrited ranks. During July 1944, the 2nd Ranger Battalion was clearing pockets of enemy resistance along the Cherbourg Peninsula coast. In August they were assaulting Brest with the 29th Infantry Division.

In a bold, audacious effort First Lieutenant Robert Edlin and three men managed to capture the Lochrist Battery (*Graf Spee* Battery) outside of Brest. The battery's four 280 mm guns could fire their 600 lb shells up to ten miles away. Surrounding the battery were pillboxes and antiaircraft positions.[32] "The firing of the huge coastal guns from the Lochrist Batteries caused us loss of sleep . . . Every time those giant 280 mm opened up, the muzzle blast would actually lift us out of our holes, although we were several hundred yards away from these giant weapons," said Ranger Morris Prince, of Able Company.[33] The company prepared to take the position.

In the early morning of 9 September 1LT Robert T. Edlin, Staff Sergeant (SSG) William Dreher, SSG William J. Courtney, and Sergeant Warren D. Burmaster were conducting a leader's reconnaissance before the battalion assaulted the battery. Artillery and bombers had spent three days preparing the area for the ground attack. "We were [tasked] to spot pillboxes, snipers, [and] whatever we could identify and chart [mark] a way through the mine field. If we had the opportunity, we were to capture some prisoners," said Edlin.[34] The four men had worked their way through pillboxes to the edge of the mine field.



In the three months following the successful invasions at Normandy and southern France, the Allied armies were pushing their way through France to the German border.

"I was turning to say, 'Let's turn around and pull back,' when I heard [SSG William] Courtney say in a real quiet voice, 'I see a way through the damn mine field!' And he took off at a dead run," said Edlin. The others followed him with the confidence that came from many combat patrols together over the past two months.[35]

Seizing the moment, the four Rangers surprised twenty German paratroopers in a pillbox and captured it without firing a shot. Edlin sent SGT Burmaster back to the company to stop any further artillery fire and to radio LTC Rudder to bring up the rest of the battalion. Leaving SSG Dreher to guard the 19 prisoners 1LT Edlin and Courtney forced an English-speaking German officer to take them to the commander's office. They moved through the massive fort's defenses as German soldiers watched. Then, 1LT Edlin charged inside. "I shoved the door open and dove in. I was across the desk and shoved my Tommy gun at the commander's throat. [When] I said '*Hande hoch!*' He put his hands up," said Edlin. Colonel Fuerst, the commandant, initially refused

VII Corps infantrymen fighting through one of the villages near Brest. This was the urban warfare that the 2nd Rangers entered after assaulting the coastal fortresses. *(CMH photo)*

to surrender, calling the young lieutenant's bluff. Edlin pulled a pin from a hand grenade and thrust it against the Colonel's chest, "I said, 'One, two . . .' I started to say three. Then he said, 'OK.' I very gingerly stuck the pin back into the [grenade] hammer," said Edlin.[36] Colonel Fuerst broadcast a surrender notice to the garrison over a loudspeaker system. By then the rest of the 2nd Ranger Battalion were at the outer defenses. LTC Rudder accepted the surrender. In an extremely bold and lucky move, the Able Company patrol captured 850 German prisoners and negated the threat from the strongest and largest fortress around Brest.[37] The capture of the Lochrist Battery triggered the fall of Brest.

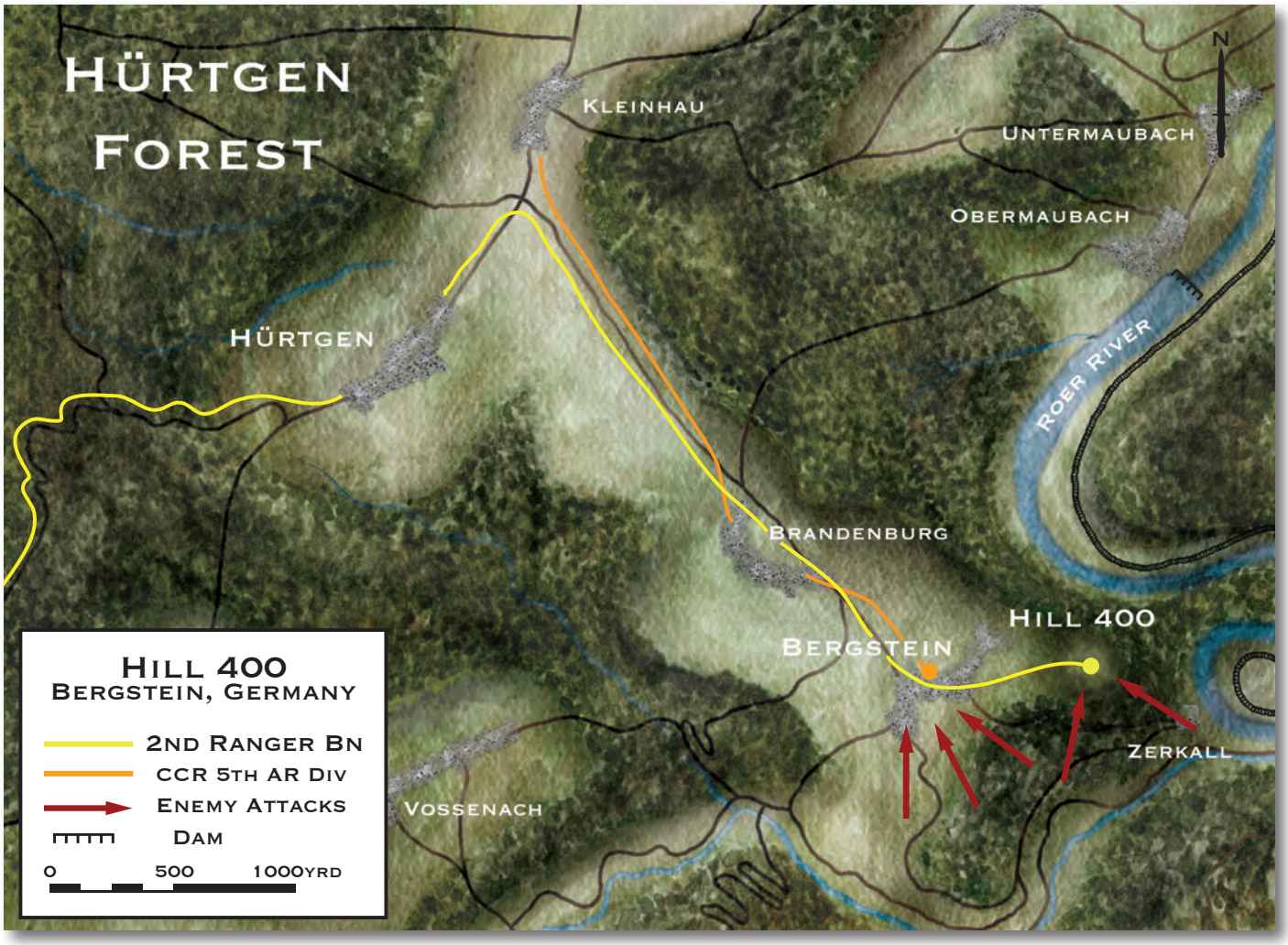
> *"I was turning to say, 'Let's turn around and pull back,' when I heard [SSG William] Courtney say in a real quiet voice, 'I see a way through the damn mine field!' And he took off at a dead run," — Bob Edlin.*

For the remainder of September the 2nd Ranger Battalion helped the 8th Infantry Division eliminate German resistance on the Crozon Peninsula, south of Brest. The 2nd Rangers rescued 400 American and Allied prisoners from a temporary POW camp. Among them was PFC Wallace W. Young from Headquarters Company who had been captured in late August. Afterwards the battalion went into reserve at Landerneau, France.[38] After a short break, the 2nd Ranger Battalion boarded ancient French "40 and 8" (40 men or 8 horses) box cars headed for Belgium. After stopping in Arlon on 3 October, they proceeded to Esch, Luxembourg for attachment to the First Army.

Conventional units fought the remainder of the campaign in Brittany. The two Ranger battalions were pulled off the line and allowed to recuperate. Following their efforts in the Brittany campaign the two Ranger battalions did not work together again. The Brittany Campaign is often neglected in history because at the same time the Allied Armies were racing across France. Field Marshall Bernard L. Montgomery's Operation MARKET-GARDEN, the ground and airborne invasion into the Netherlands, was the Allied priority.

Across France and into Germany

The Allied forces rapidly progressed from a toehold on the Normandy beaches to many fronts along the German border. The U.S. Seventh Army had landed in Southern France on 15 August 1944 — Operation DRAGOON — and begun pushing northeast. By September 1944 the Allied forces, in three army groups (totaling seven armies), were stretched in a ragged line from the Mediterranean to the North Sea.[39] They were preparing for the assault into Germany as Adolf Hitler and the Nazi High Command prepared to counterattack to defend the Fatherland. The offensive tested the mettle of both Ranger battalions.



The 2nd Rangers passed through the 5th Armored Division's Combat Command Reserve (CCR) in Bergstein to attack Hill 400. The battalion then held off repeated German counterattacks from the south and southeast. *(D. Telles)*

Infantrymen move cautiously through the densely wooded terrain of the Hürtgen Forest. The soldiers were forced to fight without accurate artillery or air support. *(CMH photo)*

During their two week standdown in Arlon, Belgium, the 2nd Rangers rested and received replacements. Rangers wounded in Normandy and Brest returned to the unit. Eight officers and 49 soldiers came to the 2nd Rangers as replacements. When the battalion moved to Belgium, the Ranger "Cannon Platoon" was disbanded and the crews transferred to the rifle companies.[40] On 20 October 1944 the 2nd Rangers were transferred from LTG Simpson's Ninth Army to the First Army's VIII Corps, and eventually attached to the 28th Infantry Division.[41] By 14 November the battalion had assumed defensive positions outside Vossenach, Germany. LTC Rudder was alerted to recapture the town of Schmidt that had just been lost by the 28th Division.[42] The Rangers were about to be introduced to fighting in the meat grinder called the Hürtgen Forest. It would be their toughest trial by fire.

The Hürtgen Forest in Germany is roughly fifty square miles. It is densely wooded with fir trees as tall as one hundred feet. Interlocking branches block sunlight making the forest floor damp and dank, devoid of underbrush. Lower limbs of the trees, two to three meters above the ground create green caves. In the open areas there are dense tangles of underbrush. Numerous streams and rivers have created gorges with steep sides. They break up movement and make the forest a great defensive position.[43] It was something out of a German fairy tale. One expected to see Hansel and Gretel appear at any time dropping a breadcrumb trail through the dense forest.[44] This was the terrain in which the 2nd Rangers had to fight.

The First Army launched an offensive into the Hürtgen Forest to seize a series of dams on the Roer River. If the German Army could destroy the dams, the flooding would complicate and slow the Allied advance. The XIX Corps engineer warned: "If one or all dams are blown a flood would occur in the channel of the Roer River that would spread approximately 1,500 feet in depth and 3 feet or more deep across the entire corps front . . . The flood would probably last from one to three weeks."[45] The Rangers would lead the attack on the northern flank to secure the town of Bergstein and the critical Hill 400 to help prevent this disaster.

Hill 400

In the bitter cold night of 6 December 1944, the 2nd Ranger Battalion moved to an assembly area near Brandenberg in the Hürtgen Forest. They were to assault the icy, slippery Hill 400 (called Castle Hill by the Germans) overlooking Schmidt to the southwest and the Roer River valley to the east. The hill had formidable, steep, tree-covered slopes. It was covered with pillboxes and fighting positions. At 400 meters (approximately 1,322 feet) it was the highest point in this section of the Roer Valley. "Hill 400 jutted out from the ground like the Grand Tetons, flat land and then all of a sudden there loomed a big hill. If I recall right there were trees all the way to the top," said Robert Edlin.[46] At the base of the hill was the town of Bergstein that controlled the western and northern approaches to the hill. The Rangers were to hold the hill and the town for 24 hours, when the 8th Infantry Division would relieve them. Rudder divided his battalion into three task forces. Dog and Fox Companies would attack Hill 400. Able, Baker, and Charlie Companies would attack and secure the town of Bergstein, Germany, at the base of the hill. One platoon from Charlie Company would man 81 mm mortars for organic fire support. Easy Company was the battalion reserve. While patrols from Dog and Fox Companies were reconnoitering the best routes up the hill at 0300 the Rangers got an unexpected shock.[47]

"In the pale light of dawn I saw Hill 400 starkly enshrouded in the misty fog,"—PFC Melvin "Bud" Potratz

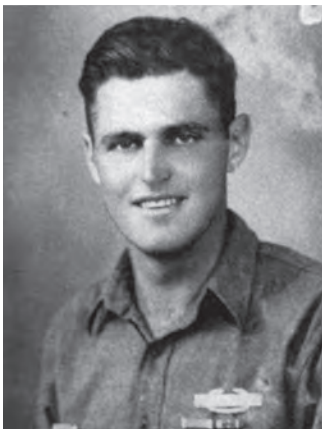
Lieutenant Colonel Rudder announced that he was leaving that morning to take command of the 109th Infantry Regiment, in the 28th Infantry Division. "It was something of a low blow to George [Major George Williams, the battalion executive officer] because he knew it was going to be a bad fight and you don't always change command in the middle of an operation," said Captain Edward Arnold, the new battalion executive officer. Nonplussed, Major George S. Williams took command and launched the attack.[48]

M-10 Tank Destroyers moving on a narrow trail through the Hürtgen Forest. The 3 inch gun provided direct fire support against dug in German positions. The few roads and trails became ambush zones for the defending Germans. *(CMH photo)*

Assisted by the light of burning houses and American vehicles, Dog and Fox Companies moved through Bergstein to their attack position. Taking cover in a sunken road near the Catholic Church of Moorish Martyrdom Cemetery the Rangers waited. Before them lay an open snow covered field, about 75 to 100 meters wide, that ended at the base of the heavily forested Hill 400. The bitter cold of the winter morning gnawed on the Rangers as they waited to begin the assault. "In the pale light of dawn I saw Hill 400 starkly enshrouded in the misty fog," recalled PFC Melvin "Bud" Potratz a rifleman in Dog Company.[49] The Ranger mission was to capture the German-held "Castle Hill." It seemed impossible since several other units had already attempted and failed.[50]

Fox Company 2nd Platoon Sergeant, Sergeant William "L-Rod" Petty, waited for the assault with his friend, the 1st section leader, SGT William McHugh. Their new platoon leader, 1LT Thomas Rowland approached the two sergeants. "Incongruously, . . . [he] squatted beside me and yelled, 'Send out a scout.' My response was, 'F*** y**, no way!' After repeating the order to me a couple of times and getting the same response, he switched to [SGT] McHugh with the same order and received the same response. He then yelled the same order to Private [Gerald] Bouchard, screaming 'That is an order!'." Despite the two experienced sergeants telling him not to go, Bouchard stood up and started walking into the open field. After three or four steps a single shot rang out and Bouchard collapsed hit in the stomach. "This shot was the fuse that ignited the explosion of the Ranger charge," said SSG Petty.[51]

Nearby SGT Herman Stein, another section leader waited. "We were to kick off at 7:30 am under a walking artillery [barrage] and it was landing at the edge of the woods now. The German artillery and mortars were creeping in back of us and we were in one hell of a squeeze play," said SGT Stein.[52] "Suddenly ten minutes before kick off time, SGT Bill McHugh stood up and with his gun held high and gesturing with his right arm [said], 'OK you guys, let's go get the bastards!'"[53]



SGT Herman Stein and SSG "L-Rod" Petty. The two friends fought with Fox Company, 2nd Rangers from Normandy to the Hill 400 battles. *(MHI photos)*

On their right CPT Morton "Big Mac" McBride ordered Dog Company forward. The Rangers began running across the field, firing from the hip as they went. "Yelling and shooting randomly, we were at a dead run, facing small arms fire with creeping artillery to our rear," said Lieutenant Leonard Lomell.[54] While turning sideways to encourage his men forward, CPT McBride was shot in the buttocks.[55] 2nd Lieutenant (2LT) Lomell took charge and pressed the attack. The Rangers scrambled up the steep, wooded hillside as fast as they could. Germans died in their positions, surrendered, or ran. "Using the butt of my rifle, I began to climb the steep, treacherous hill. Machine gun bullets pelted the ground all around me. I believed I must be the only survivor because I didn't see anyone else," said Bud Potratz.[56] Luckily others were also making their way up the hill. "I reached the top of the hill first with Sam O'Neal and several others of the first platoon, quickly followed by the second platoon. Sergeant Harvey Koenig and his patrol chased the Germans over the crest, almost to the Roer River, before returning to deploy along the forward crest," remembered 2LT Lomell.[57] Of the sixty-five Dog Company soldiers who began the attack that morning, 55 made it to the top.[58] By 0830 the objective had been secured. That was when the real fight began.

Infantrymen struggle up a wooded hillside, working their way over fallen trees and slick ground to fight the Germans. This was typical in the Hürtgen Forest. *(CMH photo)*

Before the Rangers could dig in, a hail of artillery fell on the hill. They scrambled for cover in the German positions. Because the hill was heavily wooded, airbursts in the trees heightened the effect, adding wood splinters to the deadly rain of shrapnel. "A barrage of shells hit the hill on three sides. I could hear the hacking and vigorous digging of shovels as my comrades on top of the hill tried to dig themselves into the frozen slate ground," said Bud Potratz.[59] All morning the enemy kept pounding the hill with mortar and artillery. By noon the two 65-man Ranger companies were down to thirty-two effectives.

After sending a situation report (SITREP) to battalion with a request for ammunition and reinforcements, CPT Otto Masny (Fox Company Commander) was wounded. His radioman was killed. In desperation the wounded Masny started down the hill towards Bergstein to inform Major Williams of the desperate situation. En route he was captured.[60] The senior Fox Company NCO on the hill, SSG L-Rod Petty, had already taken charge.

> *"Using the butt of my rifle, I began to climb the steep, treacherous hill. Machine gun bullets pelted the ground all around me. I believed I must be the only survivor because I didn't see anyone else."*
> *— PFC Melvin "Bud" Potratz*

The fighting for the key terrain intensified. The Germans counterattacked twice in the afternoon, with about 100 to 150 men, but were driven back. By 1600 only twenty-five Rangers remained from the two companies. As the medics evacuated the wounded, the defenders collected weapons and ammunition. " I had two BARs, an M-1, a pistol, and grenades," said SGT Herman Stein.[61] Help would soon be arriving.

The rest of the 2nd Rangers in Bergstein were decisively engaged as well. Artillery and mortar fire preceded German counterattacks. Major Williams sent an urgent message to General Weaver (8th ID) for help, but he realized that it would be a strictly Ranger fight on the Hill and in Bergstein. The 2nd Platoon of Easy Company was sent up the hill with ammunition. The Fox Company executive officer 1LT Richard Wintz, arrived with a new radio and assumed command from SSG Petty.[62] The reinforcements arrived just in time to drive the Germans back. As night fell, the Rangers prepared for night attacks that never came.

At 0930 an artillery preparation preceded the German ground assault. It would be the first of five counterattacks in the next two days. Using the dense woods to cover their approach German infantrymen rushed the American positions. "They used machine guns, burp guns, rifles, and threw potato masher grenades. Hand-to-hand fights

developed on top of the hill in which some use was made of bayonets," said CPT Arnold.[63] Timely artillery support saved the day for the Rangers. 1LT Howard K. Kettlehut, a forward observer from the 56th Armored Field Artillery Battalion (5th Armored Division), worked tirelessly to get priority of fires from all Corps artillery units. There were "18 battalions in all. 155's, 75 self-propelled, 8 inch and 240 mm guns were used," said CPT Arnold. Kettlehut was untiring and Major Williams praised him as "the best man we ever worked with."[64]

It was a bloody battle with heavy casualties on both sides. The Germans repeatedly counterattacked to recover the key terrain. The heavy artillery barrages that preceded each counterattack were horrendous. On 8 December the Battalion Aid Station was hit and Captain Walter E. Block, MD, the battalion surgeon, was killed. The hill was held until the 8th Infantry Division relieved the Rangers on 9 December 1944. On the hill, twenty-three were killed in action or died of wounds, 86 wounded, and 4 missing in action, effectively decimating the two companies.[65] The Rangers had captured the most vital piece of terrain in the area.

"Dec. 7, 1944, was the worst day of my life. People say D-Day was the longest day, but I was there, too, and it was much easier on me than Hill 400 in the Hürtgen Forest. Five thousand men had already tried to capture the hill and the town below. We passed their bodies and burnt-out tanks on the way in. At 7:30 a.m., 130 men in D and F companies assaulted across flat table land as German machine gunners sprayed fire at us. It was icy cold, artillery was raining down and we couldn't even dig in. But we took the 400-meter-high hill. In 1989, I went back with some of my men and we met a group of young German officers. They showed us a textbook that claimed the Germans were outnumbered that day. I said, " That's ridiculous!" We were the ones who were outnumbered, by 10 to one. Only 15 or 16 men in each company made it back on their own power."

