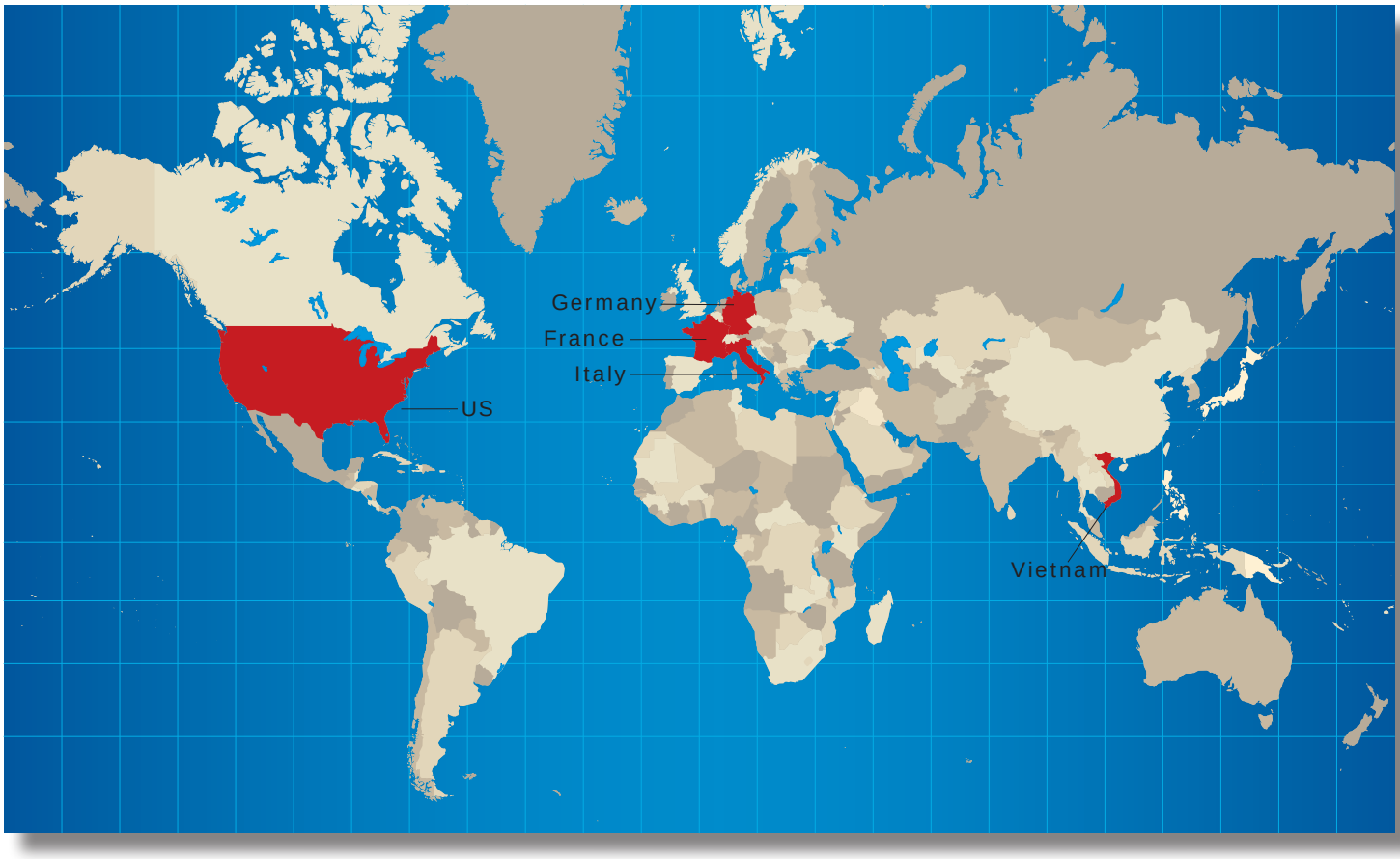
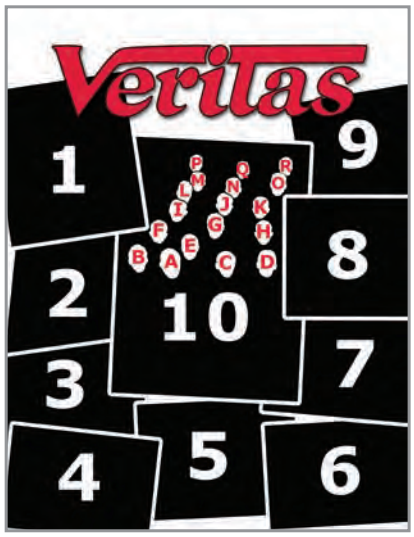
Journal of Army Special Operations History
PB 31-05-2 Vol. 5, No. 2, 2009

Veritas

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





Cover Photo: Cover photo identifications: **1.** Edward Bator (far right) and his brother (second from left) after being forcibly relocated by the Russians from Poland to Kazakhstan in 1940, were then moved to Palestine in 1942 where they attended British military-sponsored grade schools until 1946. Two older Bator brothers served in the Polish Brigade that fought in Italy; **2.** *John C. Anderson (left) served in the Latvian Labor Service in Ludwigsburg, Germany; **3.** Private Henryk Szarek from Poland shakes hands with the 307th Replacement Group (EUCOM) commander before leaving Zweibrucken for Camp Grohn in Bremen in 1953; **4.** PVT Frantisek Jaks from Czechoslovakia with Lodge Act enlistees aboard ship enroute to the U.S.; **5.** Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. chats with Private Thomas Von Doza and several of fellow Lodge Act soldiers at Camp Kilmer, NJ on 14 October 1951; **6.** PVT Vaclav Hradecky (left) and a Lodge Act friend pose alongside the Detachment 1, 1013th ASU Language Qualification Unit sign at Fort Devens, MA; **7.** PVT Victor Kreisman (right) with two Lodge Act soldiers at basic training, Fort Dix, NJ; **8.** Five 77th SFG Lodge Act soldiers pose alongside the gymnasium sign (left to right: unk, unk, Ctirad Masin, Milam Paumer, Josef Masin) on Smoke Bomb Hill; **9.** *Andre V. Carson (far left, front row) with 10th SFG soldiers at a Bavarian safehouse during one of CPT Herbert R. Brucker's E&E exercises; **10.** The great majority of the 10th SFG soccer team, the 1954 champions for southern Germany, were Lodge Act soldiers: **A.** CPT Garland J. McAbee; **B.** Jan Wiatr; **C.** Benedykt Jakubowski; **D.** Anthony Hennel; **E.** *John C. Anderson; **F.** Jan J. Strek; **G.** Teodor W. Padalinski; **H.** Robert B. Shultis; **I.** Alfred P. Mrowiec; **J.** *Jerry Day (Kubik); **K.** Martin Urich; **L.** Laszlo Becsi; **M.** Donald L. Hitchcock; **N.** Josef Meszaros; **O.** Julius Reinitzer; **P.** Milton C. Daugherty; **Q.** Paul E. Kanges; **R.** Viktors E. Eichwalds.