2LT Len Lomell, 2nd Ranger Battalion
(13 July 1998 Newsweek*)*

The surviving Rangers from the Hill 400 and Bergstein fights went to a bivouac area in the Hürtgen Forest to rest and be refitted again.

By December 1944 the 2nd Rangers were fighting again with the First Army. On 16 December 1944 when the Battle of the Bulge began, the Rangers were put on the line with the 78th Infantry Division. They saw considerable action, but the fight at Hill 400 and Bergstein were the last major combat actions of the 2nd Rangers in Europe.

Occupation and the end of the Rangers

The 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions, although seriously depleted from combat, continued to fight. A manpower shortage hit the entire European Theater making replacements scarce in March and April 1945. But, the end was near for the Nazi regime. In April 1945 elements of the First Army met Soviet forces on the Elbe River. On 30 April, Adolf Hitler committed suicide. The Allies accepted the unconditional German surrender on 8 May 1945 – V-E Day. While the war in Europe was over, both Ranger battalions were committed to the postwar occupation.

On V-E Day the 2nd Ranger Battalion was near Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. There they helped Military Government units (today's Civil Affairs) by guarding supplies and ferreting out German soldiers in hiding. Sports were used to keep the troops out of trouble; softball, basketball, and boxing teams were formed.[66] Many of the Rangers believed that this was the "calm before the storm" because they anticipated shipment to the Pacific. However, when Japan surrendered on 15 August 1945, the 2nd Ranger Battalion returned to the United States as an organic unit despite an Army policy of redeploying soldiers as individuals based on accrued time in combat and awards. On 16 October 1945 the battalion sailed from Le Havre, France aboard the USS *West Point* (formerly the luxury ocean liner, SS *America*). At Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia (Newport News), the 2nd Ranger Battalion was ordered to deactivate. On 23 October 1945, the colors were furled without fanfare and the Rangers began to head for home.[67]

The two Ranger Battalions were created for one mission; the seizure of key terrain and the defenses that threatened the cross channel invasion beachhead for Operation OVERLORD. While the U.S. Army fought a continental war of mass and firepower, these small, specialized units that had proven themselves on D-Day became critical assets. The two Ranger battalions were the "fire brigades" in an ocean of units fighting in Europe. There was no doctrine or formal "brigade" headquarters to advise senior field commanders how to use the Rangers. However, the battalions were given the toughest missions and always excelled.

Epilogue

The World War II Rangers simply faded away during demobilization. For the next five years the Army was preoccupied with the occupation and defense of Germany, Japan, and Austria from Communism. Constabulary and military government units assumed the post-conflict missions.[68] By the beginning of 1950 the Army, faced with budget cuts, eliminated more units, delayed purchasing new equipment, and deferred maintenance on old gear.[69] That changed in late June 1950 when North Korea invaded the South.

Realizing the need for Ranger type units in Korea, the Army Chief of Staff General J. Lawton Collins ordered the

CPT Walter E. Block, a pediatrician in civilian life, volunteered for the 2nd Ranger Battalion at Fort Dix in 1943 after his wife begged him not to join the paratroops because it was "too dangerous." CPT Block was killed at Hill 400 on 8 Dec 1944 when artillery hit the aid station where he was tending wounded. The veteran of Normandy and Brest received the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart.

Displaced Persons and Germans loot a grocery. With combat over the Rangers became part of the Army of Occupation, dealing with problems like this. *(CMH photo)*

formation of a Ranger Training Center at Fort Benning, Georgia.[70] In October 1950 "Airborne Ranger" Infantry Companies began training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Several of these companies went to Korea to carry the Ranger legacy forward. Surprisingly the Army decided to deactivate the units in August 1951 leaving the way open to create Special Forces.[71] The legacy of the conflict was the establishment of the Ranger Training Center, which eventually became the Ranger Department of the Infantry School, as a small unit leadership training course.

The historical legacy of the 2nd Ranger Battalion came back when the Army Chief of Staff, General Creighton W. Abrams, directed the formation of two Ranger battalions. The 1st Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry was activated at Fort Benning, Georgia on 31 January 1974 and the 2nd Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry at Fort Lewis, Washington on 1 October 1974.[72] Both Ranger battalions spearheaded the invasion of Grenada on 25 October 1983. Following the success of the Rangers in Grenada the Army created the Ranger Regiment headquarters under the command of Colonel Wayne A. Downing in July 1984. The 3rd Ranger Battalion was activated at Fort Benning, Georgia in October 1984.[73]

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1st Ranger Battalion Scroll

2nd Ranger Battalion Scroll

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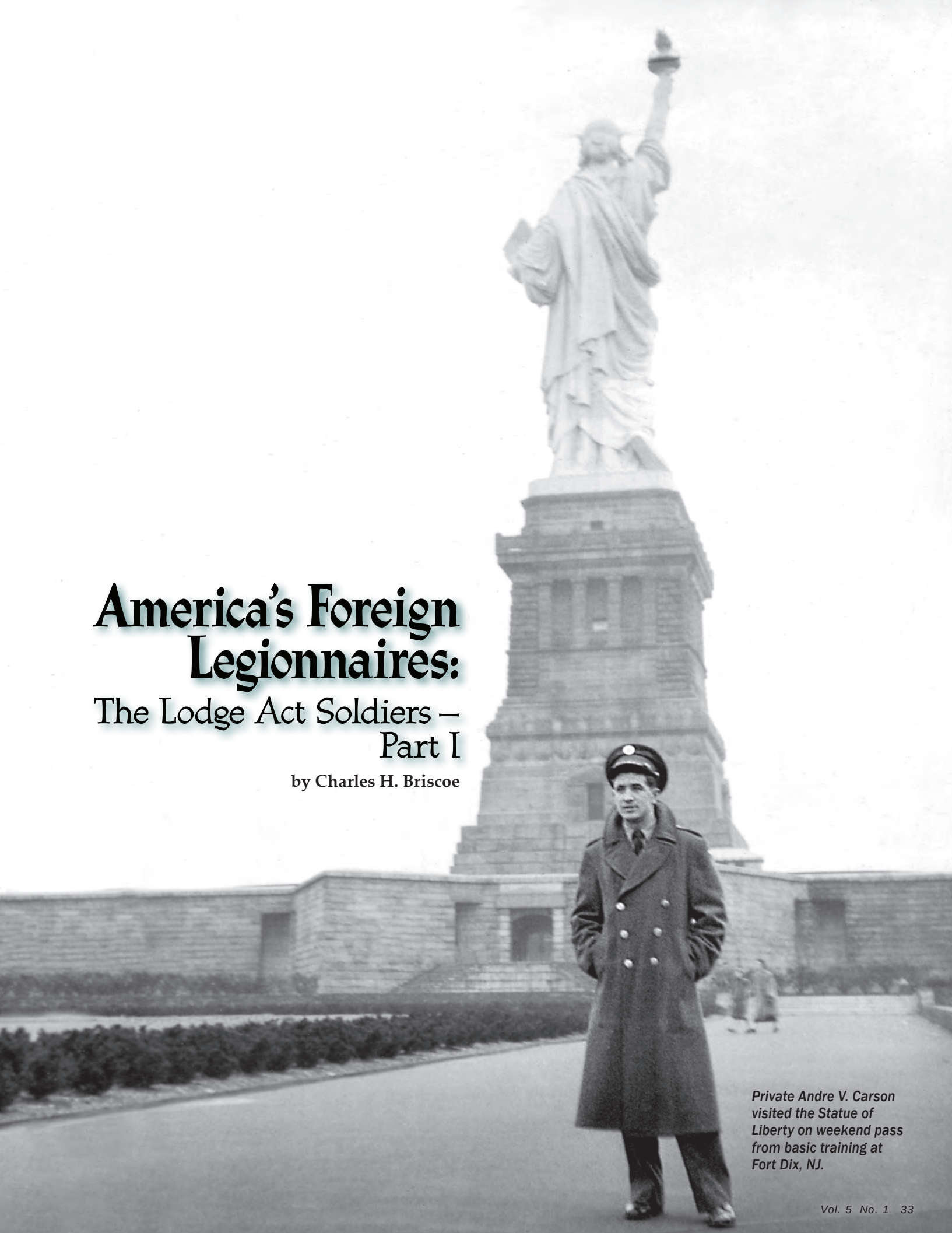
America's Foreign Legionnaires:

The Lodge Act Soldiers – Part I

by Charles H. Briscoe



Private Andre V. Carson visited the Statue of Liberty on weekend pass from basic training at Fort Dix, NJ.

After World War II, some fourteen million refugees formed a huge stateless population in Western Europe. The Western Allies simply referred to them collectively as "displaced persons," or "DPs." Many released prisoners of war (POWs) trying to get home or into Western zones of Germany chose to join the population Diaspora. To provide the stability necessary for postwar economic recovery, Western Allies resettled or repatriated the bulk of them between 1945 and 1947. However, a large East European population refused to return to their Soviet-occupied countries. These people filled DP camps throughout West Germany.[1] A U.S. senator who had seen how foreign units had been integrated into the German and Russian militaries envisioned the creation of similar postwar units in West Germany.[2]

Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., the Republican junior senator from Massachusetts, had been pushing to form a Volunteer Freedom Corps (VFC) since 1948. A VFC, filled with stateless males, would serve as a bulwark against Communism in Europe. Although some American legislators perceived its merit, postwar Western European governments regarded it as a possible economic burden and potential threat. Interest at home was not that great either.

The first and only step towards a VFC was passed by Congress on 30 June 1950, five days after North Korea invaded the South. The initial act [the Lodge-Philbin Act (U.S. Public Law 597, 81st Congress, 2nd Session), referred to as the Lodge Act] authorized the voluntary enlistment of 2,500 unmarried foreign national males in the U.S. Army.[3] This act provided more than a hundred Eastern European soldiers to Army Special Forces and Psychological Warfare units between 1951 and 1955.[4]

The purpose of this first installment of a two-part article is to explain the Lodge Act, to show why enlistment goals were not met, to describe the recruiting, testing, selection, enlistment and preparation for service in Army replacement centers in Germany, and the shipment of the alien enlisted soldiers to the United States for basic recruit training. Very few of the Eastern European native speakers in Special Forces (SF) in the early days were Lodge Act men. Little more than 100 of the more than 800 recruited under the Lodge Act served in SF.[5] Timing was poor for several reasons: the postwar world was split by an ideological Cold War that would last more than forty years; America was in the throes of an anti-Communist Red Scare and war in Korea; and the military was slowly complying with a presidential order to racially integrate.

◄ A Red Scare swept the United States in the early 1950s.

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► Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. was the driving force behind alien enlistment in the U.S. Army in the early 1950s.

Like many Congressionally-mandated programs, alien enlistment got lukewarm support from the Pentagon and Army commanders in Europe. Army Regulation (AR) 601-249, *Alien Enlistment,* provided general guidance to enlist 2,500 Eastern European males.[6] Because recruiting was a mission of the Army Adjutant General (AG), the U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) AG was given the task. That headquarters staff element instituted an enlistment process that was based on individual applications by alien volunteers. Advertisement became the responsibility of the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) and USAREUR Public Information Offices (PIO). The foreign labor service units supporting the American and British forces in Germany and France were the easiest to target for recruits.[7]

Although two-thirds of the postwar American labor force hired in Germany and Austria were natives, the U.S. Army also managed labor service (LS) elements of displaced Polish, Latvian, Czech, Lithuanian, Estonian, Albanian, and Bulgarian males, trained and organized as paramilitary guard, engineer, transportation, and public health medical units by nationality.[8] In northern Germany, the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) recruited aliens, like Henry M. Kwiatkowski from Poland, for its

► *John C. Anderson (left) served in the Latvian Labor Service in Ludwigsburg, Germany.
▼ Baltic Labor Service Commemorative and Honor Insignia worn by Georgs Liepens, 8920 Labor Service Company in November 1949.

auxiliary service units.[9] The first step was to distribute bulletin board notices to the U.S. Army personnel in charge of the LS units in Germany and France.

Vaclav Hradecky from Bilenice, Czechoslovakia, was assisted by his labor service unit commander, Captain (CPT) Karel Cerny, a WWII Czech Army major, and CPT Price, the U.S. Army advisor. Price's secretary, who spoke Czech, typed up Hradecky's application.[10] *George S. Taylor, Poznan, Poland, had the program explained to him by LT Merritt from Texas. He helped Taylor with his application and arranged the CIC (Counter-Intelligence Corps) interview.[11] Frantisek "Frank" Jaks from Jablonc, Czechoslovakia, was in a LS unit in Nuremberg, Germany, waiting approval to emigrate to Australia, when he applied for enlistment.[12] Not everyone who wanted to join the U.S. Army received support from their LS chain of command.

"When I got back to France [after taking the entrance exams in Germany], I discovered that my Labor Service lieutenant had charged me as AWOL [absent without leave]," said Jan Wiatr from Welnowiez, Poland. "But CPT Sanders, an American officer of Polish descent who had befriended me, smoothed that over. However a month

▲ Private Frank Jaks performing guard duty at the main gate of the Czech 7991st Labor Service Detachment, 4091st LSC, Nuremberg, Germany, in 1952. Shown above is the shoulder patch of the Czech Labor Service units working for the U.S. Army in Germany.

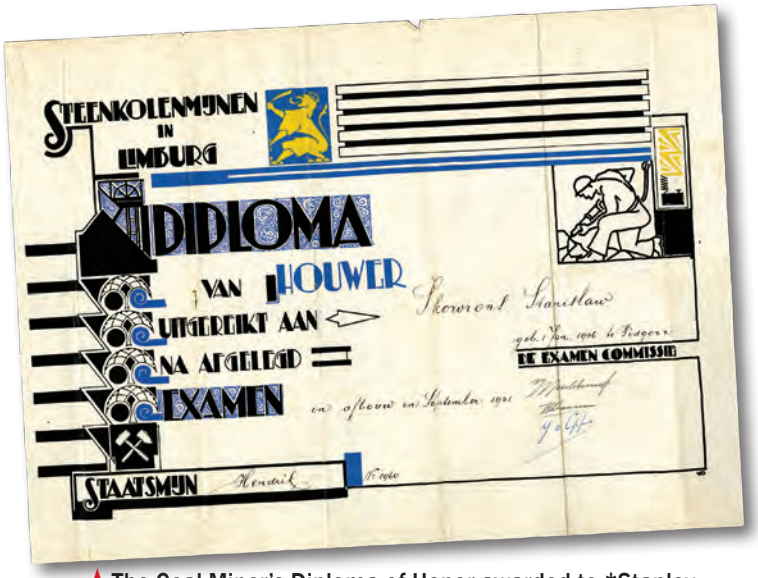
▲ Henry Kwiatkowski stands on the elevated boardwalk between the LS living tents at Captieu, France. The cantonment grounds turned into a veritable mud hole when it rained.

▲ Teodor Padalinski with the Polish Labor Service Company in Captieu, France.

▲ Jan Wiatr is among these 4011th Polish Labor Service Company volunteers from Kaiserslautern, Germany, that came to Captieu, France.

Private Henryk Szarek (right rear) with fellow French Foreign Legion paratroopers in Hanoi in 1951.

Private Henryk Szarek shakes hands with the 307th Replacement Group (EUCOM) commander before leaving Zweibrucken with five other Lodge Act enlistees for Camp Grohn in Bremen.



The Coal Miner's Diploma of Honor awarded to *Stanley Skowron in Limburg, Holland.

Logos of *Voice of America* and *Radio Free Europe.*

later when I got the letter to report to Sonthofen for in-processing into the U.S. Army, that lieutenant really went crazy. CPT Sanders ignored his protests and even had his driver take me to Sonthofen in the staff car. I left Captieu 'in style.' I found out later that four guys from my platoon in France, were accepted," laughed Wiatr. "That's why he was so mad."[13]

A few months after applying, Henryk "Frenchie" Szarek got a letter from USAREUR headquarters to report to the 4097th Polish LS Battalion in Pirmasens, Germany, to demonstrate his suitability for military service. After two months guarding ammunition bunkers and motor pools in a blue dyed Army enlisted man's uniform, the ex-French Foreign Legion paratrooper and Indochina veteran finally gave the American captain in charge an ultimatum: "If I'm not accepted for U.S. Army enlistment in two weeks, I'm quitting [the LS unit] and going back to France. I didn't come here to pull guard in a 'fireman's uniform.'"[14] Recruiting and selection from LS units was not sufficient to fill the requirement for 2,500 single Eastern European men.

The USAREUR PIO extended their advertising campaign to Austria, Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg, in 1951. Press releases and news film clips were sent to European and Allied-approved German and Austrian newspapers, news magazines, and to movie theaters. The semi-monthly *HUETE*, a German photo magazine, and the monthly news magazine, *Der Monat*, produced by EUCOM contained articles on Lodge Act enlistment.[15] The notices did produce some results.

Polish volunteer *Stanley Minkinow saw a poster in the Munich train station.[16] A news clip about the Volunteer Freedom Corps showing in a local movie theater got the attention of Peter V. Astalos from Cernauti, Romania working in a German coal mine in the British zone, and *Stanley Skowron from Podgorzc, Poland working in a Dutch coal mine in Limburg. Teodor Padalinski, another

This cartoon from a Polish newspaper depicts children being sent to Germany as farm laborers.

Pole from Zyrardow learned of the Lodge Act program in 1950, working in Holland. "But, no specifics for application were given; no address, nothing. It wasn't until I joined a Polish Labor Service unit in France that I got any specifics."[17] Latvian *John C. Anderson had emigrated to Belgium in 1947 to work three years in the coal mines to get citizenship. When the government reneged on its promise, Anderson returned to Germany to join a LS Company in Ludwigsburg. There, he applied for enlistment and was in the second group.[18] *Voice of America* and *Radio Free Europe* explained the Lodge Act incentives to Eastern Europeans listening covertly. Rudolf "Rudi" G. Horvath heard a *Voice of America* broadcast in Budapest, Hungary.[19] But the men not working for the U.S. military had a more difficult time applying for enlistment.

Because Lodge Act recruiting was a staff-managed program, it did not receive command emphasis from Army leaders and the chain of command. After swimming the Danube River at Linz, Austria, to escape in July 1950, Rudi Horvath spent months trying to locate an American soldier in Munich who knew anything about the program. He could not find one of the "special recruiting offices opened in the U.S. zone that processed some 2,600 applicants by September 1951."[20] By then the quota had been raised to 12,500. Horvath finally found a clerk typist who had heard about it. "He was working late, so I asked him to type up an application for me. When he said that he did not have the required form, I suggested that he improvise using a standard request form with my personal data and add that I was applying for enlistment under the Lodge Act. When he was done, the clerk agreed to send the 'doctored up' form to Heidelberg for me," said Horvath.[21] Then, Rudi returned to washing the cars of American servicemen to survive. Other young men were more fortunate.

*Andre Carson from Löm, Bulgaria, was in his final semester at the University of Munich when the U.S. Army colonel in charge of the supply depot asked him about his future plans. After the American officer explained the Lodge Act enlistment incentives, Carson decided to apply. His emigration to Australia like that of Czech Frank Jaks was still in process.[22] John Koenig from Yugoslavia was working in the heating plant of the American *kaserne* in Hoescht, Germany. The officer in charge of the facility, Warrant Officer Senior Grade (CWO) Mussard from Massachusetts took him to the Army Test Station in Frankfurt.[23] Still, "getting the word out" in Western Europe was only part of the enlistment problem.

Unbeknownst to most applicants, the Army Counter Intelligence Corp. (CIC) was conducting security investigations. How long these background checks took depended on how long the applicant had been living in Western Europe. Obviously, life behind the Iron Curtain could not be investigated. "Street work" for investigations required time and was not a high priority for State and Defense Departments that were being rocked by the Red Scare.[24]

"Background investigations were done to determine if parents, relatives, or friends were associated with the Communist Party. CIC agents acted like there was a 'Commie' behind every bush," remembered Czech Vaclav Hradecky. "My German identification (ID) card listed me as Yugoslavian. Still, the CIC talked with the Austrian farmer that my family worked for during the war," said John Koenig.[25] "The German farmer in Kleinhirschbach where I had done forced labor for two years was questioned," said *Walter J. Smith from Majdan, Poland.[26] It was a bit different for Julius "Bear" Reinitzer from Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Reinitzer used a "blue chip" with the CIC. After escaping in late 1949, he accepted a job secreting agents across the border for them. On his third trip he was caught after the agent was wounded. Reinitzer was sentenced to 14 years of hard labor in the Kachomvich, Czechoslovakia uranium mine. After two unsuccessful attempts, the "Bear" finally got away and reached West Germany on 22 June 1952. CIC arranged for the aptitude tests in Munich.[27] But his case was atypical.

U.S. Army Corporal Henry Chludzinski (left), a Polish speaker, was detailed to assist Lodge Act applicants at the Mannheim Army Test Center in 1950. *George S. Taylor (right in his 4088th Polish Labor Service Company uniform) was an applicant for Army enlistment. When Taylor was accepted in mid-October 1951, he had already served five years with the Polish LS in Germany.

Another problem that plagued the administrators was determining appropriate aptitude tests for the alien applicants. Unlike in the United States, schooling was interrupted for most children in occupied European countries for seven years. Thus, the majority of candidates had not graduated high school. It was several months before "approved" applicants received a letter to report to an Army Test Station. Those rejected for security reasons never got a response.[28]

The aptitude tests and qualification criteria for aliens proved to be a "work in progress" for the five-year duration of the Lodge Act enlistment program. Determining which military aptitude test to administer was tough for Army Test Centers in Europe. The first group was given the exams for Officer Candidate School. Topics ranged from mathematics, science, and basic geography to English grammar and reading comprehension. The tests were in English. Since what little English most applicants knew was spoken, German-speaking U.S. soldiers were provided to assist. Unfortunately, every candidate did not speak German.[29]

"The first part of testing there was a lot of sign language being used for instructions. All exams were extremely tough and there were time limits. When there were multiple choices for answers and true/false questions, I gambled to complete on time," remembered Rudi Horvath. "Mathematics and science are universal languages so my high scores in them probably balanced the low English reading test results. That's how I think that I passed."[30] Frank Jaks, a Czech, reached the same conclusion.[31]

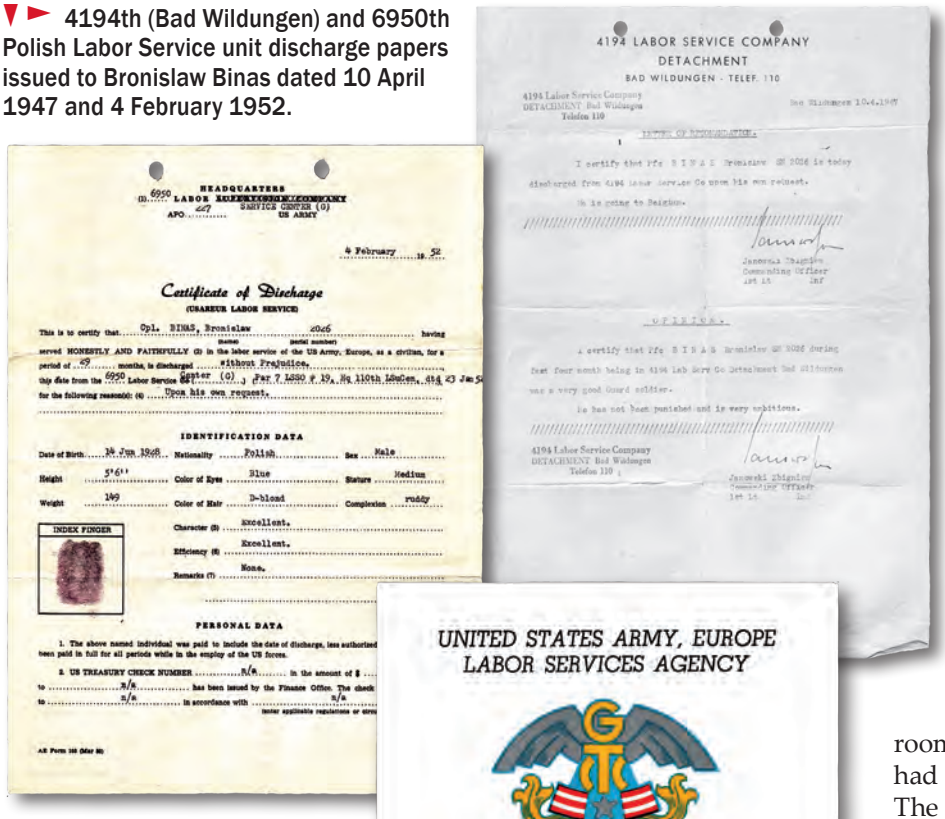
At the end of the first part, about two-thirds were retained for the second battery of tests. By the third battery, only fifteen remained from the original group of fifty. And when these few were told to return to their LS units or civilian jobs, most departed not knowing whether they had passed or failed the entrance exams.[32] EUCOM reported that alien enlistees made scores on the Armed Forces qualification tests comparable to those of American high school graduates.[33] "How I passed I'll never know because as a child, my father took me out of school in my fifth year. Since I could write my name

▲ COL Foster, the Replacement Group commander, met some of the new recruits at the Zweibrucken train station. The overnight valises and thick briefcases were referred to as "schnitzel" bags by the East Europeans. ► Private Frank Kokosza poses in his new uniform with the U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) shoulder patch worn by the Lodge Act enlistees in Germany.

▲ Private *John C. Anderson and the second group of Lodge Act soldiers assembled in front of the EUCOM 7720th Replacement Depot in Sonthofen.

▲ *Walter J. Smith did forced labor in Germany during WWII before joining the U.S. Army.

▼ Sonthofen Kaserne with the Bavarian Alps in the background.



▼► 4194th (Bad Wildungen) and 6950th Polish Labor Service unit discharge papers issued to Bronislaw Binas dated 10 April 1947 and 4 February 1952.

▲ 2LT Clarence C. "Larry" Mann, 307th Replacement Battalion was the alien enlistee company commander at Sonthofen and Camp Grohn from December 1951 until June 1953. 2LT Larry Mann's wife, Joan (right), was nicknamed the "Coca Cola Lady" by the Lodge Act soldiers.

▲ Anthony Pilarczyk served in the Free Polish Brigade in Nuremberg-Fischbach, Germany, from December 1945 to February 1946. ▲ This commemorative certificate shows the postwar Polish Labor Service insignia.

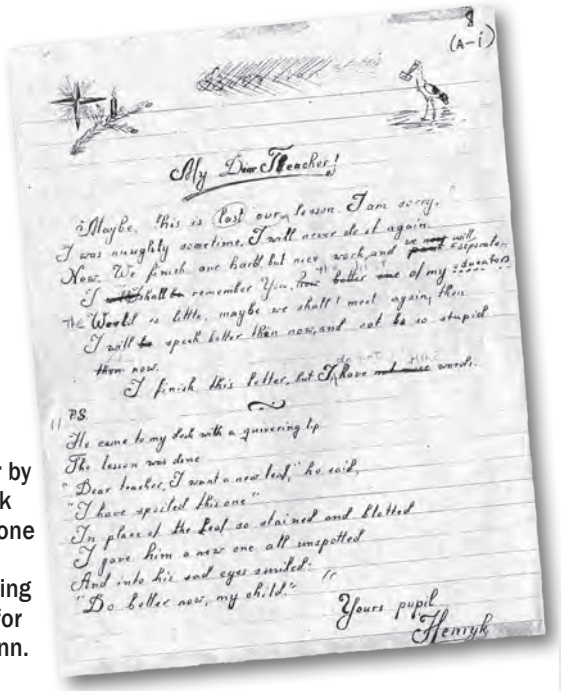
and do basic arithmetic, he figured that was enough education for a farmer," said Walter J. Smith (Wladyslaw J. Naumowicz) from Majdan, Poland.[34]

By the time *Andre Carson took the "entrance" exam it was being offered in English and German.[35] When Vaclav Hradecky took his examinations in Munich in mid-1952, applicants could choose a Russian, French, German, or English version. "I took mine in Russian because I understood that better than German," remembered the Czech applicant.[36] It was late fall of 1951 before the first acceptable Lodge Act applicants assembled in Sonthofen, Germany, after their initial in-processing at the 7720th Replacement Battalion (EUCOM).

Sonthofen was located in the Bavarian Alps in southern Germany. "Picturesque would be an understatement. The facility had been an *SS* officer candidate school. The barracks were more like a hotel with two to four men per room with their own bathroom. Many rooms had balconies and views of the mountains. The mess hall was in an adjacent building. The alien recruits were fed standard American fare. Daily formations were held in an enclosed quadrangle," recalled Second Lieutenant (2LT) Clarence C. "Larry" Mann, the company commander.[37]

Receiving the letter to report to Sonthofen in October 1951 was the "happiest moment in my life. I had been bumping around in Western Europe since I had escaped Poland in 1946," said Anthony J. Pilarczyk.[38] Like Martin Urich from Filibovo, Yugoslavia, who served in the 9th *Panzer* Division, Ex-Flag Sergeant Peter V. Astalos, one of the few Romanian volunteers, had also been a *Panzer* tank commander on the Russian Front. "If it hadn't been for the U.S. Army, it would have been the French Foreign Legion. I learned to love freedom and democracy later, but at that time, my primary motivation was to be a soldier again," stated Astalos.[39] The U.S. Army replacement personnel at Sonthofen were pleased with the motivation and high quality of the Lodge Act recruits.

2LT Larry Mann, who spoke German and some French, expected orders to Korea after graduating from New York University (Bronx) in June 1951. Instead, the infantry officer was sent to Sonthofen, Germany, to command a replacement company with two sections instead of platoons: one section was Iron Curtain country refugees who volunteered for five years in the U.S. Army in return for American citizenship; and the other, a modified basic training section was for U.S. military male dependents. "We operated a kind of military prep school for military-age sons of



My Dear Teacher!

Maybe, this is (lost) our lesson. I am sorry.
I was naughty sometime. I will never do it again.
Now. We finish our hard but nice work and we must separate.
I shall remember You, how better one of my educators
The World is little, maybe we shall't meet again, then
I will be speak better then now, and not be so stupid
then now.
I finish this letter, but I have not more words.

P.S.
He came to my desk with a quivering lip
The lesson was done
"Dear teacher, I want a new leaf," he said,
"I have spoiled this one."
In place of the leaf so stained and blotted
I gave him a new one all unspotted
And into his sad eyes smiled:
"Do better now, my child."

Yours pupil
Henryk

► This letter by Private Henryk Szarek was done as an English language writing requirement for Mrs. Joan Mann.

▲ New Lodge Act enlistees try on their new combat boots as the supply sergeant of the replacement center watches.

▲ The Sonthofen barracks covered in deep snow.

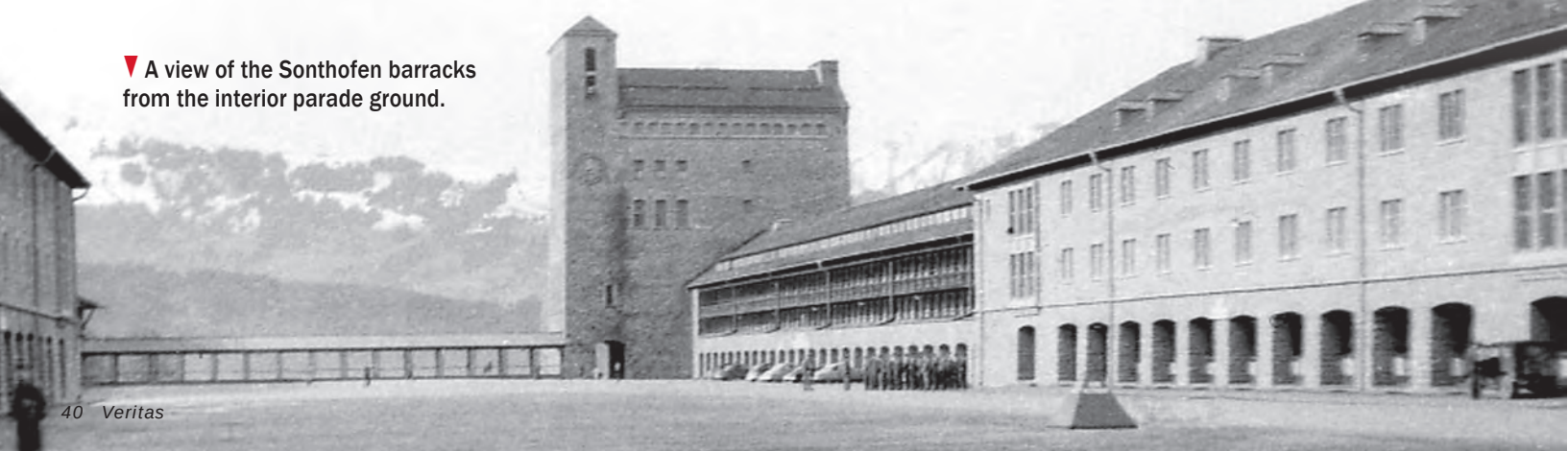
▲ Private Vaclav Hradecky with his English instructors at Camp Grohn, Bremen, Germany in 1952

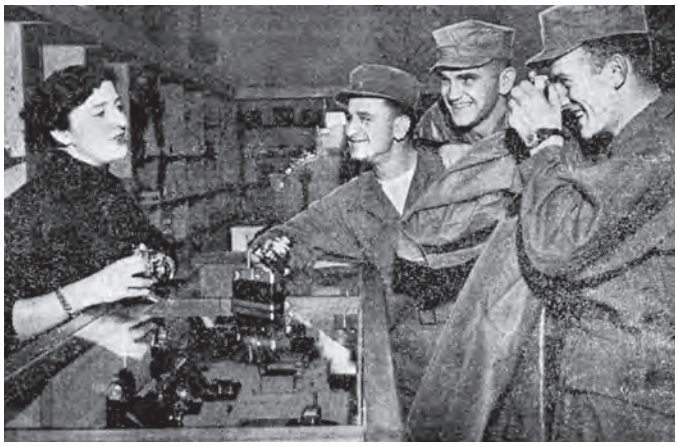
▲ SFC Henry M. Koefoot assembles the Lodge Act enlistees in the quadrangle at Sonthofen, Germany.

senior Army personnel in Europe bound for college in the States. For the alien recruits, in addition to the administrative processing prior to induction, we issued complete uniforms, ID [identification] cards and "dog tags," arranged physical and dental examinations, scheduled batteries of inoculations, provided individual soldier skills training, presented basic English classes, and oriented them in U.S. customs."[40]

Not everyone passed the medical exams. Some had never had one. "I tested positive for tuberculosis (TB) and diphtheria. After being quarantined for three or four weeks in the hospital, it was determined that I was a carrier, but not contagious. These were probably picked up when we were in the Warsaw ghetto," said *Stanley Minkinow from Lodz, Poland. "Since my original group had left for the States, I joined the next one."[41] These were not the only challenges faced by LT Mann and his small staff.

▼ A view of the Sonthofen barracks from the interior parade ground.





▲ Gerald Coelek (right) uses PX clerk Benate Busch as a camera subject as Henryk Szarek (left) and *Lucien Zochowski (center) lend advice. On their first pay day the alien recruits went on a shopping spree *(Stars & Stripes)*.

▲ Lodge Act soldiers at Sonthofen were amazed at the abundance of food provided in U.S. Army mess halls (*Stars & Stripes*).

► Private Henry M. Kwiatkowski returned to the Polish LS Company at Captieu, France, in his new uniform wearing the Army of Occupation ribbon and his Polish LS Badge.

▲ Private *John F. Gordon from Balice, Poland (right) and another Lodge Act soldier posed for this photograph in their new U.S. Army uniforms.

"Several Army sergeants served as tactical trainers and two corporals spoke several languages. The recruits spoke fifteen different languages in various dialects. They also had varying levels of education. I can remember using five guys to get a message across. I wasn't sure if the final version was what I intended. It was the old 'pass the message' game that one played as a child. We used some of the officers' wives to teach English. The enlistees had to speak and respond in English only," said Mann. "My wife was a teacher and kept some letters written by the soldiers." [42] "My English amounted to basically 'Yes,' 'No,' 'Thank you,' and 'Good morning,'" commented Frank Jaks from Czechoslovakia. [43] There were other issues.

"Getting the East European recruits into uniform was tough. Most men were shorter and wider in the body than the average American. We tailored Quartermaster uniforms to fit. These were probably the best dressed enlisted soldiers in the Army at the time, said LT Mann.[44] "The truth of the matter, the U.S. Army supply sergeants could not equate European metric sizes to the American sizes in inches. So, we really looked sharp in those tailored uniforms," recalled *Andre Carson from Bulgaria.[45] Unaccustomed to the higher standard

▲ Private Frank Jaks (second from right) and his Lodge Act compatriots ready to load the train for Bremerhaven.

Sonthofen to Camp Grohn and Back

In July 1952, the 320th Replacement Battalion moved from Sonthofen to Camp Grohn near Bremen (closer to Bremerhaven, the port of entry/departure for American troops). Before the battalion officers escorted the fifty-man groups aboard the train to Bremerhaven every few months. Less than six months later (December 1952), the 320th relocated back to Sonthofen.[51]

◄▼ **Period postcards of Camp Grohn where the 320th Replacement Battalion was located outside Bremen, Germany in 1952.**

of living in the Army, the recruits treasured their new clothing and equipment. Shoes were always polished to perfection and their ODs (olive drab dress uniform) were treated like "Sunday best" clothing.[46] "Oh, yeah! We felt like special people in those tailored uniforms," said Paul Ettman from Sierdaz, Poland.[47]

Sergeant First Class (SFC) Henry M. Koefoot, a American Army tactical NCO (non-commissioned officer), said: "They're the best. No 'whys' or 'ifs' when you tell them to do something. All you see is a streak of lightning and the job is done."[48] "Physical fitness was not a problem. The men were in their twenties and early thirties and had lived a hard life. They did not frequent Sick Call. These soldiers were just happy to be there. The aliens were getting paid more money [$72] than they had ever earned in their lives," said LT Mann.[49] "Payday turned the PX into a miniature madhouse. These soldiers guzzled gallons of Cokes and fruit juice, chewed four or five sticks of gum at a time, and bought almost every item in stock," wrote a *Stars and Stripes* reporter.[50] "In the excitement I bought a box of pie mix thinking that there was pie inside," Rudi Horvath laughed years afterward.[52] Before leaving for Bremerhaven, the Army port of debarkation for all American troops leaving for the United States, every recruit was offered a seven-day leave to visit friends or relatives living in Western Europe.[53]

These men were proud to have "made the cut" to enlist in the American Army and were anxious to show off their tailored uniforms. "One hour in the U.S. Army (after enlistment) and I already had a medal," remarked *Stanley Minkinow. "When I went back to visit my school at Bad Reichenhall, I was a 'big man on campus.'"[54] "I went back to see my buddies in the 4011th Labor Service Company in France and to 'needle' that Polish lieutenant," chuckled Jan Wiatr.[55] Frank Jaks returned to his old LS unit in Nuremberg.[56] In Holland, Peter Astalos and Teodor Padalinski celebrated with some textile factory co-workers.[57] Since many had no place to go, they chose to stay in camp because they got

▲ Lodge Act soldiers on the dock at Bremerhaven in 1952 waiting to board the USNS *General J.H. McRae.*

◄ As a merchant seaman on the MS *Batory*, Henry Kwiatkowski was awarded the Polish Military Cross of Valor in Bronze.

▲ Private Frank Jaks and his Lodge Act group during lifeboat drills aboard ship in February 1953.
◄ Julius Reinitzer and two other Lodge Act soldiers en route to the States aboard the USNS *General J.H. McRae* in 1952.

▼ The USTS *General Kreuger* berthed at Bremerhaven carried Henry M. Kwiatkowski and his fellow Lodge Act soldiers to New York in 1953.

▲ "The Royal Order of Atlantic Voyageurs" awarded to *Private Stanley Skowron for surviving the trip from Bremerhaven to New York.

◄ Private Vaclav Hradecky bundled up in his life jacket during a lifeboat drill on the troopship carrying him to New York.

► *Private Stanley Skowron standing on the fantail of his ship en route to America.

decent food. The enlistees' final departure was a moving event for many of the Eastern Europeans.

While some Lodge Act soldiers waited to board their troopship, German artists pen brushed soldiers' names in very fancy script on duffle bags for two *Deutsch Marks* (about 25 cents). But, the most memorable part was the Army band playing *Auf Wiedersehen* for the soldiers leaving Germany for the States. "This was very moving for us. Some men had tears in their tears fearing that they would never return to Europe. Most had friends or family who had left home and the continent earlier. None of them had returned," said Vaclav Hradecky. "It was quite emotional."[58]

The trans-Atlantic trip to New York City aboard a U.S. Navy vessel was etched into the memories of most Lodge Act soldiers. Rough seas and bad weather were common during winter crossings of the North Atlantic. Frank Kokosza and Henry M. Kwiatkowski, two former Polish seamen, had no problems. "There wasn't much to do aboard a troop ship but they fed us well," remembered Kokosza.[59] During lifeboat drills all personnel gathered on deck in life jackets. However, most of the Eastern Europeans recalled the voyage as quite unpleasant.