ERRATA from *Veritas* Vo. 5 No. 1, 2009:

p. 40: Photo: Instead of "Private Vaclav Hradecky with his English instructors at Camp Grohn, Bremen, Germany in 1952," the caption for this photo should have read: "The English instructors at Camp Grohn, Bremen, Germany in 1952."

p. 40: Photo: The deep snow-covered barracks shown in this photo were those at Flint Kaserne, Bad Toelz, Germany, not Sonthofen.

p. 42 Sidebar: "Sonthofen to Camp Grohn and Back" The first group of Lodge Act enlistees were housed at the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) Replacement Center at Zweibrucken. The second group was assembled at Sonthofen, Germany. In July 1952 the 320th Replacement Battalion moved from Sonthofen to Camp Grohn, Bremen, Germany. In December 1952, the 320th relocated back to Sonthofen temporarily before finally settling in Zweibrucken. There the Lodge Act candidates were in-processed, enlisted in the U.S. Army, and collected in groups ranging from 20-50 men for shipment to the States from Bremerhaven. The program continued until the late spring of 1955, when it ended according to the Congressional mandate.

p. 65: LTC Noble L. Riggs was incorrectly indentified as the Utah Army National Guard Commander of Troops. He was the C-Team Commander from the 77th SFG on exercise BRIGHAM YOUNG.

Veritas

CONTENTS

The Azimuth of the USASOC History Office

We are on course for four issues in 2009. The last issue for 2008 on the SF Mission to Bolivia in 1967 definitely "raised the standards bar." USASOC command group makes our historical efforts possible. The cover photo collage reflects steps that Lodge Act enlistees went through on the way to becoming soldiers in the Army and Special Forces. They start with WWII move to postwar ethnic Labor Service units supporting the U.S. Army in Europe to overseas enlistment and then to their memorable voyages to America. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. greeted the first group at Camp Kilmer, NJ. Fort Devens is the site of English language training and then there is basic training. Lodge Act soldiers in the 77th SFG at Fort Bragg, NC, and 10th SFG at Bad Toelz, Germany, complete the collage. The 10th SFG soccer team was predominately Lodge Act soldiers and the center contains the most Lodge Act SFers in one picture found to date. Mariano Santillan must be commended for his illustrations in the past few issues. They add another dimension to the articles in *Veritas*.

An ARSOF Senior Leader Papers Repository under USASOC History Office direction has been approved and the USASOC Engineer will use a design-construction program to meet established construction deadlines. Army SOF senior leaders include general officers, field grade officers, warrant officers, and senior enlisted soldiers because one of the strengths of the Force is officer and NCO leaders at all levels. The USAJFKSWCS Archives personnel will be merged into the Repository effective FY10 and the holdings NLT May 2010. LTG John J. Mulholland, Jr. will unveil a new USASOC Memorial Wall for the 2010 ceremony. The History Office has relocated to the HHC, USASOC building (E-1930) on Desert Storm Drive, Fort Bragg. For directions, call any of the numbers below or send an email and a map will be provided. Thanks to the veterans, past and present, and the military families for helping to make *Veritas* a success. **CHB**

Veritas: *Veritas* is published quarterly by the United States Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina (ISSN 1553-9830). The contents are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, USSOCOM, or USASOC. The contents are compiled, edited, and prepared by the USASOC History Office. All photos not credited are courtesy of the USASOC History Office.

Copies: Copies of previous Veritas issues are no longer available. A limited number of the current issue are maintained at the USASOC History Office.

Permission to use photographs: Permission to use photographs from private collections was granted only to the USASOC History Office. These photos are NOT available for public use.

Questions: Address questions and comments to USASOC, ATTN: AOHS Veritas, E-2929 Desert Storm Drive, Fort Bragg, NC 28310, or e-mail one of our editors.

Firewalls and spam blockers: DOD computer FIREWALLs routinely place unrecognized addresses into a Junk E-Mail box. Encryption is another problem. Personal computer SPAM blockers further delay and negate responses. Therefore, if you would like your e-mail answered, please adjust your personal SPAM blocker before you send a message. Thanks.

Submissions: Submit manuscripts, art, illustrations, and photos to the address above. Digital format is preferred. Please provide complete contact information for all submissions. The USASOC History Office reserves the right to edit all copy presented for publication.

Command Historian and Editor:
Charles H. Briscoe, PhD, charles.briscoe@ahqb.soc.mil

Associate Editors:
Kenneth Finlayson, PhD, kenn.finlayson@ahqb.soc.mil
LTC Robert W. Jones Jr., jonesr@ahqb.soc.mil
Troy J. Sacquety, PhD, sacquett@ahqb.soc.mil

Art Director:
Daniel W. Telles, tellesd@ahqb.soc.mil

Graphic Designer:
Laura Goddard, laura.goddard@ahqb.soc.mil

Photo Editor:
Earl J. Moniz, monize@ahqb.soc.mil

Illustrators:
Frank E. Allen, fallen1364@sbcglobal.net
Mariano Santillan, mariano@santillan.cc

10th SFG soldiers recover their parachutes after a training jump on DZ 1 at Holzkirchen, Germany in 1955.

From Omaha Beach to the Rhine

the 5th Ranger Battalion in the European Theater

by Robert W. Jones, Jr.

The 5th Ranger Battalion aboard landing craft in Weymouth, southern England, on 1 June 1944 (D-5). They were ferried from the quay to the landing ship HMS *Prince Baudouin*, which carried them across the English Channel to Normandy. *(National Archives)*

In the darkness of 23 February 1945 a long column of Rangers moved quietly through the German woods. Suddenly the lead element of the column stumbled on an enemy strong point. Surprised by an American unit two miles behind their lines, twenty Germans surrendered after a brief firefight, becoming prisoners. On the surface the Ranger mission was simple; seize and hold the key terrain along the Irsch-Zerf road for 48-hours to block a German retreat and/or a reinforcing counterattack from the east. After nine days of heavy fighting, the 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion was relieved after suffering ninety casualties.[1] This was one of the notable battles fought by the 5th Rangers in World War II.

Seven Ranger Infantry battalions were formed during the war. While basically organized in the same manner, the Ranger battalions of World War II fall into three distinct groups by theater – the Mediterranean, European, and Pacific (the Philippines). Three previous *Veritas* articles have covered the Rangers in the Mediterranean Theater (North Africa, Sicily, and Italy) and the 2nd Ranger Battalion in Europe. This article describes the origins, campaigns, and combat exploits of the 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion in Northwest Europe.[2] However, it was the success of the 1st Ranger Battalion in North Africa that led to the creation of other battalions.