Bulgarian *Andre Carson said, "I started feeling sick before we lost sight of land. I felt so miserable that I slept on deck and refused to pull KP (kitchen police). My attitude was, 'Arrest me. Who cares?' I was still so wobbly afterwards that I slept with one foot on the floor at Camp Kilmer."[60] "It was a helluva rough trip. The front railing was torn off the ship. I stayed sick all the way to New York," remembered Yugoslav John Koenig.[61] After ten days of seasickness the Statue of Liberty was more than a beacon of freedom for Jan Wiatr. It meant that finally, stable, dry land was close at hand.[62]

Rudi Horvath from Budapest was ecstatic, "I couldn't believe it. There seemed to be car lights everywhere. It was phenomenal. After all those years of trying I had finally reached freedom."[63] Henryk "Frenchie" Szarek remembered that there was snow on the ground in New York, "but I was happy because now I was in a country where freedom flourished."[64] When *Walter Smith from Madsdarg, Poland, spotted the Empire State Building on the skyline, he felt that "he had entered a new world."[65]

*Stanley Minkinow from Lódz, Poland, vowed when he saw the Statue of Liberty that he was going to "start off on the right foot in America." The young soldier made his grand entrance when he tripped over his duffle bag stepping off the gangplank.[66] Afterwards, the future Americans boarded a bus for Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, between Piscataway and Edison. They had arrived.

This completes Part I of "America's Foreign Legionnaires: The Lodge Act Soldiers in the U.S. Army." Part II will address the relocation of the replacement battalion from Sonthofen to Camp Grohn (Bremen) in

July 1952 and back again in December 1952. Camp Kilmer was the transition point for basic combat training and those slated for English language training at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. The Lodge Act soldiers in basic and advanced combat training, parachute schools, and early assignments will follow. Included will be the stories of three Czech anti-Communist guerrillas, Josef and Ctirad "Ray" Masin and Milam Paumer, who bypassed the application, testing phase, Sonthofen, and went straight to Fort Dix, New Jersey.[67] They were among the hundred Lodge Act soldiers that served in Special Forces during the early days (1952-1960).

The purpose of this article was to introduce the Lodge Act, the enlistment procedures, and to permit some of the veterans to explain their experiences. I hope that this first installment of a two-part article for *Veritas* will prompt other veterans to participate. More is better.

Charles H. Briscoe has been the USASOC Command Historian since 2000. A graduate of The Citadel, this retired Army special operations officer earned his PhD from the University of South Carolina. Current research interests include Army special operations during the Korean War, in El Salvador, and the Lodge Act.

Endnotes

1 James Jay Carafano, "Mobilizing Europe's Stateless: America's Plan for a Cold War Army," *Journal of Cold War Studies* 1:2 (1999) 61.

2 Carafano, "Mobilizing Europe's Stateless," 66.

3 Senator Henry Cabot Lodge initiated the bill in the U.S. Senate and Congressman Philip J. Philbin, a Democrat from Massachusetts introduced the Alien Enlistment (Lodge) Bill in the U.S. House of Representatives. Credit rightfully belongs to the Senator, hence it has been referred to as the Lodge Act. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lodge-Philbin_Act.

4 James B. Jacobs and Leslie Anne Hayes, "Aliens in the U.S. Armed Forces: A Historico-Legal Analysis," *Armed Forces and Society*, 7:2 (Winter 1981) 197.

5 Jacobs and Hayes, "Aliens in the U.S. Armed Forces," 197.

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7 The British Pioneer Corps had afforded refugees from Nazism during World War II a chance to fight against Adolf Hitler. They ultimately had fifteen battalions. H.W. Brands, Jr., "A Cold War Foreign Legion? The Eisenhower Administration and the Volunteer Freedom Corps," *Military Affairs* 52 (January 1988), 7-8.

8 Resume of Army Roll-Up Following World War II, File 39, US Army Center of Military History, 83-87, and Top Secret Supplement, Annual Historical Report, Headquarters, US Army Europe (U), 1 January 1953-30 June 1954, 75, US Army Center of Military History cited in Carfano, "Mobilizing America's Stateless," 69.

9 Lodge Act soldier Henry Kwiatkowski from Poland served in the British Auxiliary Service in the 317th Tank Transport Company at Berkhausen, Germany. Retired SFC Henry Kwiatkowski telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 3 and 21 October 2008, Silver Springs, MD, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Kwiatkowski interview with date.

10 Retired LTC Vaclav Hradecky, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 9 September 2008, New Ipswich, NH, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, hereafter cited as Hradecky interview with date.

11 Retired CSM George S. Taylor, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 11 September 2008, Hopedale, MA, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Taylor interview with date.

12 Retired MAJ Frantisek (Frank) Jaks interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 14 June 2007, Fort Bragg, NC, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter as Jaks interview with date.

13 Retired SFC Jan Wiatr, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 2 October 2007, Fayetteville, NC, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Wiatr interview with date.

14 Henryk Szarek, interview by Robert Seals, Arlington, MA, 27 August 2006, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Szarek interview with date and Headquarters, 4097 Labor Service Battalion, APO 189, US Army Europe, Certificate of Discharge dated 22 June 1953, signed by Captain Zadzislaw Baraniecki. Henryk Szarek personal files, copy in USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

15 "Stateless Europeans Enlist," U.S. European Command (EUCOM) *Information Bulletin* (September 1951). Armed Forces Information and Education Division, EUCOM (Frankfurt, Germany), September 1951, images.library.wisc.edu/History/EFacs/GerRecon/omg1951Sept/reference/history.omg1951sept.i0034.pdf dated 30 January 2009 and "Aliens Start Army Training," EUCOM *Information Bulletin* (November 1951), images.library.wisc.edu/History/Efacs/GerRecon/omg1951Nov/reference/history.omg1951nov.adenauerproposal.pdf dated 30 January 2009.

16 Retired MAJ Stanley Minkinow, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 23 October 2008, Huntsville, Al, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Minkinow interview with date, "Stateless Europeans Enlist," U.S. EUCOM *Information Bulletin* (September 1951) and "Aliens Start Army Training," U.S. EUCOM *Information Bulletin* (November 1951).

17 Retired SGM Peter V. Astalos, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 25 June 2008, Fayetteville, NC, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Astalos interview with date, retired SFC Stanley Skowron, interview by Dr. Briscoe, 21 September 2008, Fayetteville, NC, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Skowron interview with date; retired SFC Teodor W. Padalinksi, telephone interview by Dr. Briscoe, 18 July 2008, Boulder, CO, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Padalinski interview with date.

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19 Astalos interview, 25 June 2008, Rudolf G. Horvath, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 15 May 2008, Dumont, NJ, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC; Horvath, "Escape from Behind the Iron Curtain: The Odyssey of a Lodge Act SF Soldier" *Special Warfare*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (April 2003), 37.

20 "Stateless Europeans Enlist," U.S. EUCOM *Information Bulletin* (September 1951).

21 Horvath interview, 15 May 2008, Horvath, unpublished memoir, 15, and Horvath "Escape from Behind the Iron Curtain," 43.

A photo of the New York skyline in 1952 taken by Private Vaclav Hradecky as their troopship waited in the harbor to dock.

◄ This was the ID card issued to Rudolf G. Horvath by the Displaced Persons (DP) Center located in *Panzer Kaserne* in Schweinfurt, Germany in 1951. The middle initial is incorrect.

▼ Czechoslovak Labor Service PFC Frantisek "Frank" Jaks was presented this meritorious service certificate by the 4091st LS Company (Guard) prior to leaving for enlistment in the U.S. Army.

22 Retired Chief Warrant Officer Four (CW4) Andre Vasilev Carson, interviews by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 28 November and 7 December 2007, Fayetteville, NC, digital recordings, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Carson interview with date; Jaks interview, 14 June 2007.

23 Retired MAJ John Koenig, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 4 September 2008, Fayetteville, NC, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Koenig interview with date.

24 H.W. Brands, Jr., "A Cold War Foreign Legion?, 8.

25 Koenig interview, 4 September 2008.

26 Walter J. Smith, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 28 July 2008, Lochbuie, CO, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Smith interview with date.

27 Retired SGM Julius Reinitzer, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 25 August 2008, Hudson, NH, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter Reinitzer interview and date.

28 U.S. Army CIC agents interviewed Ruhr coal mine supervisors, miners, and families where Peter V. Astalos worked until 1952. Checking Labor Service (LS) references simply entailed talking with American military officer supervisors, ethnic company chains of command, and reviewing personnel records at the LS Basic Training Center in Mannheim. They interviewed the German farmer for whom Walter J. Smith (Wladyslaw J. Naumowicz), a Pole, had worked during WWII. Smith interview, 28 July 2008, Astalos interview, 27 June 2008, Padalinski interview, 18 July 2008, retired MSG Frank Kokosza, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 26 June 2008, Fayetteville, NC, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Kokosza interview with date, Horvath interview, 16 May 2008; Carson interview, 28 November 2007.

29 Wiatr interview, 2 October 2007; Horvath interview, 16 May 2008.

30 Horvath interview, 16 May 2008.

31 Jaks interview, 14 June 2007.

32 Horvath interview, 16 May 2008 and Wiatr interview, 14 June 2007.

33 "Stateless Europeans Enlist," U.S. EUCOM *Information Bulletin* (September 1951).

34 Smith interview, 28 July 2008.

35 Carson interviews, 28 November and 7 December 2007.

36 Hradecky interview, 9 September 2008.

37 Retired COL Clarence C. Mann, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 14 April 2008, Tucson, AZ, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Mann interview with date.

38 Retired SSgt Anthony J. Pilarczyk, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 10 September 2008, Vacaville, CA, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Pilarczch with date.

39 Astalos interview, 25 June 2008.

40 Mann interview, 14 April 2008.

41 Minkinow interview, 23 October 2008.

42 Mann interview, 14 April 2008; Hradecky interview, 10 September 2008.

43 Jaks interview, 14 June 2007.

44 Mann interview, 14 April 2008.

45 Carson interview, 28 November 2007.

46 Robert J. Dunphy, "27 Refugees Find Army Leading to New Way of Life," *The Stars and Stripes* (11 October 1953): 7.

47 Retired SFC Paul R. Ettman, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 19 September 2008, Worcester, MA, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Ettman interview with date.

48 Dunphy, "27 Refugees Find Army Leading to New Way of Life," 7.

49 Mann interview, 14 April 2008.

50 Dunphy, "27 Refugees Find Army Leading to New Way of Life," 7. Monthly pay for a corporal in the Czech Labor Service Company in Nuremberg in 1952 was 173 Deutsch Marks (DM) or about $42 in American Occupation script money depending on the exchange rate. Hradecky interview, 10 September 2008.

51 Mann interview, 14 April 2008; Jaks interview, 14 June 2007.

52 Horvath interview, 16 May 2008.

53 Dunphy, "27 Refugees Find Army Leading to New Way of Life," 7 and "Stateless Europeans Enlist," U.S. EUCOM *Information Bulletin* (September 1951).

54 Minkinow interview, 23 October 2008.

55 Wiatr interview, 2 October 2007.

56 Jaks interview, 14 June 2007.

57 Astalos interview, 25 June 2008; Padalinski interview, 23 July 2008.

58 Hradecky interview, 10 September 2008.

59 Kokosza interview, 26 June 2008.

60 Carson interview, 28 November 2007; Wiatr interview, 2 October 2007.

61 Koenig interview, 4 September 2008.

62 Wiatr interview, 2 October 2007.

63 Horvath interview, 16 May 2008.

64 Szarek interview, 27 August 2006.

65 Smith interview, 28 July 2008.

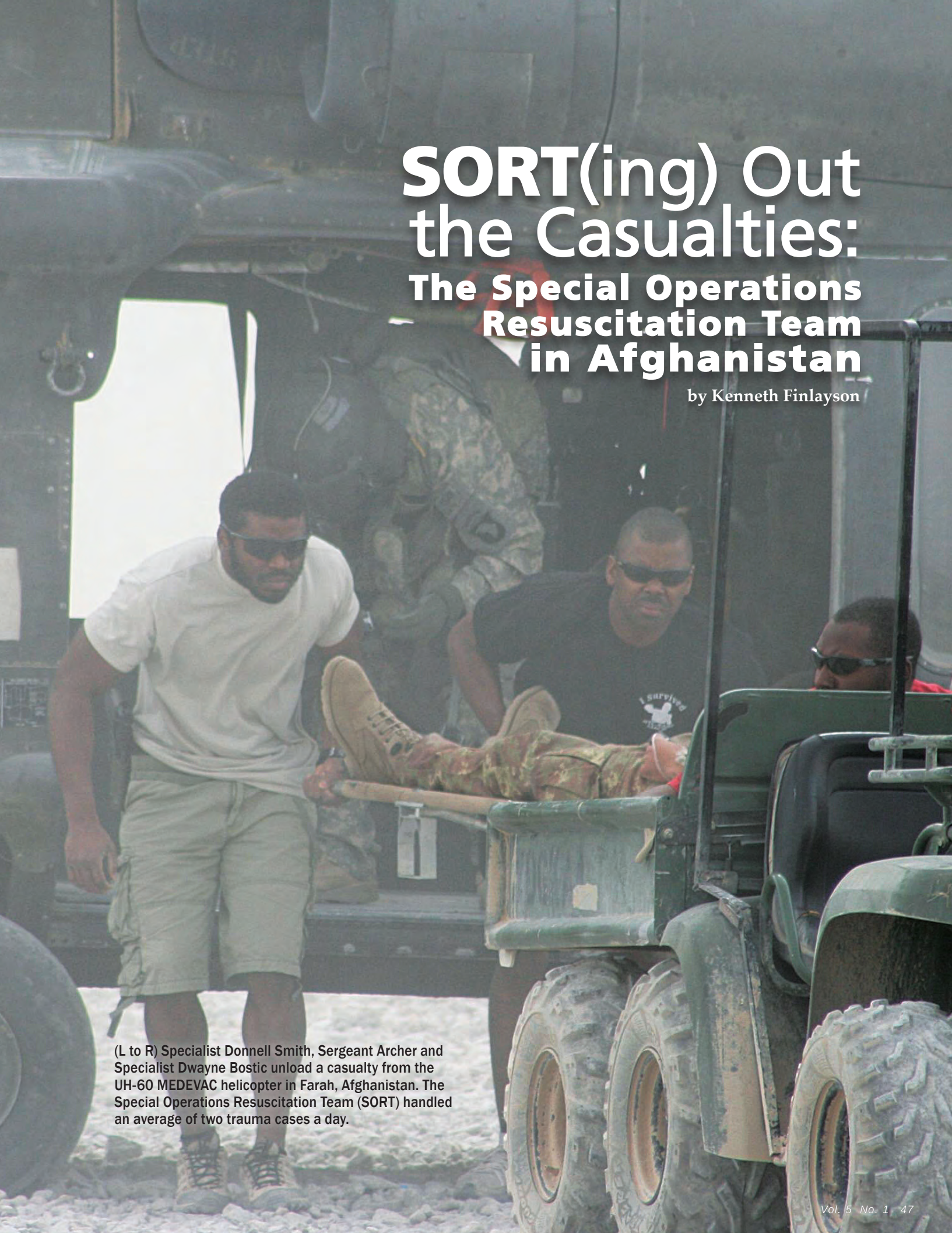
66 Minkinow interview, 23 October 2008.

67 Josef Masin, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 10 November 2008, Santa Barbara, CA, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, and Barbara Masin, *Gauntlet*, (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2006), 320.

SORT(ing) Out the Casualties:

The Special Operations Resuscitation Team in Afghanistan

by Kenneth Finlayson



(L to R) Specialist Donnell Smith, Sergeant Archer and Specialist Dwayne Bostic unload a casualty from the UH-60 MEDEVAC helicopter in Farah, Afghanistan. The Special Operations Resuscitation Team (SORT) handled an average of two trauma cases a day.

Contact was made shortly after dawn on 26 June 2008 by the Marine Special Operations unit as it entered a narrow valley in far western Afghanistan. A routine reconnaissance patrol was ambushed. A fierce firefight resulted as the insurgents directed accurate small arms fire down from positions on the canyon walls. The American Marines and their Afghan allies dismounted to return fire. In the ensuing melee, one Marine was killed and six others were wounded. The patrol's two Navy corpsmen were among the casualties. A request for casualty evacuation to the Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC) operations center at Farah triggered an immediate response. This action would confirm the validity of the Special Operations Resuscitation Team (SORT) from the 528th Sustainment Brigade (A).

(L to R) CPT Jamie Riesberg, an Afghan interpreter, a medic from the CJSOTF Civil Affairs Team, SSG Brian Moore, and CPT Ed Dunton attend a trauma patient. A "bear hugger" blanket is circulating warm air over a patient to stabilize his body temperature.

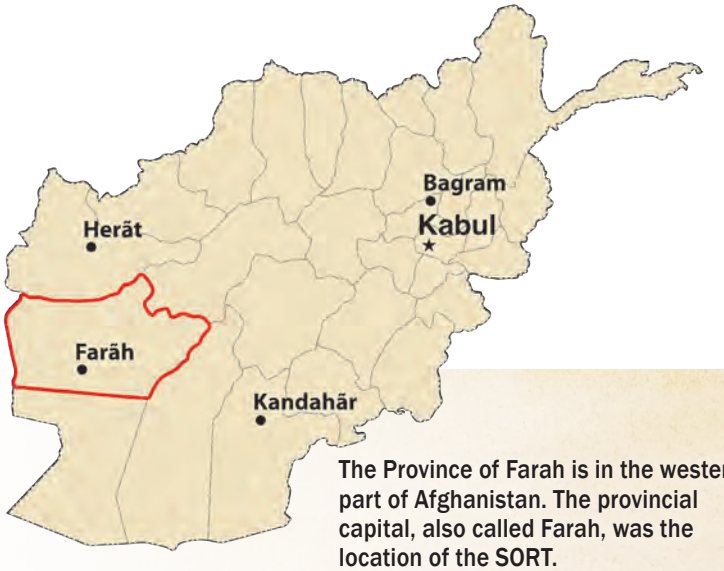
Army Staff Sergeant (SSG) Michael R. Fulghum and SSG Antujuan Brown, the two Special Operations Combat Medics (SOCMs) on the SORT, grabbed M-9 medical bags and ran out to board two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters on the Forward Operating Base (FOB) helipad. "SSG Brown got on the MEDEVAC [medical evacuation] bird and I jumped on the chase bird [an armed UH-60] and we took off," said SSG Fulghum. "It was a twenty minute flight out there but we circled for an hour while the Marines tried to break contact and withdraw so we could get them."[1]

While Close Air Support (CAS) aircraft dropped 500-pound bombs on the enemy positions, the Marines managed to break free from the ambush. The two Black Hawks alternately swooped down to pick up wounded Marines and Afghan soldiers; three casualties per helicopter. None of the casualties were on litters. To his horror, SSG Fulghum realized that one of his patients, a badly wounded Navy Corpsmen, was a friend.

"'Tony' had been shot through the left side and had a gaping wound in his lower chest wall," said Fulghum. "His intestines were coming out and he was bleeding badly. It was chaos inside the aircraft. As the helicopter took off, two open bandages blew out the window. I got an IV in him and a dressing on the wound, but it was real bad."[2] As the two Black Hawks raced back to Farah, Fulghum checked the other two casualties.

"The Afghan was shot in the upper arm, but not too bad. The wounded Marine was hit in the upper thigh and had two tourniquets on his leg. He was still bleeding steadily so I put another tourniquet on above the others. It wasn't much help, but I had to get back to Tony. That fifteen minute flight seemed like an eternity," SSG Fulghum recalled.[3] When the helicopters touched down, the patients were off-loaded onto litters and rushed into the small FOB hospital. The helicopters took off to bring back three more casualties.

For the next thirty-six hours, SORT personnel worked nonstop to stabilize the nine casualties sufficiently to evacuate them to the Army combat support hospital at Bagram. Everyone survived. The lifesaving that took place on 26 June 2008 validated the SORT concept for Army SOF as well as the team's pre-mission training. This article will explain the mission preparation and how the SORT supported the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan (CJSOTF-A).



The Province of Farah is in the western part of Afghanistan. The provincial capital, also called Farah, was the location of the SORT.