The achievements of the 1st Ranger Battalion in North Africa caused Lieutenant General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Theater Commander, to order Lieutenant Colonel William O. Darby to form additional units for the Mediterranean. However, there was a concurrent requirement for an assault force for the invasion of France. As a result, the 2nd Ranger Battalion was activated on 1 April 1943 at Camp Nathan Bedford Forrest, Tennessee. Following the 1st, the 3rd and 4th Ranger Battalions were activated on 22 April 1943 in North Africa. All three battalions of "Darby's Rangers" led the invasions of Sicily (Operation HUSKY) and Italy (Operation AVALANCHE).[3] Although the 2nd Rangers were created in April 1943, training did not begin in earnest until 30 June 1943 when Major James Earl Rudder became the battalion commander.[4]

Forming a Battalion

While the 2nd Rangers trained hard in the summer heat and humidity of Tennessee, Allied planners in England realized that another battalion of assault troops was needed for the D-Day invasion. This led to the formation of the 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion, which was activated on 1 September 1943 at Camp Forrest, Tennessee. Major Owen H. Carter assumed command and chose Captain Richard P. Sullivan as the battalion executive officer.[5] In three days they selected 34 officers and 563 enlisted men for the new unit. Many of the Ranger volunteers came from the 26th Infantry Division, a National Guard unit from New England (the "Yankee Division"), which was training at Camp Forrest.[6]

As the commander of 1st Ranger Battalion, Major William O. Darby became the unofficial "Godfather" of the Mediterranean Theater Rangers. He commanded the 6615th Ranger Force and was killed in action on 30 April 1945 as the Assistant Division Commander of the 10th Mountain Division in Italy.
(National Archives)

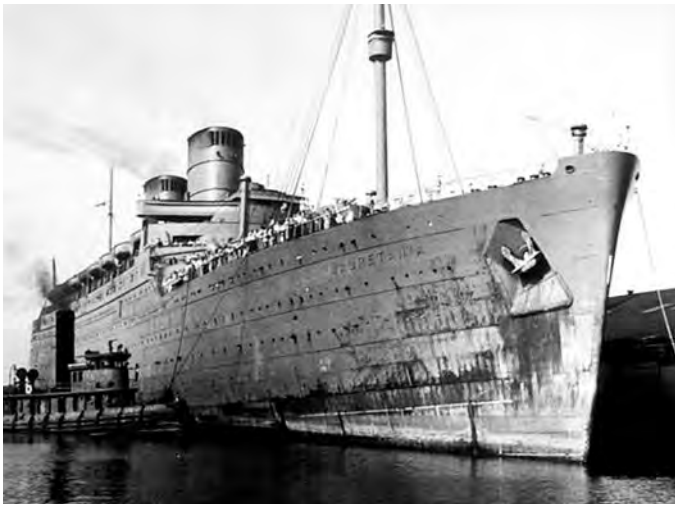
5th Ranger Insignia

The 5th Rangers adopted the insignia of the 2nd Ranger Battalion, a horizontal blue diamond, bordered in gold, with the word "RANGERS" in gold, inside. The blue diamond patch was worn until early 1945. CPT John C. Raaen, Jr. who had been medically evacuated to the United States, had Morrie Luxembourg, a New York City haberdasher, make a 5th Ranger scroll prototype. These were sent to the unit, by then in Germany. With captured German Army funds the battalion S-4 contracted some Bavarian nuns to reproduce the new scrolls.[10]

The Blue Ranger Diamond SSI

The 5th Ranger Battalion Scroll
(Scroll courtesy of LTC David G. Knapp)

Since the unit had to be in England by the beginning of 1944, the 5th Ranger training in the United States was compressed. "The training was ten times more intense than training with the infantry. We were physically stretched to our limits and not all men passed. They were dropped," said First Lieutenant (1LT) Charles "Ace" Parker, who transferred from the 98th Infantry Division to become a platoon leader in Able Company.[7] After two months of accelerated combat training and hard physical conditioning, the 5th moved south by troop train to Florida. On 5 November 1943, the battalion began two weeks of amphibious training at the U.S. Navy Scout and Raiders



The 5th Rangers sailed across the Atlantic on the HMS *Mauretania.* The ship was one of several fast former luxury ocean liners pressed into military service as troop ships. Due to their speed, most sailed without escorts and carried up to 14,000 soldiers each trip (about the size of a World War II infantry division). *(Military History Institute)*

School at Fort Pierce, FL. Once done the unit boarded trains on 20 November for Fort Dix, New Jersey.[8]

At Fort Dix the 5th Rangers validated their fitness for combat. Long speed marches culminated in five-day tactical field problems at the company and battalion levels. Having been certified for overseas deployment the 5th Rangers "returned to camp and had a shakedown. We had our damaged equipment and clothing replaced. On 20 December, the battalion moved to Camp Kilmer [New Jersey], where all personnel were able to have six days of leave, which was rotated and limited to a distance of fifty miles," said Staff Sergeant (SSG) Richard N. Hathaway, Jr., of Able Company.[9]

After four months of tough training, the battalion boarded the HMS *Mauretania* at the New York port of embarkation. On the night of 8 January 1944, the ship moved out of the harbor where it collided with a blacked out freighter. "We were forced to return to our dock. By the time we docked, scaffolding had been set up and floodlights were ready to illuminate the area that had to be repaired. Repairs were made and we were on our way the next morning," said SSG Hathaway.[11] The voyage across the Atlantic was not a pleasure cruise for the majority of the Rangers crammed into the former British luxury liner with 14,000 other troops.

The ship immediately hit the rough winter waters of the Atlantic Ocean. To compound matters, the ship zig-zagged as a defense against German submarines. "We traveled alone, not in a convoy, since our speed and maneuvering would normally avoid all enemy submarines," remembered SSG Hathaway.[12] Many of the soldiers were seasick before the ship was out of sight of land. "We went over in the dead of winter. The Atlantic was hit with terrible storms and high seas. Most troops were seasick and the food was awful and only two meals per day," remembered SSG John L. Burke.[13] The British menu exacerbated the problem. "The smell of lamb and mutton cooking was too nauseating to eat. I ate Hershey bars and drank Coca Cola from the ship's store," said PFC Thomas E. Herring.[14] "I crossed the ocean 'by rail,' spending most of my time throwing up over the rail of the ship!" recalled Private First Class (PFC) James Garabee, who had been recruited at Camp Kilmer just before the battalion left for England.[15]

Those not sick enjoyed the voyage. "As an officer we had meal tickets for the 1st or 2nd seating [of a meal]. My roommate was seasick all of the way over. I used his ticket and ate both seatings all of the way across, I never had it so good," said 1LT John J. Reville.[16]

The ship made it across the Atlantic unmolested by German U-Boats and arrived in England ten days later. "The only scary moment was when we were held in the outer harbor of Liverpool, England, for twenty-four hours because the opening through the minefield was not wide enough to allow our ship to enter the inner harbor," said SSG Hathaway.[17] A minesweeper temporarily widened the harbor entrance to allow the ship to enter. "We docked in Liverpool on 18 January 1944 and saw for the first time the [German] bomb damage," said Hathaway.[18] Now in England the 5th Rangers were thrust into a demanding pre-invasion training regimen.