528th Sustainment Brigade DUI

7th Special Forces Group Flash

The SORT was created by the 528th Sustainment Brigade, Special Operations (Airborne) (Provisional) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to provide the stabilization and evacuation of casualties in Army Special Operations Forces (ARSOF) units and to reduce the patient administrative burden on unit medics. ARSOF needed a small, highly responsive lifesaving/life preserving medical organization that was leaner and more agile than that provided by the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Normally an 80-man Area Support Medical Company (ASMC), operating a small field hospital has this responsibility. The ASMC has a 40-bed holding capacity, provides ground ambulance evacuation, laboratory, X-ray, dental, and patient administration services for a corps area.[4] The 8-man SORT, reinforced by a small surgical team and dedicated air evacuation capability, was designed to provide Advanced Trauma Management (ATM) to ARSOF units in remote field locations. This was the mission to be validated by the first SORT deployed by the 528th.[5]

> *"As the helicopter took off, two open bandages blew out the window. I got an IV in him and a dressing on the wound, but it was real bad."*
> *— SSG Michael R. Fulghum*

Captain (CPT) Jamie C. Riesberg, MD, the physician on the team, was an original member of the organization. After finishing his residency in Family Medicine at Womack Army Hospital, Fort Bragg in 2006, he was assigned to the battalion surgeon's office of the Special Operations Sustainment Brigade. "The SORT grew out of the Special Operations Medical Association Conference in Tampa in 2004," said Riesberg. "The problem was how to provide Role II [second echelon, resuscitation and stabilization] medical support to ARSOF. The Army medical organization had too big a footprint. LTC Lorykay Wheeler, the 528th surgeon, built the capability that became the SORT."[6] The team structure reflected their mission of managing trauma on the battlefield.

"Based on our first OIF experience in 2003, it was clear that the SOSCOM [Special Operations Support Command] was not able to provide the second echelon of medical support that the ARSOF units needed when they first entered theater," said LTC Lorykay W. Wheeler. "ARSOF has always depended upon conventional Army medical units to provide the Role II medical care. When we went to Iraq in 2003, the medical units that were programmed to support us took quite a while to flow in. Eventually a Forward Surgical Team [FST] showed up, but we needed their capability at the beginning."[7] After her tour in Iraq, LTC Wheeler worked with the surgeons of U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) and United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) to create a small, deployable organization that would fill the gap between the ARSOF team medics (Role I) and the U.S. Army Medical Corps Role II medical support.

"The SORT was originally created as an expeditionary, short-term fix until the theater medical assets were established," said Wheeler. "It was designed to operate in an austere environment like we have in Afghanistan, where the coverage is difficult to provide due to the great distances and lack of Role II facilities."[8] The SORT concept survived the ARSOF logistical support reorganization that eliminated the 528th Special Operations Support Battalion.

"In putting together the TDA [Table of Distribution and Allowances], we had to take into account that the Special Forces PAs [Physician's Assistants] and medical teams had gone to the GSBs [Special Forces Group Support Battalions] when the 528th Battalion was disbanded in 2005," said CPT Riesberg. "By TDA, the SORT had a

SSG Antujuan Brown, one of two Special Operations Combat Medics (SOCMs) on the SORT, treats a young Afghan girl at the weekly medical clinic. The SORT ran a clinic for the local population and treated as many as a thousand patients a week.

physician with Emergency Room or Family Medicine training, a Registered Nurse [RN] with emergency medicine or critical care experience, two SOCMs, a Licensed Practical Nurse [LPN], one X-ray technician, one laboratory technician, and one patient administration specialist."[9] The team did not have all these personnel for the 2008 Afghanistan mission.

The SORT supported the 7th Special Forces Group (7th SFG) from April to December 2008. The 7th SFG staff formed the nucleus of Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan (CJSOTF-A), which controlled Coalition special operations forces throughout the country. It was a multi-national and multi-service organization. The 7th SFG surgeon, LTC Andrew L. Landers, was dual-hatted as the CJSOTF surgeon.

"I requested the SORT because we needed a scaled-down package to provide their Role II [medical and surgical] capability in Farah," said Landers. "The operating environment there was austere and the distances for evacuation were long."[10] Farah was a four-hour flight from Bagram on the other side of the country. "The SORT gave us an agile capability that we could move as necessary," said LTC Landers. "They provided the ability to stabilize casualties and, if necessary, their people could accompany the patient during the evacuation to the next level of care. They did that several times."[11] The initial SORT mission was to support the MARSOC forces in Farah, in extreme western Afghanistan. Having been alerted for deployment, the team conducted an intensive pre-mission training program.

Riesberg was the team physician. CPT E. Edward Dunton, RN, was the SORT Team Leader. SSG Brian P. Moore, one of two X-Ray technicians, served as the Team Sergeant. SSG Michael R. Fulghum and SSG Antujuan Brown were the two SOCMs. Specialists (SPC) Donnell B. Smith, an X-ray technician, Ronnie M. Heflin, a laboratory technician, and Dwayne A. Bostic, a patient administration specialist, rounded out the team. There would be no PA or LPN. Cross-training provided medical specialty redundancy. The team trained to cover their requirements for communications, supply, and maintenance. Surgical support was to come from in-country Army medical assets.

"We had to make sure everyone was cross-trained," said SSG Brian P. Moore. "We were starting from a blank slate. We had to do weapons qualification, survival training, and our MOS [military occupation specialty] training to get ready. We had about a month and a half when we got the word for the deployment."[12] After one false alarm, the team got the deployment orders in February 2008.

"Originally 3rd Special Forces Group requested us for Afghanistan in October 2007," said CPT Ed Dunton. "That got turned off in February 2008. 7th Group requested us when they took over the CJSOTF mission from 3rd. When we first got the word that we were going with 7th [SFG], we did not have an exact [operational] location. Consequently we loaded all our tentage, water purification systems, generators, and everything in

Specialist Ronnie M. Heflin built shelves for the medical supply room at the hospital. The SORT laboratory technician, Heflin applied his carpentry skills to improve the "bare bones" facility.

An ISU-90 container (90" x 88" x 104"). The SORT was designed so that all its equipment could be loaded into three of these units for shipment on Air Force cargo aircraft.

Marine Special Operations Command Insignia

2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion Insignia

(R to L) CPT Jamie Riesberg and Dr. Moreno from the Italian Coalition forces prepare to load a casualty from the Provincial Reconstruction Team's MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) ambulance onto a U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules for evacuation to Bagram. At left, the Air Force crew chief looks on.

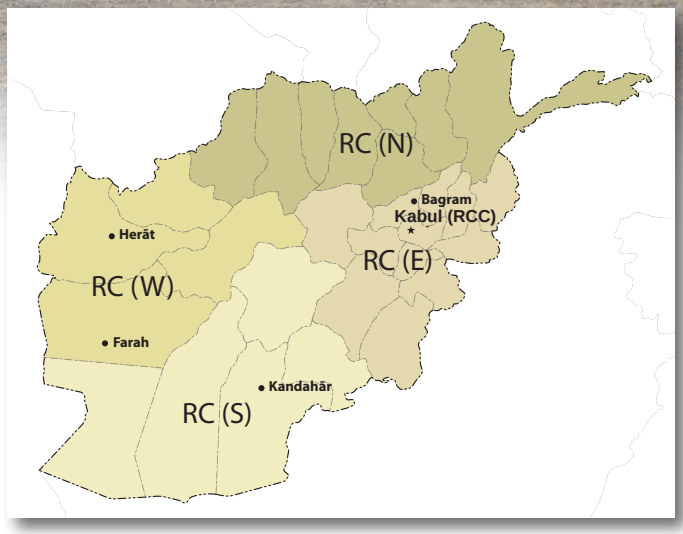
three ISU-90 containers."[13] The SORT left Pope Air Force Base with all its equipment on 21 April 2008 aboard a C-17 Globemaster III. After stopping briefly to refuel at Spangdalem Air Base in Germany, they arrived at Bagram, Afghanistan, on 22 April.

The SORT remained at Camp Vance, in Bagram for ten days. During that time they secured additional supplies and coordinated procedures with the theater hospital for the reception of patients. The 3rd SFG handed off the CJSOTF mission to the 7th SFG on 1 June 2008. The CJSOTF surgeon, LTC Andrew L. Landers, wanted the SORT to cover operations in RC-West.

"I told them their goal was to ensure that anyone who was alive when they were received by the SORT would remain alive as long as they were under the team's control and were handed off to the next higher level of medical care." — LTC Landers

"I was able to meet with the team prior to their deployment," said LTC Landers. "I told them their goal was to ensure that anyone who was alive when they were received by the SORT would remain alive as long as they were under the team's control and were handed off to the next higher level of medical care."[14] Landers reminded the team not to forget their primary mission.

"His guidance to me was pretty straight forward," said CPT Ed Dunton. "Do not degrade your capability."[15] The mission for the SORT was to support the MARSOC element and all coalition units operating in Regional Command-West (RC-West). A city of roughly 40,000 inhabitants, Farah was the primary urban center in the region. An Afghan district hospital was there.



Afghanistan is divided into five Regional Commands, North, South, East, West, and Kabul the capital. RC-West was under Italian and Spanish control.

Less than a mile out of Farah, the team found three small, closely-spaced compounds. There was an airfield that could handle large transport aircraft. The compounds and the airfield were enclosed by a concertina wire perimeter fence. The first compound, where the SORT billeted, was occupied by two Marine special operations teams, (thirty-five Marines), from Hotel Company, 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion (2MSOB). Adjoining the MARSOC compound was a second base used by the Afghan National Army (ANA). It held an ANA infantry company (less than 100 personnel) and their 25-man U.S. Army Embedded Training Team (ETT) made up of active Army and National Guard advisors. The ANA company was part of the 3rd *Kandak* (Battalion), 1st Brigade of the 207th Corps. The rest of the 3rd *Kandak* was based in Farah. Inside the ANA compound was a small four-man CJSOTF Civil Affairs team whose mission was to distribute humanitarian assistance funds and supplies.[16]

Three hundred yards from the Marine compound was the American Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) base. Sponsored by the various Coalition nations, the PRT

The operating room. A U.S. Army Reserve surgical team from Task Force Med provided the emergency surgical capability that the SORT did not have.

is a multi-service organization with military and civilian personnel. Their mission is to facilitate humanitarian relief and reconstruction.[17] Among the more than one hundred personnel in the PRT was a medical team of U.S. Navy Reservists with two physicians, a PA, a laboratory technician, and two corpsmen. The PRT base also housed the surgical team from Task Force-Med (TF-Med) from the U.S. Army theater medical organization. The TF-Med team had been in Farah for six months. The team was made up of U.S. Army Reserve personnel and had a general surgeon, a nurse-anesthetist, two operating room technicians, an intensive care nurse, an LPN, and two medics. They provided the surgical capability the SORT did not have.[18] Now three medical teams would operate out of the ten-room hospital on the PRT compound.

The medical facilities, while better than expected, were quite small and austere by U.S. standards. The largest room in the hospital was the four-bed trauma ward for incoming patients. There was an operating room, a pair of intensive care holding areas for patients coming out of surgery with two beds each, and an intermediate holding area with two beds for stabilized patients awaiting evacuation. The hospital had a pharmacy, a central supply room that doubled as the area for sterilizing the surgical equipment, a small laboratory, a room where the SORT set up their communications equipment, and a break room.[19] The air-conditioned building had a dedicated generator and an emergency back-up system. Space was at a premium so the SORT medical supplies were stored in 40-foot MILVAN containers adjacent to the building. With three different medical teams using the same facility, a mutually acceptable routine and standing operating procedures (SOPs) had to be established.

Above left: The provincial capital, Farah is a city of 40,000. The SORT compound was located a mile outside of the city. The Marine compound was named Fire Base Heredia in honor of a Marine killed in the 26 June 2008 ambush. Below: This compound, looking south, was where the SORT lived. The Marine compound was connected to that used by the Afghan National Army company.

The SORT Trauma Ward. Patients were brought here initially for resuscitation and stabilization. In this ward the SORT could take care of four trauma patients simultaneously.

(L to R) CPT Patrick McGraw, a surgeon on TF-Med performing an operation. CPT Ed Dunton and an Afghani doctor from the district hospital assist. Local medical personnel received training from the Americans at the hospital.

"Initially we had three chains of command," said CPT Ed Dunton. "Our mission was trauma. The PRT medical personnel took care of their routine sick call as well as the locals and the TF-Med guys did surgery."[20] To reduce confusion in the trauma ward, the SORT demonstrated their well-practiced system. "At first, the guys had different ways of setting up the equipment for each bed," said SSG Brian Moore. "I set up one bed the way we do it, with everything in a certain spot. The other teams agreed it was a good method and we set up all four that way."[21] That done, the SORT quickly fell into a daily routine; one that kept every member professionally busy in their specialty and with their additional duties.

SPC Donnell B. Smith was the primary X-ray technician on the team because SSG Moore filled the role of Team Sergeant and LPN. "Every patient we received had a chest X-ray, as a minimum. If the doctors needed other shots, I took them there at bedside," said Smith. "My system is portable. I roll it up to the bedside and shoot it there. The X-ray is digital and can be read on my laptop. I store each patient in a separate [computer] file and the doctors can call up whom they want to see."[22] If more than one patient arrived at once, the small trauma ward got very busy.

Trauma cases require that several actions occur simultaneously. "When we get more than one patient at a time, it gets pretty hectic around the beds. I have to get the patient information from the medics as they are working, fit my X-ray system in there and get my shots. It can be like one of those automatic car washes, just moving along," said SPC Smith.[23] The mission of the SORT was to stabilize the patients and evacuate them to the next higher

The supply room in the free clinic treatment room was shared by all three medical teams. Most of the SORT medical supplies were kept in MILVANs next to the hospital.

A UH-60 Black Hawk MEDEVAC helicopter preparing to take off from the pad on the PRT compound. Two Black Hawks from Task Force-101 were stationed at Farah. One of the SORT medics accompanied the crews on every flight.

U.S. Air Force surgeon Major Clifford Perez checks a patient's vital signs at Craig Theater Hospital in Bagram. The state-of-the-art facility was the usual destination for trauma patients treated by the SORT.

An Afghan boy with a severe head wound in the intensive care ward of the hospital. He is on a ventilator and his vital signs are being monitored electronically. The SORT would arrange for the evacuation of locals to the Red Cross hospital in Kabul or on occasion, the U.S. theater hospital in Bagram.

level of medical care as quickly as possible. Initiating the evacuation request was the responsibility of SPC Dwayne A. Bostic, the SORT Patient Administrator.

"My key role was tracking the patients, collecting all their personal and medical information, and getting a file going on each one," said Bostic. "My computer system is called an MC-4 [Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care] and it collects all the patient's vital information as I input it. This record follows the patient."[24] Once the doctor determined that the patient was sufficiently stable for evacuation, Bostic coordinated the pick-up.

"I would call the guys in Bagram that handled the evacuations at the combat support hospital. They just worked off a telephone," said Bostic. "Getting a flight could sometimes be a real hassle."[25] Medical evacuation flights were a Coalition effort in RC-West. The primary responsibility lay with the Italian and Spanish forces in charge in the region. "The Italians and Spanish had a four-hour launch time and they didn't fly at night or in low visibility," said CPT Ed Dunton. "If we could, we tried to get Air Force or Marine C-130s. Their response time was quicker."[26]

"If we couldn't get an Air Force aircraft, we could sometimes get the British in RC-South to take patients to their hospital," said CPT Jamie Riesberg. Not all the patents went directly to Bagram. "In some cases, we would briefly stop in Bagram and then fly on to [the U.S. Army Hospital at] Landstuhl. In 18 to 20 hours he could be in Germany," said Riesberg.[27] The SORT was responsible for the patient from his initial battlefield evacuation until he was passed to the next level of medical care.

"LTC Landers required that there be a SORT medic on each of the MEDEVAC birds," said CPT Dunton. "This meant that the two SOCMs [Fulghum and Brown], Dr. Riesberg, or myself were involved in every MEDEVAC mission."[28] SORT personnel were well-qualified for this mission. "Both of the SOCMs were trained as flight medics at Fort Rucker, Alabama. CPT Dunton was a

qualified flight nurse, and I was the flight surgeon for TF-101 flight crews," said CPT Riesberg.[29] As the deployment unfolded, the well-trained SORT members assumed additional duties and responsibilities.

"After the 26 June ambush, we began sending one of the SOCMs with every MARSOC operation," said CPT Dunton. "We lived and worked with those guys and there was a lot of trust built up that served us well in supporting their operations."[30] SORT members also supported the PRT operations when requested. "I went along on a MEDCAP [Medical Civil Action Program]," said SSG Brian P. Moore. "On another mission, I was manning the MK-19 [40mm automatic grenade launcher] on a vehicle when we put in a roadblock." [31]

"We lived and worked with those guys and there was a lot of trust built up that served us well in supporting their operations." — Ed Dunton

"I went out several times with the CA [Civil Affairs] guys on missions," said SPC Smith. "I was a driver and a gunner on one of the vehicles, depending on what they needed."[32] To SSG Moore, this was all part of the SORT mission. "If the teams asked and we could help, we did. Little things can mean a lot. When the MARSOC patrols came back, our guys would bring Gatorade and water out to them as soon as they hit the gate."[33] The SORT did more than help the Coalition forces. They sponsored a free medical clinic for the local Afghans twice a week.

On Tuesday and Thursday, select members saw patients from the local villages. "We had an interpreter contracted by the PRT," said SSG Michael Fulghum. "We called him 'Dutch'. His English wasn't that great, but he was willing. We ran an immunization program. We probably saw as many as a thousand people a week."[34] The team's emphasis on cross-training paid off during these missions.

SPC Donnell Smith working at the weekly medical clinic. An X-ray technician by MOS, Smith and the other SORT personnel were cross-trained to perform as medics.

SPC Dwayne Bostic, the patient administrator cross-trained as a medic, set up a triage area during the sick call. "It was little rough at first," he said. "I would get the basic data, name, age, gender, and try to get a feel for the patient's problem. In the beginning, I sent everything to the doctors. As I got more confident, I could take care of most of the basic problems right then. A lot of the ailments were fixed with aspirin and cough syrup."[35] With the trauma mission and the increasing support to the locals, replacing medical supplies was a constant problem. Their location in Farah made resupply from the distribution center in Bagram difficult.

SPC Donnell Smith, when not taking X-rays, ordered supplies. "We have a system called D-Cams [computerized logistical program] for ordering supplies. CPT Dunton would figure out what we needed and I'd work up the order. The request would go up to the CJSOTF medical logistics planner who would get the stuff from the medical company at Bagram and send it to us," said

Marines on patrol in a village in Farah Province. The SORT provided medical coverage to the Marine Special Operations teams after their corpsmen were wounded in the 26 June 2008 ambush.

Smith. "Getting the stuff by air was the preferred method. If it was sent by 'Ginga truck' [brand name commercial truck] we might never see it."[36] The SORT also did most of the ordering of supplies for the TF-Med team.

CPT Clayton C. Langdon, the medical logistics planner for the 528th Sustainment Brigade commented, "The team deployed with a thirty-day supply. This included blood and plasma products. Afghanistan is a different theater from Iraq; much more austere. Oftentimes it was easier, especially early in the deployment, for the team to call back to us and we would send their requests directly from Fort Bragg," said Langdon. "One of the things we learned was that we needed a medical logistician on the team. That guy could be at Bagram taking care of the SORT."[37] Despite a less than reliable supply system and at times a makeshift evacuation capability, the SORT for CJSOTF-Afghanistan demonstrated the validity of the concept.

SSG Brian Moore on the makeshift driving range on top of a security tower. The range was one of the few recreational activities available to the SORT.

"It all came together on 26 June. The first Marine we saw walked in with a bullet literally sticking out of his head. A round had hit his NVG [night vision goggles] helmet bracket, split, and stuck in his skull," said CPT Dunton. "When they brought the corpsman in, we were looking at what we call a 'circling in the drain' patient. He was literally 'spiraling down' and going fast. With him and the others, we were in a true mass casualty situation. Everyone worked all out and we had everyone stabilized pretty well inside of five hours. Except for the corpsman, they were all evacuated in 18 hours. [The corpsman was evacuated after 36 hours]. That one event justified all the training and preparation," said Dunton.[38] Not only did the SORT save and preserve the lives of those injured on the battlefield; it reduced the administrative load on the ARSOF team medics.