Training in Britain

Unbeknownst to the 5th Rangers the planned invasion of Europe was just four months away. After the ship docked "we loaded a train and moved to Leominster, England, where we began extensive training in cliff scaling, rappelling, rope bridge crossings, and field exercises," said SSG Hathaway.[19] After two months of arduous training the unit moved by rail and ship to Tighnabrauch, Scotland for British Commando training.

Rangers who thought that stateside training was tough were in for a big surprise. SSG Henry S. Glassman commented: "It was this training in Scotland that the Rangers believe brought them through the invasion of France and all the difficult assignments that followed. The hills of Scotland proved to be more than anything that had been encountered before and here Rangers were made or lost."[20]

On the Scottish coast amphibious assault landings were practiced daily. Using Air Corps photographs of the projected Normandy landing beaches, sites with barbed wire, beach obstacles, and anti-assault landing devices had been specially prepared to train the Rangers.[21] From different types of landing craft, the Rangers practiced the battle drill of assembling at a predesignated rally point and continuing the attack until it became second nature. "We did an awful lot of boat landings, coming in on the beach, dropping off in that ice cold water of the damn Scottish fjords, getting sopping wet and then going on to the objective," said 1LT Parker, a platoon leader in Able Company.[22]

What was different from all previous Ranger training was being billeted in civilian homes. Families provided rooms for the Rangers during Commando training because barracks were short. "Every evening we were told where we were to meet for the next day's training and what sort of training it was to be. A sandwich lunch with hot coffee was brought to us in the field, [and] often [eaten] in rain or snow," remembered SSG Hathaway.[23]

April 1944 was a tough month for the 5th Rangers. After finishing Commando training on 2 April, the battalion moved south to the Assault Training Center in Braunton, England. There they practiced amphibious landings in British and American landing craft in a region that closely matched the Normandy coastline.[24]

In the midst of the hazardous training several company commanders complained about LTC Owen H. Carter's leadership style. Technician 5th Grade James E. Kidwell recorded one incident: "No [Ranger] officer was to ask anyone to do anything he wouldn't do. In Scotland our Battalion Commander had the entire battalion walking in a ditch chest deep in water – but he led from the bank."[25] Corporal Arden V. Mischke commented that, "several company commanders had lost confidence in Colonel Carter's leadership qualities and had written a letter to higher headquarters about their problems. When Colonel Carter found out about it he shipped the officers out. Captain Heffelfinger must have been one of the officers because we had a new company commander . . . 1LT George Miller." [26]

The transfers proved to be temporary. "Within a couple of days all of the officers that had been shipped out were back with the 5th Rangers and Colonel Carter was transferred," said Mischke.[27] The "Captain's Revolt" brought a new battalion commander with extensive combat experience. Major (MAJ) Max F. Schneider was one of the original company commanders of the 1st Ranger Battalion and later a battalion executive officer in Darby's Rangers. After being wounded in Italy and medically evacuated, Schneider became LTC James E. Rudder's 2nd Ranger Battalion executive officer.[28] He took command on 17 April 1944.

Colonel Max F. Schneider

Colonel Max F. Schneider (1912-1959) was born in Shenandoah, Iowa on 8 September 1912. In February 1930, Schneider enlisted in the Iowa National Guard. After commercial pilot training in St Louis in 1931, he worked as a transport pilot before a crash ended his flying career. During the remainder of the 1930's Schneider worked a variety of civilian jobs and continued to serve in the Iowa National Guard. In 1939 he was commissioned an Infantry 2nd Lieutenant in the 168th Infantry Regiment (Des Moines, Iowa).[1]

The 168th Regiment was inducted into Federal Service on 10 February 1941 as part of the 34th Infantry Division (Iowa, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota National Guard). The 34th Division trained at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana and took part in the Louisiana Maneuvers in July and August 1941. The division then moved to Northern Ireland in January and February 1942 where Schneider volunteered for the new 1st Ranger Battalion.

In Northern Ireland, First Lieutenant Schneider was selected by Major William O. Darby, as the first commander of Easy Company, 1st Ranger Battalion. Promoted to Captain, he led the company throughout the North African campaign, earning the Silver Star. In Sicily and at Salerno he was the executive officer of the 4th Ranger Battalion, earning him promotion to Major. After being seriously wounded by a land mine on 28 September 1943 he was evacuated to England.[2]

LTC James E. Rudder wanted an experienced executive officer for the 2nd Ranger Battalion and chose Schneider. Following the "Captain's Revolt" (March 1944), Schneider assumed command of the 5th Ranger Battalion for the Normandy invasion.[3] Schneider turned the battalion over to Major Richard P. Sullivan in July 1944 and returned to the United States to attend Command and General Staff College. After CGSC, LTC Schneider commanded a training unit at Camp Robinson, Arkansas until the war ended.

LTC Max F. Schneider (L) congratulates 1LT Charles "Ace" Parker of Able Company, 5th Rangers after he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions on D-Day.

Colonel Schneider's post-war assignments included Fort Benning, Georgia, Germany, Japan, and Korea. He died in South Korea in 1959 while the G-3 of the Eighth U.S. Army. His awards included the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, the Glider Badge, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.[4]

Endnotes

1 Colonel (Retired) Robert W. Black, telephone interview by Lieutenant Colonel Robert W. Jones, Jr., 14 April 2009, historian's notes, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

2 Robert W. Black, *Rangers in World War II* (New York: Presidio Press, 1992), 18, 75.

3 Henry S. Glassman, "*Lead the Way, Rangers*" (Buchdruckerei Hausser, Germany, 1945), 13; Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 170.

4 Black, telephone interview, 14 April 2009.

After Braunton, the unit moved to Swanage, England for additional training. "There we were introduced to the use of eight-foot sections of aluminum scaling ladders. We were quartered in a hotel on the top of an eighty-foot cliff. When we arrived at the beautiful wide front steps, our battalion commander [LTC Schneider] told us that we would use those stairs only once. At first none of us knew what he meant, but we soon found out. My men and I were quartered on the third floor in two rooms. In each room near the window was a coil of rope tied to a pipe. We were instructed to throw the rope out of the window, then rappel down the wall of the building to the yard, run across the yard, climb over an iron picket fence, and rappel down an eighty-foot cliff to the beach below," said SSG Richard N. Hathaway, Jr.[29] After just a few weeks of cliff climbing and rappelling, the 5th Rangers joined the 2nd Rangers to finalize preparations for the coming invasion.

The Normandy Invasion

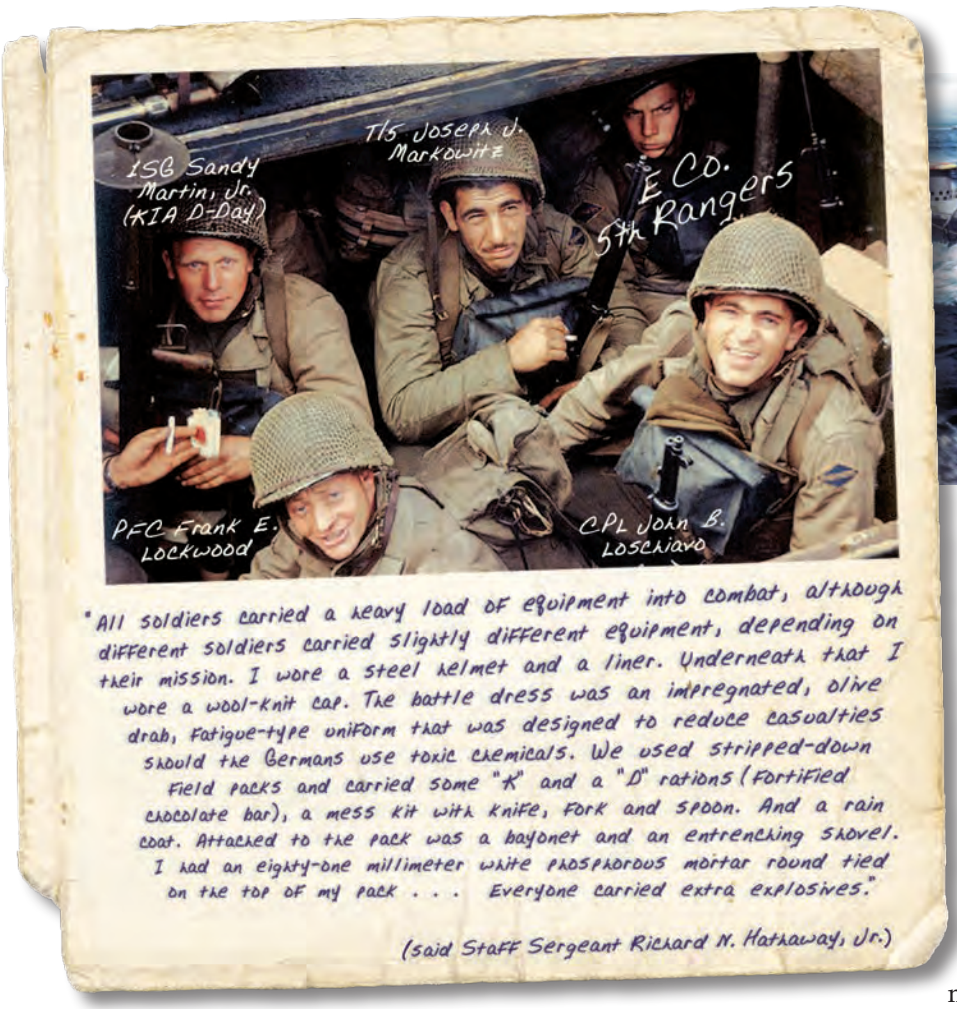
The Allied plan to invade France was massive. Years of planning and training culminated on 6 June 1944. On five designated invasion beaches (Omaha, Utah, Gold, Sword, and Juno), six Allied divisions would assault into Normandy.[30] Three airborne divisions, two American and one British, would land by parachute and glider beyond the beaches to secure routes into the interior. The combined Allied invasion force numbered over 2,800,000 men. Over 4,000 ships and almost 12,000 aircraft supported the landing. A total of 174,320 men and 20,018 vehicles had to be loaded aboard ships, airplanes, and gliders to make the D-Day assault.[31]

The D-Day mission of the U.S. V Corps was to assault German coastal defenses on Omaha Beach and establish a beachhead three to four miles deep. The corps sector was a 6,000-yard wide stretch of beach located between Vierville and Colleville, France. Success would enable follow-on forces to push into the interior and continue the fight. The 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions, with engineer and armor attachments, would be the main assault. The Ranger Battalions, attached to the 29th Infantry Division, had a special mission on the corps right flank.[32]

On 9 May 1944 the 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions became the "Provisional Ranger Group" for Operation OVERLORD. Previously the European Theater G-3 (Operations) had controlled the two battalions, since there was no overarching "Ranger" headquarters. As the senior battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel James E. Rudder was designated the Ranger Group commander. The two battalions were divided into three Ranger task forces.[33] Task Force A, made up of the 2nd Ranger Battalion's Dog, Easy, and Fox Companies and elements of Headquarters Company, 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 two invasion beaches, Omaha and Utah, as well as the massive invasion flotilla in the Channel. Led by LTC Rudder, Task Force A would land and use rocket-propelled grapnel secured ropes to climb the 90-foot cliffs below the guns. Simultaneously four specially-equipped amphibious DUKWs (a 2 ½ ton amphibious truck) would land and place their fire ladders against the cliff. Once atop the cliff, the Rangers would destroy the guns and hold Pointe du Hoc until relieved.[34]

The smallest of the Ranger units, Task Force B, was CPT Ralph Goranson's Charlie Company, 2nd Ranger Battalion. After landing on "Charlie Sector" of Omaha Beach, Task

Specially modified deep water M-4 Sherman Tanks landed on D-Day to provide fire support for the infantry. Most never made it past the beach. They either flooded or were destroyed by the concentrated German fire. Mounted on the rear of the tank are two exhaust vents to allow the engine to run in the deep surf. *(Center for Military History)*



5th Rangers riding British Landing Craft Assault (LCA) 1377 to the HMS *Prince Baudouin* in preparation for the D-Day landings. The Rangers preferred the LCA because they had benches to sit on, speed, and an armored bow for protection. In the center of the photo is Major Sullivan, to his left Royal Navy Sub-Lieutenant Ernest "Joe" Pallent, commander of the British landing flotilla, and Captain John C. Raaen, Jr., the Headquarters Company Commander (far right). *(National Archives)*

Force B had two "be-prepared" missions. The first was to follow the assault of Able Company, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, across the beach to seize Vierville and a German strongpoint at Pointe et Raz de la Percée. That element was reinforced with a platoon of amphibious tanks from Baker Company, 743rd Tank Battalion. The second contingency for the Ranger company was to attack Pointe et Raz de la Percée by climbing the cliffs, if the assault was stopped in Vierville. After clearing Pointe et Raz de la Percée, CPT Goranson would link up with LTC Rudder at Pointe du Hoc.[35]