"One of the biggest things the SORT does is free up the special operations medic to remain with his team," said CPT Jamie Riesberg. "Before we came on the scene, the medic had to stay on the patient. It takes up to 8 man-hours to do the coordination and record keeping to move a patient through the system. The [ARSOF team] medic was responsible for this, taking him away from his team. Now we take the patient off his hands well forward and streamline the system."[39]

The Special Operations Resuscitation Team served in Farah from May until December 2008. The team averaged two trauma casualties a day from the RC-West units: the U.S. Army and Marines, ANA, Afghan National Police, and local civilians. Their greatest "surge" was handling 17 trauma patients in 18 hours. During its first employment in combat, the team demonstrated their value added to

In September the only rocket attack on the Coalition compound took place. One rocket struck the hospital. The attack occurred on a Friday and the damage was repaired by the following Monday. The clinic opened on schedule the next day.

CJSOTF-Afghanistan. LTC Andrew Landers credited their success to "having the right people. It just doesn't happen. They had the right combination of skills and motivation to do the job." [40]

The author would like to thank the 528th Sustainment Brigade SORT members for the time and photographs that made this article possible. At the time of this publication, a second SORT was deployed in support of CJSOTF-A.

Kenneth Finlayson is the USASOC Deputy Command Historian. He earned his PhD from the University of Maine, and is a retired Army officer. Current research interests include Army special operations during the Korean War, special operations aviation, and World War II special operations units.

Endnotes

1 Michael R. Fulghum, 528th Sustainment Brigade, Special Operations, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 5 February 2009, Fort Bragg, NC, digital interview, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. Special Operations Combat Medics (SOCMs) are highly trained combat medics who have completed the first half of the year-long Special Forces Medic course. They are experts in the initial treatment of combat casualities.

2 Fulghum interview, 5 February 2009.

3 Fulghum interview, 5 February 2009.

4 Field Manual 4-02.24, *Area Medical Support Battalion, Tactics, Techniques and Procedures* (Washington DC: Headquarters Department of the Army, 2000) 3-1 to 3-7.

5 The earliest antecedents of the SORT were developed and deployed in 2004 and 2005 by the Joint Special Operations Command. A pruning process eliminated the dental and veterinary capability and resulted in the present SORT configuration. Fulghum interview, 5 February 2009.

6 Jamie C. Riesberg, 528th Sustainment Brigade, Special Operations, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 14 January 2009, Fort Bragg, NC, digital interview, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC; Jamie C. Riesberg, MD, "The Special Operations Resuscitation Team (SORT): Robust Role II Medical Support for Today's SOF Environment," *Journal of Special Operations Medicine*, Vol. 9, Edition 1, Winter 2009.

7 Lorykay W. Wheeler, U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 9 February 2009, Fort Bragg, NC, interview notes, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

8 Wheeler interview, 9 February 2009.

9 Riesberg interview, 14 January 2009.

10 Andrew L. Landers, 7th Special Forces Group, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 10 February 2009, Fort Bragg, NC, digital interview, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

11 Landers interview, 10 February 2009.

12 Brian P. Moore, 528th Sustainment Brigade, Special Operations, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 4 February 2009, Fort Bragg, NC, digital interview, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

13 E. Edward Dunton II., 528th Sustainment Brigade, Special Operations, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 4 February 2009, Fort Bragg, NC, digital interview, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. The ISU-90 is a metal cargo container commonly used to ship unit equipment. It is 90" high x 88" wide x 104" long.

14 Landers interview, 10 February 2009.

15 Dunton interview, 4 February 2009.

16 E. Edward Dunton II., 528th Sustainment Brigade, Special Operations, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 9 February 2009, Fort Bragg, NC, digital interview, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

17 Michael J. Dziedzic and Colonel Michael K. Seidl, United States Institute of Peace, Special Report 147, "Provincial Reconstruction Teams: Military Relations with International and Nongovernmental Organizations in Afghanistan," August 2005, copy in USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

18 Task Force Med (TF-Med) was the Army Theater medical support organization. Headquartered at Bagram, it was comprised of the 396th Combat Support Hospital and the 550th Area Medical Support Company. These units staffed Craig Theater Hospital in Bagram and provided Area Medical Support to Coalition units throughout Afghanistan.

19 Dunton interview, 9 February 2009. The SORT communications package consisted of a regular telephone, a satellite telephone, and secure and unsecure computer networks. Most of the communications with the CJSOTF was done with the MIRC, Military Instant Relay Chat internet system. Operational information had to be obtained from the MARSOC Tactical Operations Center.

20 Dunton interview, 4 February 2009.

21 Moore interview, 4 February 2009.

22 Donnell B. Smith, 528th Sustainment Brigade, Special Operations, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 4 February 2009, Fort Bragg, NC, digital interview, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

23 Smith interview, 4 February 2009.

24 Dwayne A. Bostic, 528th Sustainment Brigade, Special Operations, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 4 February 2009, Fort Bragg, NC, digital interview, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

25 Bostic interview, 4 February 2009.

26 Dunton interview, 4 February 2009.

27 Riesberg interview, 14 January 2009.

28 Dunton interview, 4 February 2009.

29 Riesberg interview, 14 January 2009.

30 Dunton interview, 4 February 2009.

31 Moore interview, 4 February 2009.

32 Smith interview, 4 February 2009.

33 Moore interview, 4 February 2009.

34 Fulghum interview, 5 February 2009.

35 Bostic interview, 4 February 2009.

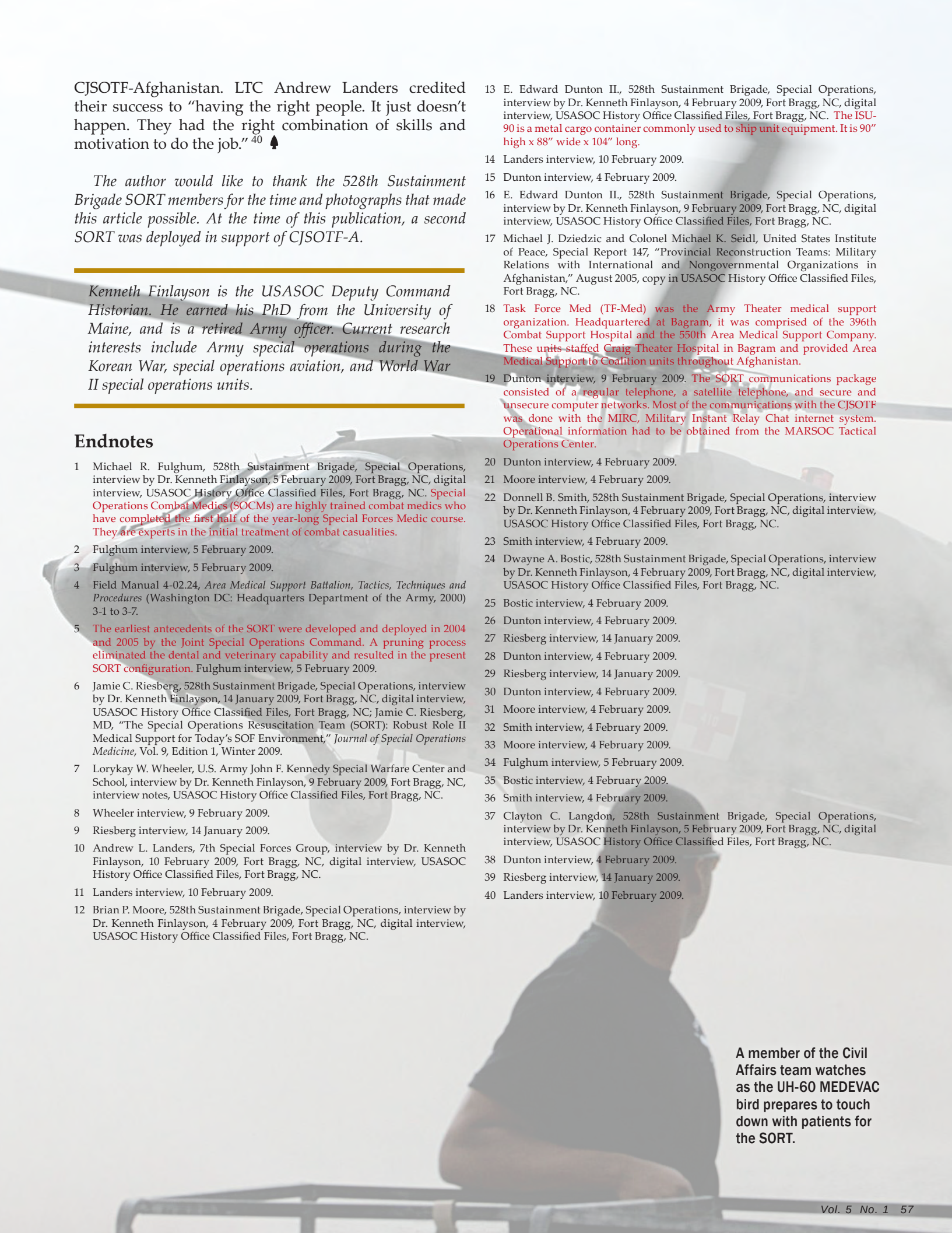
36 Smith interview, 4 February 2009.

37 Clayton C. Langdon, 528th Sustainment Brigade, Special Operations, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 5 February 2009, Fort Bragg, NC, digital interview, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

38 Dunton interview, 4 February 2009.

39 Riesberg interview, 14 January 2009.

40 Landers interview, 10 February 2009.



A member of the Civil Affairs team watches as the UH-60 MEDEVAC bird prepares to touch down with patients for the SORT.

Donald D. Blackburn
and the 77th Special Forces Group (Airborne): Training the Trainers

By Eugene G. Piasecki

When Brigadier General (retired) Donald Dunwody Blackburn began his military career on 22 September 1940 he had no idea what the future held for him. Commissioned in the Infantry, Second Lieutenant Blackburn was assigned to the black 24th Infantry Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia as a battalion communications officer. At the end the Louisiana Maneuvers of 1941, Blackburn learned that he had "volunteered" for duty in the Philippine Islands. Landing in Manila on 4 October 1941, he was stationed at Camp Holmes as the senior instructor/ advisor to the Headquarters Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, Philippine Army. This role lasted until 8 December 1941 when the Philippines were attacked by Japan's armed forces.

As American and Philippine Army units executed War Plan ORANGE 3 (WPO3) retreating to the Bataan Penninsula, 1LT Blackburn was reassigned to the 11th Infantry Division, Philippine Army as the communications officer. There he met Major Russell W. Volckmann, the Division Intelligence Officer (G-2). When American and Filipino forces on Bataan were ordered to surrender to the Japanese, Volckmann and Blackburn told the 11th Division Commander they did not plan to surrender, slipped through Japanese lines in the jungle, and headed for the mountains of North Luzon to avoid capture.[1] Skirting Japanese Army patrols, avoiding Filipino spies and informants, and while battling tropical diseases, Blackburn and Volckmann started a form of irregular warfare which would later be called "Special Operations." The guerrilla army organized by Volckmann and Blackburn became the U.S. Army Forces in the Philippines, North Luzon (USAFIP-NL). Blackburn's USAFIP-NL 11th Infantry Regiment, comprised of Igorot tribal fighters and nicknamed "Blackburn's Headhunters," persistently attacked and harassed the occupying Japanese Army from 1943 until General Tomoyuki Yamashita surrendered to American forces in August 1945.

U.S. Army Forces in the Philippines, North Luzon Patch

At the end of World War II, Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Blackburn returned to the United States to serve in a variety of command and staff assignments. After being an instructor in the Department of Military Psychology and Leadership, at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, he was a plans officer in NATO with the Allied Forces Northern Europe in Oslo, Norway. Completing his NATO assignment in 1956, he was sent to Fort Jackson, South Carolina where he commanded the 3rd Training Regiment. This was followed by service with the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG), Vietnam in 1957 as the Senior Advisor to the Commanding General, 5th Military Region (Mekong Delta). Perhaps Colonel Blackburn's most challenging assignment began in October 1958, when he assumed command of the 77th

LTC Donald D. Blackburn second row far left as an instructor at USMA in the Department of Military Psychology and Leadership, 1951.

COL Blackburn, 3rd Tng Regt Cdr (Aug 1956 to Jun 1957) and BG James W. Coutts, Deputy Training Center Commander, Ft Jackson, SC.

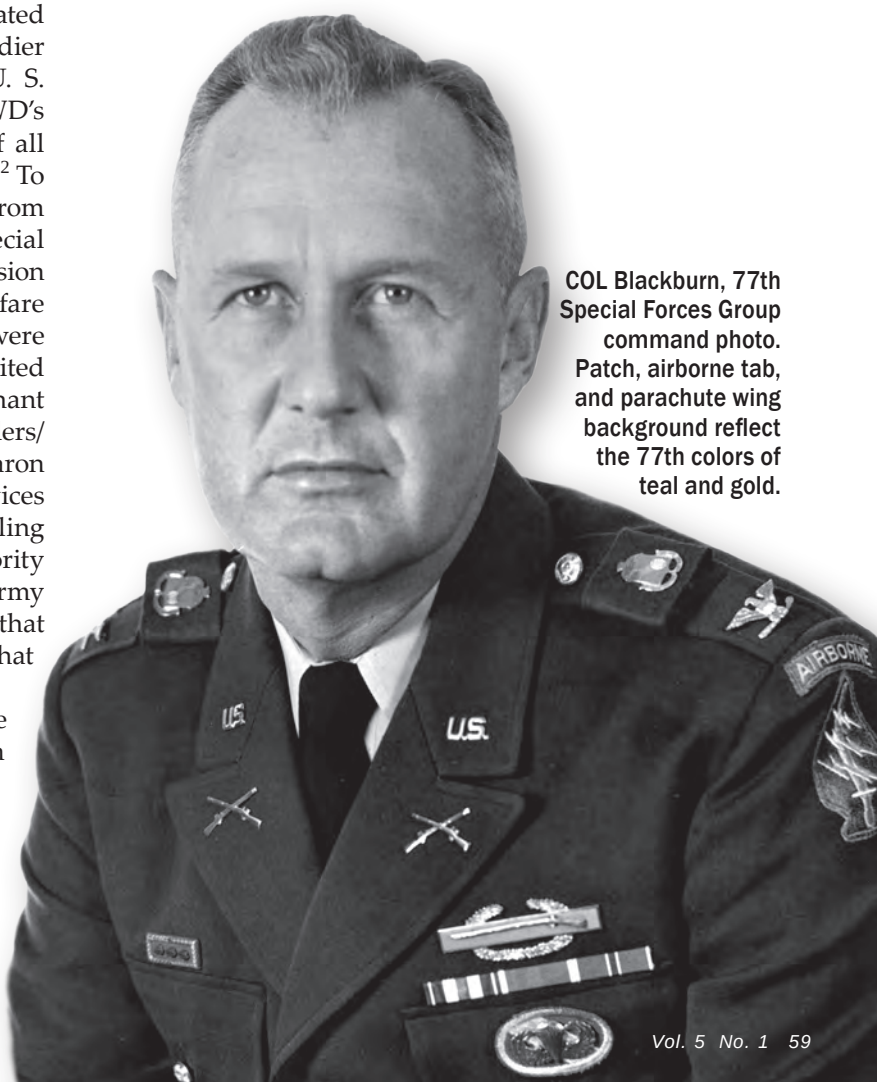
Special Forces Group (SFG), Airborne at Fort Bragg, North Carolina from COL Irwin A. Edwards.

The situation that greeted the new 77th SFG commander was not good. The Special Forces Commander faced a unique set of challenges that tested his leadership, experience and training skills more than any other unit. The purpose of this article is to explain how COL Donald D. Blackburn established a training program that prepared the 77th Special Forces Group to accomplish its wartime missions.

The problems Blackburn encountered were related to how Special Forces came to be. In 1951, Brigadier General Robert A. McClure became Chief of the U. S. Army Psychological Warfare Division (PWD). The PWD's mission was to provide General Staff supervision of all psychological warfare and special operations activities.[2] To ensure psychological operations remained separate from special operations, BG McClure formed a separate Special Operations Division (SOD) in the PWD with the mission to formalize the U. S. Army's unconventional warfare capability called Special Forces.[3] Manning the SOD were three World War II veteran officers specifically recruited by BG McClure. Colonel Wendell W. Fertig and Lieutenant Colonel Russell W. Volckmann had been guerrilla leaders/commanders in the Philippines Islands, and Colonel Aaron Bank had served with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in Europe and Asia. While the PWD was struggling to gain Army acceptance, America's first overseas priority was the defense of Western Europe. The U.S. Army training programs were focused on accomplishing that mission. Special Forces were created to support that national priority.

A Special Forces Office was created at the Psychological Warfare (PSYWAR) Center on Smoke Bomb Hill, Fort Bragg, NC. On 19 May 1952, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Special Forces Group (SFG), Airborne was established to accommodate the volunteers. Personnel authorizations for Special Forces came from the deactivated Airborne Ranger Companies in Korea. Colonel Aaron Bank, assigned as the SF Department Chief at the PSYWAR Center, became the commander of the 1,700 man 10th Special Forces Group on 19 June 1952.[4]

During the 10th Group stand-up, three significant decisions between February and September 1953 affected the new Special Forces volunteers. First, five groups totaling ninety-one Special Forces-qualified soldiers were ordered to the 8240th Army Unit in Korea to serve as advisors with the United Nations Partisan Infantry



COL Blackburn, 77th Special Forces Group command photo. Patch, airborne tab, and parachute wing background reflect the 77th colors of teal and gold.

BG Robert A. McClure, Chief of the U.S. Army Psychological Warfare Divison (PWD), Department of the Army, 1951.

COL Wendell W. Fertig led the civil government and guerrilla army on Mindinao, PI from 1942 through 1945 during the Japanese occupation.

COL Russell W. Volckmann, WWII Commander of the USAFIP-NL, was one of the earliest members of the Special Operations Division of the PWD.

COL Aaron Bank, assigned to Special Operations Division of the PWD, assumed command of the 10th SFG on 19 June 1952.

Forces, Korea (UNPIK). Second, the majority of men in Special Forces training would be assigned to the 10th SFG and deploy overseas to Germany in November 1953. Third, those volunteers not selected for either Korea or Germany would remain at the PSYWAR Center at Fort Bragg. They would constitute the U.S. Army's second Special Forces Group.[5]

This second group, designated the 77th SFG, Airborne, was created in August 1953. Like the 10th SFG, it would be a major subordinate unit of the Psychological Warfare (PSYWAR) Center and School. Since the 10th SFG was to be stationed in Germany, its focus was on special operations in Europe. The 77th SFG became the global Special Forces response force.[6] When activated on 22 September 1953, Lieutenant Colonel Jack T. "Black Jack" Shannon the former deputy SF Department Chief, became the 77th SFG Commander. LTC Shannon, formerly WWII OSS and the 10th SFG's original Deputy Commander, created the 77th motto: "Any Thing, Any Time, Any Place, Any How."

From 1953 to 1958, the 77th SFG was commanded by WWII airborne officers. The second 77th SFG commander, COL Edson D. Raff, was one of its most renowned and controversial commanders. Raff's reputation began as commander of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR). His battalion made the first U.S. combat parachute assault into North Africa in 1942 as part of Operation TORCH.

COL Raff had left the 77th SFG and was the PSYWAR Center Commander in 1954 when wearing the Green Beret came to a head. The beret issue became so heated that Lieutenant General (LTG) Paul D. Adams, the XVIII Airborne Corps Commander, intervened. The First Special Service Force (FSSF) paratrooper and staunch airborne advocate banned the beret on Fort Bragg. Adams relieved COL Raff from command of the PSYWAR Center and School after he continued wearing his beret. Despite LTG Adams' order and COL Raff's relief, 77th SFG soldiers wore berets when training off Fort Bragg.[7] The situation would not be resolved until President John F. Kennedy approved the

10th Special Forces Group soldier stands by the unit sign on Smoke Bomb Hill, Fort Bragg, NC, 1953.

77TH SFG Commanders:

Lieutenant Colonel Jack T. Shannon
- **September 1953 to November 1953**

Colonel Edson D. Raff
- **November 1953 to December 1954**

Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin F. Delameter
- **December 1954 to March 1955**

Lieutenant Colonel Bayard W. Hart
- **March 1955 to May 1955**

Colonel William J. Mullen
- **May 1955 to May 1956**

Lieutenant Colonel Noel A. Menard
- **May 1956 to June 1957**

Colonel Julian A. Cook
- **June 1957 to January 1958**

Colonel Irwin A. Edwards
- **January 1958 to October 1958**

Colonel Donald D. Blackburn
- **October 1958 to August 1960**

77th DUI created by LTC "Black Jack" Shannon.

Green Beret for Special Forces soldiers on 12 October 1961.

Taking command of the 77th in October 1958, COL Blackburn inherited the beret problem. Blackburn recalled: "The Special Forces, to a large extent, had created incidents such that they were denied the wearing of the Green Beret. So, this was having some impact. They were still griping about it. It was a period where the troops were sitting around eating rather than really doing something. 'I used to tell them that I felt they were a bunch of eaters and weren't doing anything.'"[8] The WWII guerrilla leader soon discovered he had more important matters to resolve.