Task Force C, commanded by LTC Max Schneider, was the largest Ranger force. The 5th Ranger Battalion and Able and Baker Companies, 2nd Rangers were the exploitation force. The eight-company force would wait offshore for a prearranged signal from LTC Rudder. The timing of the Ranger mission was critical. If the assault on Pointe du Hoc was successful, Rudder would send the message, "Praise the Lord." Task Force C would then land at the Pointe du Hoc and move through Task Force A to secure the area and to attack Vierville from the flank. If Schneider did not receive the message by H+30 (30 minutes after the 0630 scheduled landing) or if the mission failure codeword "Tilt" was received, Task Force C would immediately land on Omaha Beach, fight its way through the Vierville draw, and then eastward to Pointe du Hoc.[36]

Since Task Force C was the exploitation force, LTC Schneider and his staff task organized the battalion with additional fire support. During the invasion, the assault units were expected to have significant casualties and were authorized fifteen percent over strength (about seventy extra men). Schneider used some of the additional manpower to form an 81 mm mortar platoon in Charlie Company and a 60 mm mortar platoon in Fox Company.[37]

The Reality of the Ranger Assault

[*Author's Note: This section provides only a small "snapshot" of the 5th Ranger role on D-Day. Numerous books have been written about the D-Day Invasion providing much more detail.*]

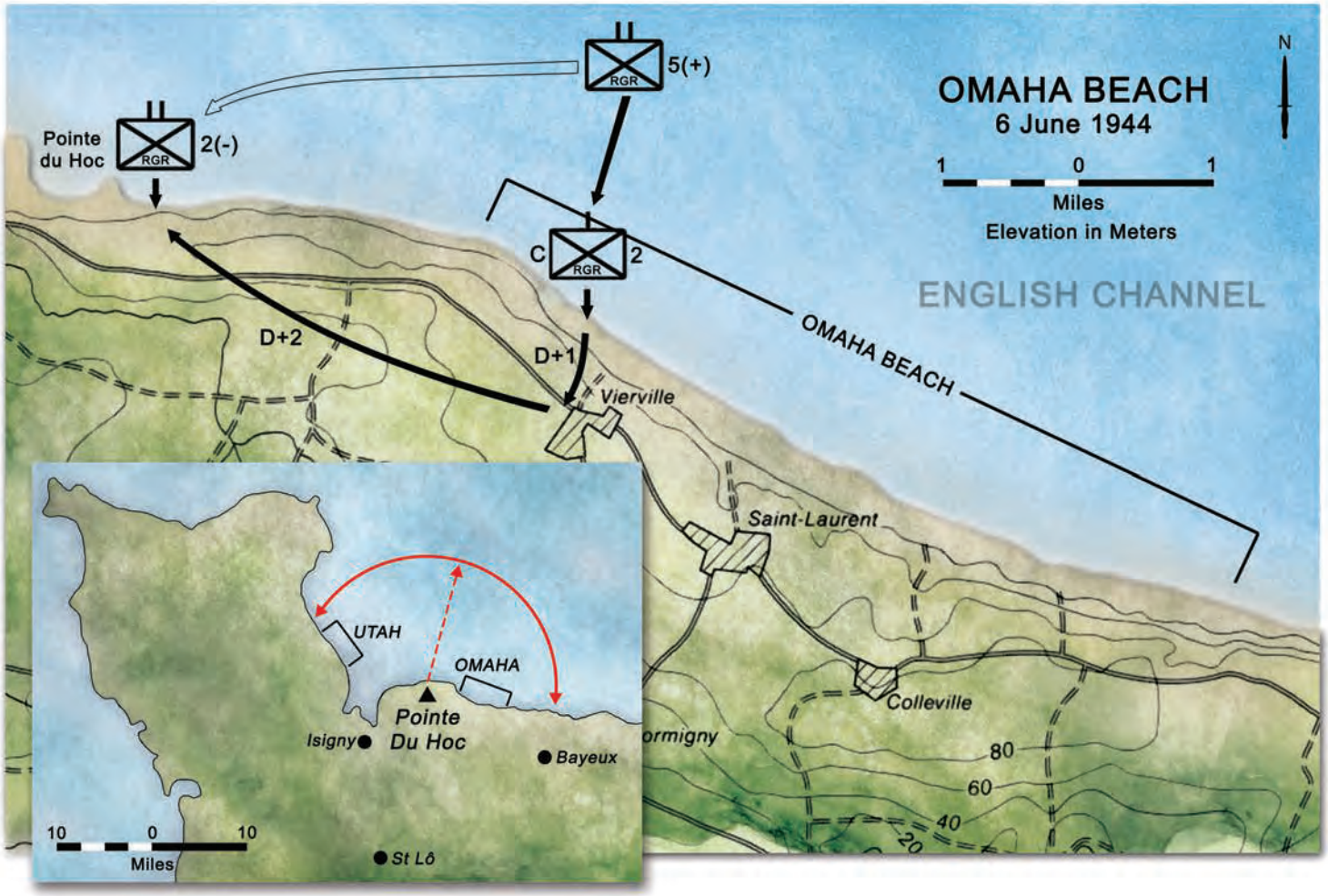
The military axiom, "No plan survives first contact with the enemy," applied to the Rangers on D-Day. The lead landing craft of Task Force A (LTC Rudder) became misoriented and headed toward Pointe et Raz de la Percée, three miles to the east. Seeing the error, Rudder directed his flotilla commander back on course, but it caused Task Force A to land thirty minutes late. LTC Rudder's three companies charged across the shell pocked beach and quickly climbed the cliffs as the the destroyers USS *Saterlee* and HMS *Talybont* provided close-in fire support. Within 45 minutes, the German battery was secure, but the three company force had to hold off several counterattacks. Because of the 30 minute delay and garbled radio transmissions, LTC Schneider did not receive any code word from Pointe du Hoc.[39]

Task Force B landed on Omaha closely behind Able Company, 116th Infantry, and ran into a maelstrom of machinegun fire from the bluffs above the beach. The

concentrated fire decimated two-thirds of Able Company and almost half of the Rangers before they could move across the wide beach to the shelter of the sea wall.[40] Overcoming the obstacles and in the face of heavy enemy fire, the Rangers reached the base of the cliff 350 yards from the sea wall. Using bayonets and knifes, SGT Richard Garrett and SGT Julius Belcher began climbing the cliff. Reaching the top, they dropped down ropes and were followed by 1LT Bill Moody and PFC Otto Stephans. But even with gaining the high ground Task Force B was quickly stalled by the intense enemy fire.[41]

OMAHA BEACH, France by Joseph Gary Sheahan, 1944 depicts the intensity of fire during the first few hours of the landing. *(U.S. Army Art Collection)*

In the choppy English Channel LTC Schneider, a veteran of numerous amphibious landings, waited for the signal from Rudder. Receiving none, he ordered the flotilla to Omaha Beach at 0710, ten minutes past the



While LTC Rudder's Task Force A landed at Pointe du Hoc, Task Force B (C/2nd Rangers) landed at Omaha Beach. At 0710 LTC Schneider ordered his eight-company Task Force C to land on Omaha. By D+1, attached to the 116th Infantry Regiment, they had secured Vierville. On D+2 Task Force C and elements of the 116th Infantry fought their way to Pointe du Hoc and relieved LTC Rudder's Rangers. (Inset map) The 155 mm guns at Pointe du Hoc could have fired on both Utah and Omaha beaches. Fortunately the cannons were not yet emplaced in firing positions.

The 5th Rangers and elements of the 116th Infantry relieve Ranger Force A at Pointe du Hoc on D+2 (8 June 1944). The arrow identifies LTC Rudder. Soon after this photo was taken, the entire element left Pointe du Hoc to continue its attack to the west. *(Military History Institute)*

Father Lacy

LTC James E. Rudder congratulates Chaplain Joseph Lacy after presenting him with the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions on D-Day. *(Photo courtesy of Major General (R) John C. Raaen, Jr.)*

> "The landing craft kept being hit and Chaplain Lacy was down by the water's edge, hauling wounded kids from the waves and administering last rites with bullets slapping all around,' recalled Major Richard P. Sullivan. "I was up by the sea wall, getting the guys organized, and I sent down a Ranger telling the chaplain to get up here and get under cover." "Chaplain Lacy sent back the message: 'Tell the Major I am doing my job, and he should stick to doing his.'"[46] For his numerous acts of heroism on D-Day 1LT (Chaplain) Joseph R. Lacy was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

deadline. Schneider was in a unique position as the only Ranger officer in his command who was a combat veteran. Off the coast he could see what was happening on the beaches and had the time, albeit a little, to evaluate the situation. He elected to land his force on the right flank of Omaha Beach, which was receiving relatively light fire (compared to the rest of the area). This decision resulted in Task Force C landing mostly intact.

On Omaha Beach the 29th Infantry Division was stalled. The troops had taken cover behind a seawall. Heavy German machinegun fire raked the beachhead. Brigadier General Norman D. Cota, the assistant division commander of the 29th, walked up to LTC Schneider and said, "We have to get the hell off this beach. Rangers, lead the way!" That was the catalyst. Soon small parties of Rangers, infantry, and engineers scrambled over the seawall to set explosive charges.[42]

On LTC Schneider's signal, the Rangers breached the barbed wire defenses using Bangalore torpedoes. Momentarily hidden from enemy observation by the clouds of rising smoke from the explosions and grass fires, the Rangers quickly moved through the gaps and up the hill. Dog Company, led by First Lieutenant Francis W. Dawson's platoon, assaulted the hilltop and eliminated an enemy strongpoint, enabling the rest of the battalion to move inland. After working its way through the belt of German minefields, the battalion began attacking the formidable defenses around Vierville.[43]

1LT "Ace" Parker led Able Company, 5th Rangers to the prearranged rally point, the *Chateau de Vaumicel*, southwest of Vierville. When the unit stopped, Parker had only 23 men, less than half of his company. Undeterred, 1LT Parker continued on with his mission – the relief of the Rangers at Point du Hoc. On its own, the small force finally reached Rudder's men at 2200 hours with 20 German prisoners captured during firefights along the way.[44] However, the rest of Schneider's force did not immediately follow.

Still attached to the 116th Infantry Regiment (29th Infantry Division), Colonel Charles D. W. Canham, the regimental commander, ordered the Task Force C Rangers to assist his depleted unit in the defense of Vierville and protect the beachhead against an enemy counterattack. This mission delayed their movement to Pointe du Hoc. Once that mission was accomplished, Schneider's force fought west to finally relieve Rudder's battered contingent on 8 June (D+2).[45]

Aftermath of Normandy

After linking up with Task Force A on 8 June 1944, the 5th Rangers enjoyed a brief respite. On the Cherbourg Peninsula the Allies were inundated by the sudden influx of German prisoners. The First Army Provost Marshal set up temporary POW camps, ranging in size from 500 to 10,000 men. The 5th Ranger Battalion was tasked to guard POW

camps at Valognes and Foucarville. "Prisoners were marched down to the beach in groups of about a hundred and loaded onto ships to England or the U.S.," recalled Sergeant Victor "Baseplate" Miller, Easy Company.[47] Guard duty was interspersed with training replacements and serving as a reaction force, in case by-passed German forces on the Jersey and Guernsey Islands attempted to raid the coast.[48] LTC Schneider left the battalion in July 1944 for an assignment in the United States and Major Richard P. Sullivan, the battalion's executive officer since activation, assumed command.[49] After the POW security mission, the 5th Rangers were committed to offensive operations in the Brittany Peninsula.

The Brittany Campaign

As Allied forces pushed inland from the invasion beachhead, enemy forces regrouped and withdrew to secondary defensive positions. The primary Allied push was eastward, with a secondary thrust to the southwest, along the French coast and the Brittany Peninsula. The Germans had fortified and garrisoned several of the major ports in Brittany. The largest of these was Brest, with a civilian population of 80,000. The port was the second largest in the country. Since the French surrender in 1940, Brest had become the principal German submarine base. *General der Fallschirmtruppe* (paratrooper general) Hermann B. Ramcke and 40-50,000 Germans defended the city. The port's medieval fortress with its moats and walls had been augmented with minefields, trenches, and pillboxes. Over a hundred cannons and anti-aircraft artillery pieces protected the defenses.[50]

As the Allies moved east toward Germany, they fought three enemies: the Germans, the weather, and the lack of supplies. More ports had to be opened to increase the flow of supplies from England.[51] One of the two "Mulberry" experimental floating docks off Omaha Beach had been ripped apart by a summer storm. The Allies could no longer rely on support coming across the invasion beaches, especially with the stormy fall and winter weather approaching. The Allied armies needed thousands of tons of supplies daily to sustain the push into Germany. Securing the port cities of Cherbourg, Le Havre, and Brest became critical to the Allied effort.[52] In Brittany both the 2nd and 5th Ranger battalions served as "fire brigades" to push into hot spots.