COL Blackburn focused his attention on the 77th SFG's readiness to perform its wartime mission. He saw two very important training shortfalls. First, the special operations doctrinal concepts developed by COL Russell W. Volckmann in the Philippines during World War II used to justify Special Forces had been largely ignored. Instead command-directed requirements conflicted with SF training. Second, and of most concern, the 77th SFG officers and soldiers had little knowledge about basic infantry. They could not perform their primary wartime mission: organize, direct, train and advise conventional company and battalion-sized units.[9] COL Blackburn recruited Lieutenant Colonels Magnus L. Smith, Arthur D. "Bull" Simons, Lucien E. Conein, and Patrick B. Ward to get the 77th SFG up to standard and add impetus to a soon to be established accelerated training program.[10] Then he looked for opportunities in the U.S. Army to correct the SFG training deficiencies. COL Blackburn's criteria were simple. Activities selected would support his desire to prepare Special Forces soldiers to perform their wartime tasks. The 77th SFG would only accept missions that provided realistic Special Forces training.

Blackburn's initial remedy was linked to his experience as the Commander of the 3rd Training Regiment at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. At Blackburn's request, the Army agreed to provide him two companies of soldiers from either the Infantry or Basic Combat Training (BCT) Centers ready to begin Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Blackburn tasked a B Team and all its A Teams to conduct AIT for them.[12] The performance by the SF Company and Teams showed that their instructional skills were either "very rusty" or non-existent. Worse, they were not as ready to conduct their wartime mission as they believed they were. Increased group missions prevented repetition of this AIT training, but Blackburn still persisted seeking other training opportunities to improve the readiness of the 77th Special Forces Group.[13]

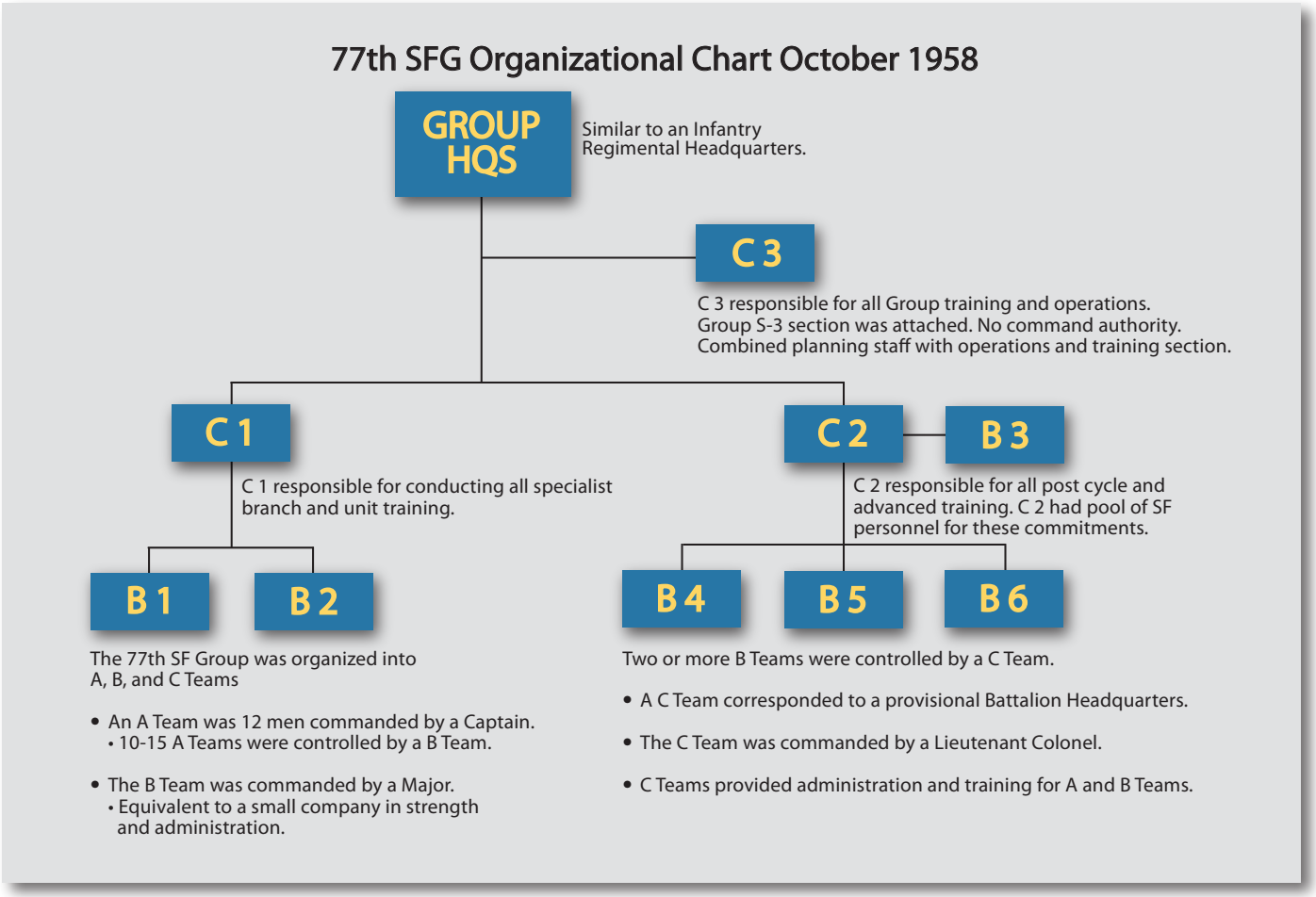
The majority of Blackburn's proposals ultimately benefited the Army, but his priority was to get the 77th SFG ready for war. Security assessments of industrial plants and military facilities in the United States and overseas were proposed to the Army. Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and the Presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland were offered. Of the three, Camp David was the greatest challenge. Camp David's U.S. Marine security forces, armed with live ammunition, were not informed that Special Forces soldiers would attempt to enter the facility. The Special Forces soldiers were not told the guard force carried live ammunition. After using some extremely creative diversions, the team got inside Camp David, and left a note for President Dwight D. Eisenhower in his mailbox.[14] Later, during the White

77th Special Forces Group DUI

SF Shoulder Patch first issued to the 77th SFG with its original teal blue and gold Airborne tab.

Parachute badge background issued to the 77th SFG with its teal blue and gold colors.

Jungle Expert Badge awarded until 1979 for completing the Jungle Warfare School and Jungle Operations Training Course at Fort Sherman, Panama Canal Zone.



Panama Canal Zone Governor William Everett Potter, 1956-1960 was USMA Class of 1928, and a WWII Corps of Engineers veteran.

House debrief, the Special Forces were challenged to do it during the winter when the trees were bare and snow covered the ground. They succeeded and left another note in the Commander-in-Chief's mailbox.[15] The Camp David successes encouraged Blackburn to propose a more complex operation.

The 77th SFG did it during jungle warfare training at Fort Sherman in the Panama Canal Zone. COL Blackburn gave the Governor of the Panama Canal Zone, Mr. William Everett Potter, his training concept. Governor Potter, a retired Major General and WWII veteran, thought it would be a good test of the Canal Zone's security procedures.[16] Major (MAJ) William A. Dickinson and Captain (CPT) David Chung of the JWTC helped LTC Magnus Smith and his men prepare for Exercise BLACK PALM.

Exercise BLACK PALM began on 17 September 1959, with LTC Smith's 77th SFG teams infiltrating into the Canal Zone by parachuting from C-47 cargo planes, paddling small rubber assault boats onto the Atlantic beaches, and by truck. The mission was "to reorganize and train guerrilla forces to attack objectives in the Canal Zone." "Partisans" were recruited from a reinforced company of the 1st Battle Group, 20th Infantry.[17] COL Blackburn only told Governor Potter that the "attacks" would come by land, sea and air and their approximate times. Based on this, Canal Zone security managers took extra precautions and mobilized additional Canal reserve security personnel, police officers and some U.S. Army elements. Despite these precautions all attacks/penetrations were successful.[18] Exercise BLACK PALM clearly pointed out vulnerabilities in the Canal Zone security plan. Though BLACK PALM was one of the most difficult missions assigned to the 77th SFG, LTC Smith was confident: "With the accomplishment of our tasks, I feel sure our organization is capable of handling any given assignment."[19] With his command time drawing to a close, COL Blackburn expanded the 77th SFG roles in Field Training Exercise (FTX) LITTLE BEAR in Alaska, FTX BRIGHAM YOUNG in Utah and added a rotation at the Jungle Warfare Training Center in Panama. To improve individual training, Captain (CPT) Elliott P. "Bud" Sydnor and Master Sergeant (MSG) Richard J. "Dick" Meadows were sent as exchange soldiers with the British 22nd Special Air Service (SAS) Regiment on

18 January 1960 for a year.[20] FTX BRIGHAM YOUNG proved to be the most realistic training.

FTX BRIGHAM YOUNG evolved from a conversation between COL Blackburn and the State Adjutant General of Utah, Major General (MG) Maxwell E. Rich. MG Rich wanted to upgrade the quality of his Special Forces people in Utah and expand the units. He asked the 77th SFG personnel to train the Special Forces there in Utah. In return he would support and maintain the training camp for the 77th SFG.[21] The 77th SFG could train during the week and demonstrate what they learned to the National Guard SF teams on the weekends. To show his commitment, MG Rich moved World War II buildings from Hill Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah to house the 77th SFG at Camp Williams. Utah Air National Guard airplanes shuttled the 77th SFG 2,800 miles, non-stop to and from Camp Williams. The 77th SFG winter training commenced with a parachute assault on 4 January 1960.

On Friday 12 February 1960 during a training inspection, COL Blackburn was caught in an ambush. Riding in a truck convoy, Blackburn and his party were captured by 77th SFG troops led by Major (MAJ) Harry H. Jackson. "COL Blackburn praised the troops for the effectiveness of their ambush and for their work during the previous two weeks."[22]

COL Blackburn had been accompanied by LTC Noble L. Riggs, the Utah troop commander. Blackburn's observations enabled the 77th SFG to improve Phase Two-winter training. Blackburn suggested enlisting and integrating the Utah Highway Patrol, local sheriffs, jeep patrols, and local civilians into the exercise. Civilian

77TH Training Events 1960:

FTX LITTLE BEAR:

(4 January – 16 February 1960) Sixth U.S. Army, Alaska. 2 A Teams (Captain Fritz Bernhausen and Captain John W. Hazlett) served as aggressors and SF training cadre after receiving six weeks of training at the U.S. Army Mountain and Cold Weather School, Fort Greeley, Alaska.

FTX BRIGHAM YOUNG:

(4 January - April 1960) Two phases/Camp Williams, UT. 150-175 men trained per phase. FTX began with 2800 mile, non-stop flight [733rd Troop Carrier Squadron (Reserve)] from Pope AFB to infiltrate Camp Williams, Utah by parachute to support the 133rd Special Forces Operational Detachment (SFOD), Utah ARNG, Fort Douglas, Utah. 77th SFG ODAs of 8-9 men conducted desert and snow cross-country movement, land navigation, ground and aerial resupply in snow, winter survival, medical evacuation and first aid, and reconnaissance and security with the 133rd SFOD.

JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING CENTER:

(3 March 1960) Fort Sherman, Panama Canal Zone. 10 officers and 85 enlisted men underwent survival training and conducted jungle combat operations.

COL Blackburn welcomes LTC Magnus L. Smith back to Fort Bragg after Exercise BLACK PALM in 1959. Smith is wearing the Jungle Expert patch on his right shirt pocket.

Left-Smoke grenades "disabled" convoy vehicles during an ambush on 12 February 1960.

Defense units from Logan to Morgan, Utah were also asked to be counter-guerrilla elements against the Special Forces.[23] As late as 1983, Brigadier General (retired) Blackburn supported working with the National Guard and Reserves to improve Special Operations training."[24] Afterwards, the 77th SFG prepared for significant organizational changes.

On 6 June 1960, the 77th SFG became the 7th SFG.[25] COL Blackburn led the 7th SFG until August 1960 before relinquishing command to COL Irwin A. Edwards, who had passed the 77th to him in October 1958. The former SFG commander went to the National War College before being assigned to the Army Staff. There, he served in the Special Warfare Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development (ACSFOR). Until his retirement on 30 June 1971, BG Blackburn remained involved with Special Forces. Most significantly, he commanded the U. S. Military Assistance Command-Vietnam Studies and Observation Group (MACV-SOG), and was the Special Assistant for Counterinsurgency and Special Activities (SACSA) in the Department of Defense. After serving as the Vice-President of BDM Corporation for nine years, BG Blackburn finally retired in July 1981, but his opinions and expertise on unconventional warfare were solicited long after retirement.

Epilogue

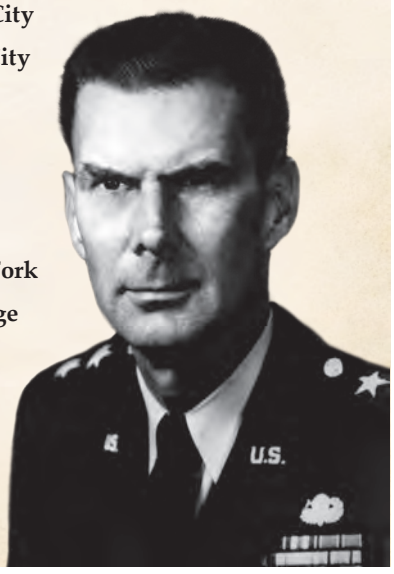
Blackburn's guerrilla experience in the Philippines during World War II and his stint as a Basic Combat Training Center Regimental Commander at Fort Jackson, SC provided the basis for his strategy to upgrade the combat readiness of the 77th SFG. Knowing Special Forces had highly-qualified and skilled soldiers, he realized that until they were prepared to train others, their unique skills would be wasted. Blackburn emphasized the "crawl, walk, run" approach and used performance-oriented training to improve the 77th SFG. Blackburn knew that until each Special Forces trainer could accomplish the Group's wartime mission, time, resources and opportunities would be wasted. How well Blackburn's training methodology worked was demonstrated in 1960 when the 77th SFG received orders to conduct Operation HOT

Major General Maxwell E. Rich

Major General Maxwell E. Rich served as the Adjutant General of Utah from 1953 to 1964. A veteran of WWII, MG Rich graduated from the 101st Airborne Division Jump School at Fort Campbell, KY on 2 April 1957. During MG Rich's service, the following Special Forces units were organized in the Utah National Guard as of 1 July 1959:

133d SFOD (Abn) (Tm FD)	**Salt Lake City**
135th SFOD (Abn) (Tm FC)	**Salt Lake City**
134th SFOD (Abn) (Tm FC)	**Murray**
138th SFOD (Abn) (Tm FC)	**Bountiful**
136th SFOD (Abn) (Tm FC)	**Ogden**
137th SFOD (Abn) (Tm FC)	**Ogden**
140th SFOD (Abn) (Tm FB)	**American Fork**
139th SFOD (Abn) (Tm FB)	**Saint George**

Special Improvements for Special Forces:
Camp W. G. Williams $15, 259.46



Source: Summary of the Operation of the State Armory Board for the period 1 July 1959 to 30 June 1960.
Major General Maxwell E. Rich, The Adjutant General, Utah Army National Guard.

COL Blackburn's change of command 10 August 1960 on Smoke Bomb Hill, Fort Bragg, NC, was the only time he authorized the wear of Green Berets. ***(water-damaged photo)***

FOOT (later changed to WHITE STAR) in Laos and to establish Ranger training centers in the Republic of South Vietnam to create Ranger companies for their army. These two missions were the first serious counterinsurgency (COIN) assistance operations in Southeast Asia.

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Endnotes

1 Brigadier General (retired) Donald D. Blackburn, former Commander, 77th Special Forces Group, interviewed by LTC Robert B. Smith, 1983, Carlisle Barracks, PA, Senior Officers Oral History Program Project 83-9, tape recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, 68.

2 Alfred H. Paddock, Jr. *US Army Special Warfare. Its Origins Psychological and Unconventional Warfare, 1941-1952* (Washington, DC: National Defense University Press, 1982), 84.

3 Paddock, *US Army Special Warfare,* 119.

4 Paddock, *US Army Special Warfare,* 148-149.

5 Alex F. Wojcicki, consulting editor. *Special Forces, The First Fifty Years* (Tampa, FL: Faircount LLC, 2002), 71.

6 Brochure entitled: *77th Special Forces Group Airborne,* layout and composition by 1st Loudspeaker and Leaflet Company, printed by 3rd Reproduction Company, Fort Bragg, NC, undated, 2, BG Donald D. Blackburn Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. The 77th SFG was activated by General Order 73 dated 22 September 1953.

7 Alex F. Wojcicki, consulting editor. *Special Forces, The First FiftyYears*, 72.

8 Blackburn Interview, 1983, 305.

9 Blackburn Interview, 1983, 306.

10 LTC Ian D. W. Sutherland (retired). *1952/1982 Special Forces of the United States Army* (San Jose, CA: R. James Bender Publishing, 1990), 254.

11 Brochure entitled: *77th Special Forces Group Airborne,* layout and composition by 1st Loudspeaker and Leaflet Company, printed by 3rd Reproduction Company, Fort Bragg, NC, undated, 5-6, BG Donald D. Blackburn Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

12 Blackburn Interview, 1983, 307.

13 Blackburn Interview, 1983, 307.

14 Blackburn Interview, 1983, 310.

15 Blackburn Interview, 1983, 311.

16 Blackburn, Interview, 1983, 308.

17 "77th Special Forces Home After Exercise Black Palm," newspaper unknown, 1959, BG Donald D. Blackburn Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

18 Blackburn Interview, 1983, 309.

19 "77th Special Forces Home After Exercise Black Palm." USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

20 "77th and England to Exchange Four Men This Month," newspaper unknown and date of publication January 1960, BG Donald D. Blackburn Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

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LTC Noble L. Riggs, Commander of Utah Army National Guard forces, (center) during Exercise BRIGHAM YOUNG with Soldiers.

BIET DONG QUAN: Vietnamese Rangers and Their American Advisors

By Eugene G. Piasecki

U.S. Army Ranger Tab with the Vietnamese Ranger Insignia

The withdrawal of the French Expeditionary Corps from Vietnam in April 1956 meant that Lieutenant General (LTG) John W. "Iron Mike" O'Daniel and the United States Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) were the only "foreign" advisors left to support all services in the armed forces of South Vietnam. From 1956 through 1960, LTG O'Daniel and his successor LTG Samuel T. "Hangin' Sam" Williams patterned the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) to resemble the post-Korean War United States Army.[1] The problem with this was the ARVN strategic focus became defense against an external invasion rather than fighting an internal insurgency.[2] As the level of fighting intensified, Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem on 15 February 1960, ordered his regional and divisional commanders to initially form Ranger companies composed of volunteers from the Army, the Reserves, retired Army personnel and the Civil Guard.[3] Diem's plan to expand the Rangers into battalions and groups became a reality in January 1961 after U. S. Ambassador to Vietnam, Elbridge Durbrow, withdrew his opposition to Diem's proposal to increase the strength of the South Vietnamese Army by 20,000 men.[4]

Despite the objections of General Williams, General Isaac D. White, the Commander, U. S. Army Pacific, and Admiral Harry D. Felt, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, the Eisenhower administration supported President Diem's decision to create Rangers. To demonstrate American support, mobile training teams (MTT) from Colonel Donald D. Blackburn's 77th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, NC were sent to South Vietnam. Commanded by LTC William Ewald, their mission, directed by LTG Williams, Chief MAAG, was to establish Ranger training centers at Da Nang, Nha Trang and Song Mao to train selected South Vietnamese soldiers as cadre to form the new Ranger companies. Between 5 April and 12 November 1960, the Special Forces teams conducted four training cycles at each location. Each cycle lasted four-weeks and consisted of 423 hours of instruction and training.[5] Approximately 1,000 Rangers were qualified in day and night rifle marksmanship, and trained in advanced fieldcraft and patrolling techniques. More importantly, after completing the second cycle, the Special Forces trainers reverted to advisors/mentors. The Vietnamese Ranger course graduates presented the remaining instruction.[6] Assigning American advisors to the Vietnamese Ranger units was formalized during the Kennedy administration (1961-1963). Ranger advisors continued being assigned through 1973 despite U.S. force reductions that began in 1969.[7]

In February 1962, a unified (Army, Navy, Air Force) headquarters, the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), replaced MAAG. MACV's mission was to coordinate all American military activities in South Vietnam.[8] In mid-1964, the U.S. MACV J-3 (Operations) supervised all American advisory programs including the Ranger command.[9] According to the Table of Organization and Equipment (TOE) MACV Ranger Advisory teams were authorized eight personnel: an Army Lieutenant Colonel to be the senior advisor at group level; an Army Major at the battalion level; and six noncommissioned officers with combat experience from WWII, Korea, and/or Vietnam or former U. S. Army Infantry School Ranger Department

Two U.S. advisors to the Vietnamese Rangers receive an operational briefing from a Vietnamese officer for a live-fire combat tactical exercise at Trung Lap.

instructors. In reality, advisory teams consisted of a Captain, a Lieutenant, two Sergeants, and a Radio-Telephone Operator (RTO). Completion of U. S. Army Ranger training was not a requisite. Some Ranger advisors attended the Military Assistance and Training Advisory Course (MATA) at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Institute for Military Assistance (USAJFKIMA) at Fort Bragg, NC and/or Vietnamese Language School. Experience was acquired in combat.[10]

The ARVN Ranger advisor mission was simple. The American advisor was expected to be with his Ranger unit every time it was in the field to provide assistance and counsel on everything from preparing operational plans to executing them in combat with little dedicated support from either American or South Vietnamese sources.[11] To help achieve success, the advisor coordinated for available U.S. fire support (artillery, air strikes and helicopter gunships, and naval gunfire), armor, and medical evacuation. Often, he escorted and arranged specialty teams such as dog handlers.[12] Ranger advisors performed these missions through 1973 despite the U.S. Vietnamization policy which began reducing the American support and advisory mission on 1 July 1969.[13]

The goal of Vietnamization was to create strong, self reliant South Vietnamese military forces while fostering political, social, and economic reforms as American forces withdrew.[14] This meant two important operational changes for the Vietnamese Ranger units: first, as the American advisors completed their tour of duty they were not replaced; second, the thirty-seven Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) camps, established and supported by the 5th Special Forces Group along the Laotian and Cambodian borders, became part of the Vietnamese Ranger Command. By 31 December 1970 these changes had been implemented. When the American advisors were gone, the Vietnamese Rangers continued to fight the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) often to the point of decimation. When Saigon fell to Communist forces in 1975 those surviving Ranger unit commanders, whom the North Vietnamese considered dangerous, were sent to "reeducation camps." Like their American counterparts the Vietnamese Rangers could always be proud of their motto: *"Biet Dong Quan Sat"* which means "Special Action Warrior—Kill."[15]

Eugene G. Piasecki, a retired Special Forces officer, is a government contractor who has been with the USASOC History Office since 2006. He earned his Master's Degree in military history from Norwich University. Current research interests include Army special operations during the Korean War, Army special operations in Somalia and the History of Camp Mackall.

Endnotes

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Vietnamese Army Basic Parachutist Badge

Vietnamese Ranger Beret Badge

Vietnamese Ranger Qualification Badge

Vietnamese Airborne Jump Status Designator Insignia

Bona Fides

by Troy J. Sacquety

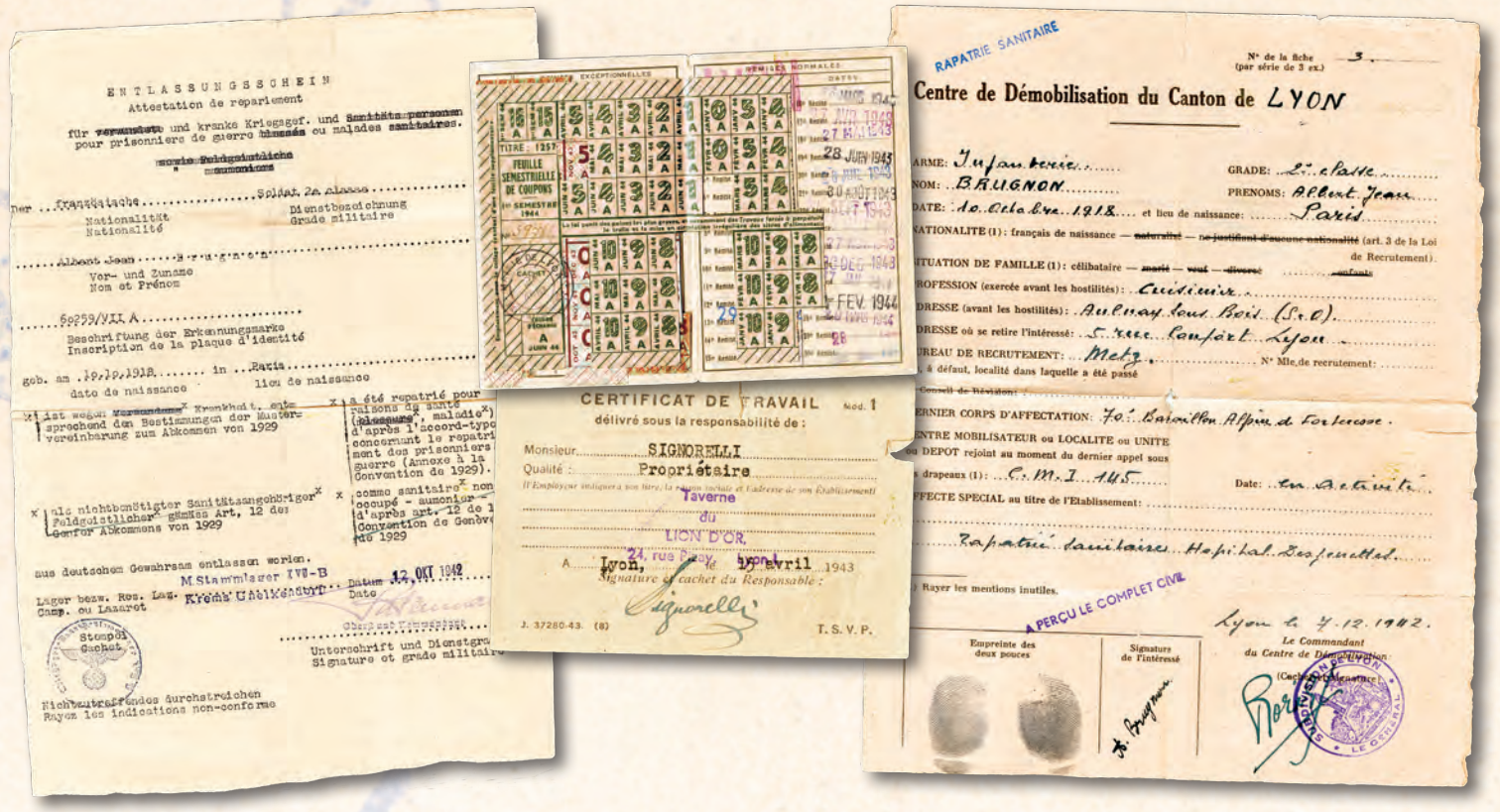
This Identity Card was issued to 2LT Herbert R. Brucker in the alias of Albert Jean Brugnon. Because Brucker jumped into occupied France in civilian clothes, he needed a solid cover story to explain why he was there, to include the supporting personal documents.

The National Archives II recently opened the personnel files of the WWII Office of Strategic Services (OSS) to researchers at College Park, MD. These have disclosed many new aspects about the organization. A very interesting file is that of Special Forces pioneer Major Herbert R. Brucker, a 10th SF Group plank holder. While in the OSS Special Operations Branch (SO), Brucker participated in operations in Europe, Burma, and China. Second Lieutenant (2LT) Brucker, code-named *Sacha*, jumped into France in civilian clothes to reestablish the HERMIT network, an Allied command and control element organizing resistance fighters around Vendôme. Life for an undercover agent was much more complex than that of a uniformed Jedburgh or Operational Group operative. They had to eat, speak, and act like natives to blend in with the population. An agent had to have a plausible cover story that would stand up to interrogation. This article briefly describes the OSS preparations to ensure an agent had the best chance to survive.

Although the British equivalent, the Special Operations Executive (SOE) helped considerably, OSS developed a capability to supply their agents with the accoutrements of daily life. This included clothing and identity documents. The correct paper, stamps, and typewriter fonts had to be as exact as possible as those used on *bona fides* in enemy-occupied territories. Two OSS branches supplied these items; Censorship and Documents (CD) and Research and Development (R&D).[1]

The CD Branch was created on 3 November 1943. Its Document Intelligence Division was responsible for collecting "all possible sources of personal documents and identity papers and similar documentary material."[2] R&D was created on 17 October 1942. It was best known for creating special weapons and devices for covert and clandestine OSS missions. However, R&D's Document Division was responsible for creating forged documents to "authenticate agent cover in enemy and enemy-occupied territory."[3] 2LT Brucker's cover story had to be plausible and simple so that he could memorize the details and live that identity without thinking.

The cover story had to explain why a military-age civilian man was either not being held as a prisoner of war or being used as a laborer by the Germans. 2LT Brucker was to become "Albert Jean Brugnon." [4] Brucker was told to treat his new alias as "private and confidential."[5] Albert (close to his own name, Herbert) Brugnon was born in Paris on 10 October 1918. Since his father was killed in the First World War, his mother, a cook, raised him. Brugnon learned to cook from his mother and worked in that profession until 1939. In that year, he was called up for service in the French Army. He was captured by the Germans when they invaded France in mid-1940. While



Four of the documents forged for "Albert Jean Brugnon." At left is the release from Stalag XVII-B, including the forged Nazi stamp, detailing the reason for his discharge, in the middle-top is one of his inaccurate ration books; middle-bottom is his permit to work at "Taverne du Lion D'or", and on the right is his demobilization paper from the French Army. The documents had to have an aged look to reflect the appearance of having been carried for some time.

interned in a German Prisoner of War (POW) camp, *Stalag* XVII-B at Krebs, Austria, he developed a gastric ulcer (there was no easy way to verify this medical condition). After being repatriated and demobilized on 7 December 1942 at Lyon, France, Brugnon found employment as a cook.[6] Although he had several close calls, Brucker, alias Brugnon, had a successful mission despite some problems with his cover and documentation.

2LT Brucker jumped into rural France in St. Viatre on 28 May 1944 wearing a three-piece wool business suit. Neither he, nor the OSS realized, that the average French worker in the country only owned one suit for church or funerals. Brucker had to scramble to get denim clothing like that worn by the local farmers. Another problem was that his OSS-issued ration cards were out of date and on the wrong colored paper. Despite careful preparation on the part of the OSS forgers, they could not keep up with changing conditions on the ground. Seemingly minor slip-ups could easily have proven fatal.[7]

The closest that Brucker came to being captured was when he and his French bodyguard, Raymond Compain, inadvertently "bumped into" a 30-man German checkpoint. Coming around a blind corner on their tandem bicycle, the two were surprised when three German guards stopped them. While the two got out their papers, the Germans patted Compain down and felt the hard outline of his concealed pistol. Compaign grabbed the rifle muzzle of the first enemy soldier and the pistol of the second. Responding rapidly, Brucker pulled out his .32 Colt automatic pistol, shot the third German and then those wrestling with Compain. The pair fled before the rest of the German platoon could react. Brucker was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his valor in enemy-occupied France.[8]

Troy J. Sacquety earned an MA from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and his PhD in Military History from Texas A&M University. Prior to joining the USASOC History Office staff he worked several years for the Central Intelligence Agency. Current research interests include Army and Office of Strategic Services (OSS) special operations during World War II, and Special Operations Units in Vietnam.

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Charles H. Fry
Bull Simons Award 2009

The 2009 recipient of the United States Special Operations Command Bull Simons Award is Colonel (ret) Charles H. "Chuck" Fry. Named in honor of Colonel Arthur D. "Bull" Simons, this annual award recognizes an individual who embodies "the true spirit, values, and skills of a Special Operations Warrior."[1] In a career that spanned more than 38 years, COL Fry served the Special Operations community in numerous high-profile assignments, primarily in Latin America.

Born in Princeton, Missouri in 1933, Fry enlisted in the Army on 23 February 1951 and served as a combat infantryman in the Korean War with the 3rd, 25th, and 45th Infantry Divisions. By age 20 it was Sergeant First Class Fry. The young SFC joined U.S. Army Special Forces in 1954, serving with the 77th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, NC and the 10th Special Forces Group in Bad Tolz, Germany as a team sergeant for several operational detachments. SFC Fry was a pioneer in the early days of Special Forces underwater and HALO operations and one of the first HALO jumpmasters. In 1960 SFC Fry applied for Officer Candidate School.

After graduating from the Infantry OCS at Fort Benning, Georgia as the Distinguished Honor Graduate on 4 April 1961, the newly commissioned Second Lieutenant became an instructor at the Basic Airborne and Pathfinder courses. In 1963 Fry rejoined Special Forces when Company D, 7th Special Forces Group was sent to Fort Gulick, Canal Zone to be the nucleus of the 8th Special Forces Group (Special Action Force). There he served under COL Bull Simons. In 1966 Captain Fry left Panama for the first of two consecutive combat tours in Vietnam.

Fry commanded an infantry company in the 1st Cavalry Division, before leading the II Corps MIKE Force, 5th Special Forces Group. His final Vietnam assignment was as the battalion executive officer for Lieutenant Colonel Charles A. "Charlie" Beckwith in the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. CPT Fry returned from Vietnam in 1969 to attend the Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Following his graduation from CGSC, Major Fry attended the Uruguayan Army's Military Institute for Superior Studies in 1971. He remained afterward as the Intelligence, Operations, and Training Advisor to the Uruguayan Army for three years during its successful counterinsurgency campaign against the Tupamaro urban guerrilla movement. As the commander of 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Fry's "spectrum analysis" of the threat in Latin America in 1980 showed that El Salvador was in the greatest danger and convinced Army Chief of Staff, General Edward L. Meyer, to retain the 7th SFG on the active Army rolls. After battalion command, LTC Fry was a military advisor in Paraguay, Honduras, and Venezuela. His experience in the hemisphere led to his selection as the commander of Special Operations Command-South in June 1987. As the second SOC-South commander, he created Task Force Black from the theater SOF elements and identified key *Guardia National* targets for Operation JUST CAUSE in Panama in 1989. COL Fry retired on 31 July 1989.

Capitalizing on his Latin American expertise, Fry became a security consultant specializing in hostage negotiations between the Peruvian copper industry and the *Sendero Luminoso* insurgency. Fry was selected to be the U.S. State Department's Overseas Security Advisory Council representative in Peru. As a tribute to his life-long commitment to Special Operations, Colonel Charles H. Fry received the Bull Simons Award on 17 February 2009.

—Kenneth Finlayson

Endnotes

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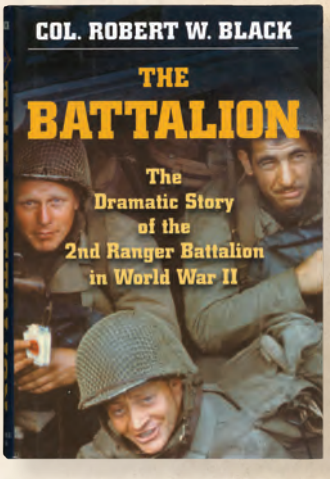
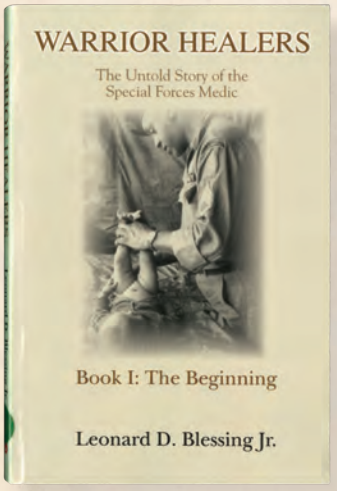
Books in the Field

"Books in the Field" provides short descriptions of books related to subjects covered in the current issue of **Veritas.** *Readers are encouraged to use these recommendations as a starting point for individual study on Army Special Operations history topics.*



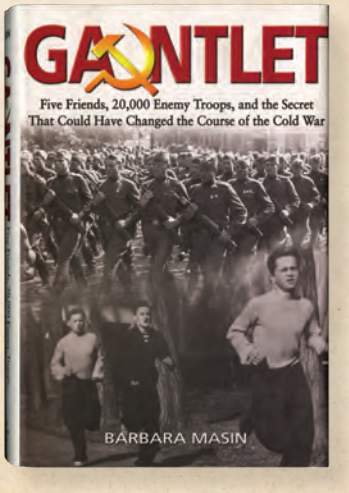
Robert W. Black, ***The Battalion: The Dramatic Story of the 2nd Ranger Battalion in World War II*** **(Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole books, 2006)**

Colonel Robert W. Black has earned his title as the "Dean of Ranger Historians." The decorated Korean War Ranger and member of the Ranger Hall of Fame, has written the most about U.S. Army Ranger history. In this companion work to *Rangers of World War II,* Black provides a readable and extremely detailed account of the 2nd Rangers throughout the war. The reader can follow the unit from formation to training, and into combat. The Normandy Invasion is followed by the Brittany Peninsula campaign, then to the Hürtgen Forest, and the final battles in Germany. His account of the specialized pre-invasion training is excellent. The D-Day landings and Pointe du Hoc battle summaries are masterfully done. Black's chapters on the other 2nd Ranger operations in France and the Hürtgen Forest open new doors in Ranger history. Contains photographs, endnotes, a roster of 2nd Ranger Battalion members, a glossary, bibliography, and an index.



Leonard D. Blessing Jr., ***Warrior Healers: The Untold Story of the Special Forces Medic: Book I: the Beginning*** **(New York: iUniverse, Inc, 2006).**

An integral part of the Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha is the Special Forces Medic. The most intensively trained combat medic in the U.S. military, the SF "Deltas" (Military Occupation Specialty 18-D), complete a grueling twelve-month Special Forces Medical Sergeant Phase in the Special Forces Qualification Course. Leonard D. Blessing's book, *Warrior Healers: The Untold Story of the Special Forces Medic* recounts the early days of Special Forces and the evolution of its medical training program. This first of a multi-volume series ends in 1962 with the operational deployment of Special Forces medics to Vietnam and Laos. Based on veterans' interviews, Blessing accurately explains the haphazard nature of the 18-D training as it evolves into the premier medic program in the U.S. military. Contains photographs, endnotes, and bibliography.



Barbara Masin, ***Gauntlet: Five Friends, Twenty Thousand Enemy Troops, and the Secret That Could Have Changed the Cold War*** **(Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2006)**

Barbara Masin's meticulously researched and documented account of Cold War intrigue demonstrates that history can be more exiting than fiction. *Gauntlet* is the story of five young men, brothers Ctirad and Josef Masin (who is the author's father), Milan Paumer, Vaclav Sveda and Zbynek Janata, who fled Communist Czechoslovakia in October 1953. They left with secret information about resistance forces that were prepared to support an American-led invasion into Czechoslovakia. With the clothes on their backs and three days of food, the five began a 180-mile journey through Communist East Germany to West Berlin. After several clashes with the East German *Volkspolizei,* the country-wide manhunt for the five Czechs grew to more than 20,000 police and army. Thirty days later only three, one seriously wounded, reached safety in West Berlin. The three joined U.S. Army Special Forces through the Lodge Act and later became U.S. citizens. Contains photographs, endnotes, two appendices, a list of abbreviations, bibliography, and an index.

Upcoming Articles...

From Omaha Beach to the Rhine: The 5th Ranger Battalion in the European Campaign

by Robert W. Jones, Jr.

Lesser known in the history of World War II special operations units is the 5th Ranger Battalion. Formed at Camp Forrest, Tennessee on 1 September 1943 the 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion would provide an additional battalion of assault troops for the invasion of France. The 5th Rangers would then land on D-Day and fight through France and into Germany. The unit spearheaded the infiltration of Zerf, Germany to capture that key city in February 1945. It was described as "one of the most successful Ranger operations of World War II."

Victory Through Influence: The 5th PSYOP Battalion in The Cold War

by Troy J. Sacquety

From the 1960s to early 1970s the 5th PSYOP Battalion, based with the 10th Special Forces Group (SFG) in Germany, was poised to provide psychological operations support in the event of war with the Communist bloc. This article will provide a glimpse of this little-documented unit and how it trained during the Cold War. The reactivated 5th PSYOP Battalion (Airborne) is now part of the 4th Psychological Operations Group, based at Fort Bragg, NC.

America's Foreign Legionnaires: The Lodge Act Soldiers – Part II

by Charles H. Briscoe

The Lodge Act of 1950 authorized the voluntary enlistment of 2,500 unmarried East European males in the U.S. Army. This article will address the Camp Kilmer, NJ phase, English language school at Fort Devens, MA, basic and advanced combat training, parachute school, and the first assignments of some of the more than 800 aliens enlisted under this program from July 1950 to July 1955. About one hundred served in Special Forces or Psychological Warfare assignments.

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