The 5th Rangers formed two task forces for their Brest mission. One task force, consisting of Able, Charlie, and Easy Companies, led by the new battalion XO, MAJ Hugo W. Heffelfinger, relieved elements of the 2nd Infantry Division northwest of Brest. Easy Company was later repositioned into a gap between the 8th and 29th Infantry Divisions near Gousneou to conduct patrols. On 1 September, the rest of the battalion was attached to the 29th Division to "straighten out the lines" of the division by knocking out pockets of German resistance in preparation for the attack on Brest.[53]

The assault on Brest began on 3 September when the 5th Rangers assaulted Fort Toulbrouch, one of the many forts surrounding the harbor. Fighting was so intense that the battalion reserve had to be committed to stop a counterattack and Headquarters Company was reorganized into a rifle company and placed in reserve.[54] The next day the 5th Rangers attacked again with coordinated artillery and air support. CPT Bernard M. Pepper's Baker Company assaulted just 20 yards behind eight P-47 fighters strafing the German positions. "It was

A patrol from Easy Company, 5th Rangers, moves out using captured horses and a bicycle near Grandcamp, France. It was not a publicity stunt. They returned with 53 German prisoners. *(National Archives)*

The cut off German troops on the Brittany Peninsula put up a tenacious defense. Once inside the port city's defenses, the American soldiers had to fight house to house often using tanks and tank destroyers. *(National Archives)*

amazing to see the smoke and dirt and Rangers running into it and disappear out of sight. The Germans, before they could recover, found the Rangers on top of them and . . . the fort was captured," said SGT Arden Mischke.[55] The sixty-man Baker Company captured Fort Toulbrouch and over 300 prisoners within 6 minutes of the final attack.[56] On 5 September, the entire 5th Battalion attacked Fort de Mengant supported by a platoon from Able Company, 644th Tank Destroyer Battalion. After heavy fighting, Fox Company took the fort with a bayonet charge.[57]

Pulled off the line for a well earned one-day rest, the Rangers "were surprised to see two intoxicated German soldiers walking down the road toward us carrying a suitcase. When we coaxed them up to us we found the suitcase was full of French money. They told us they had robbed their supply store (Post Exchange to us)," said SGT Arden Mischke. The Germans were relieved of their money and left to sober up in a POW camp.[58] The incident provided a brief humorous interlude from the tough fighting.

Heavy fighting continued as the 5th Rangers were shifted to the Le Conquet Peninsula, west of Brest. The Germans, in anticipation of an Allied attack, had improved their defenses. "We didn't know what to expect as we made our way to the town. Once in, it was dash from building to building, expecting any minute to be fired upon. At last, we had completed our task of securing it [Le Conquet]. At that moment there was a

The Allied Armies pushed rapidly out of the D-Day beachhead into France. By December 1944, most of France was liberated. (Inset) The 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions moved into the Brittany Peninsula for operations around Brest. Both units would take critical forts protecting the port city.

Artist's rendition of Lieutenant Greene's eleven-man Easy Company patrol, under the cover of darkness, placing demolitions changes and pouring a mixture of gasoline and heavy oil into the air vents. When detonated the pillbox erupted, illuminating the area. The patrol suffered no casualties. *(Illustration by Mariano Santillan)*

great rumpus and we were . . . ready to repulse whatever was coming. Lo and behold, here came the Free French [Forces] marching in with banners, and the populace now came out and cheered them," said Sergeant "Baseplate" Miller.[59] The Free French "liberated" Le Conquet at the cost of four wounded Rangers.[60] Despite some machinegun fire from a neighboring town, the French continued their celebration into the night.

The Rangers moved along the coast reducing German fortifications. At Fort du Portzic the 5th Rangers developed a new technique to overcome the pillboxes. In the darkness of 17 September, Lieutenant James F. Greene, Jr. led an eleven-man Easy Company patrol to eliminate a pillbox that had resisted artillery, bombing, and repeated ground attacks. "We carried two 40-lb demo charges and a 50-lb charge, including 20 gallons of a gasoline and heavy oil mixture. We approached the pillbox cautiously, placed the charges around it, and started pouring our mixture into the air vents, then we all took cover . . . an enormous explosion followed at 2210 [hours] The pillbox erupted in bright flames, illuminating the area all around, while we watched full of awe … it had worked!," recalled Greene. The patrol suffered no casualties.[61] The next day when the Brest garrison surrendered at 1200 hours, the 5th Rangers became the 12th U.S. Army Group reserve.[62]

Conventional units fought the remainder of the campaign in Brittany. The two Ranger battalions were pulled off the line and allowed to recuperate. The 5th Rangers had suffered a 30% casualty rate (137), with 24 killed in action during its nineteen days of fighting around Brest.[63] The Brittany Campaign received scant attention. The Allied armies were racing across France and Belgium and Field Marshall Bernard L. Montgomery's Operation MARKET-GARDEN, the ground and airborne invasion in the Netherlands, was beginning. After Brest, the 5th Ranger Battalion was attached to Lieutenant General George S. Patton's Third U.S. Army for the drive across France into Germany.

Across France and into Germany

On 1 December 1944, the 5th Rangers were attached to the 6th Cavalry Group. The mechanized reconnaissance units and the Rangers worked well together. A collection of half-tracks, jeeps, and trucks were scrounged to carry the Rangers and the two units were organized to fight as combined arms teams.[64] The cavalry had speed and firepower, while the Rangers could seize and hold areas. The unit fought first around Toul, then Nancy. Ranger casualties mounted during the heavy fighting near the German border area. The fight for Lauterbach was typical. [65]

On 4 December 1944, Fox Company attacked across open ground to seize Lauterbach. As the 1st platoon closed to 100 yards of their objective, withering small arms fire erupted from well-concealed enemy positions. Two camouflaged machineguns created an effective crossfire. Mortar and artillery fire stalled the assault. PFC Leo G. Samborowski, a Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) gunner, moved to engage the two machineguns. In a desperate move, PFC Somborowski charged forward alone, firing eight magazines from his BAR. He killed one machinegun crew and suppressed the second machinegun long enough for his fellow Rangers to flank the position. As they launched their attack, a hail of enemy machinegun bullets hit Samborowski, killing him. The veteran of Normandy and Brest was posthumously

Attached to the 6th Cavalry Group for mobility these Rangers ride in the open turret of an M-10 Tank Destroyer. Once contact was made the Rangers dismounted to deal with the infantry threat. *(Military History Institute)*

Corporal Andrew "Pappy" Speir played a "cat and mouse" game with a German Tiger Tank in Lauterbach. The 2.36-inch Bazooka rockets bounced off the heavily armored tank. Luckily the tank was firing blind into the buildings. *(Illustration by Mariano Santillan)*

awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.[66] Samborowski's sacrifice provided the opening into Lauterbach.

The assault continued and the company gained a toehold in the town. The Germans counterattacked with infantry supported by a Tiger tank. The tank smashed into a house forcing the Rangers inside to withdraw next door. From there, Corporal Andrew "Pappy" Speir fired his 2.36-inch Bazooka at the tank from the second floor. The tank fired back at him at point blank range, knocking him off his feet. He scrambled back up, unhurt, to load and fire more rockets. This went on until Ranger mortar and supporting artillery fire drove the German infantry out of town. Without ground support the tank retreated.[67] But the fight was not over for the Rangers.

BAR gunner PFC Leo G. Samborowski valiantly attacked a German machinegun position. PFC Somborowski fired eight magazines (160 rounds) from his BAR killing one machinegun crew, but was cut down by a hail of bullets from the second machinegun. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. *(Illustration by Mariano Santillan)*

On 16 December 1944, the Germans launched a major counteroffensive in the Belgium Ardennes, known as the "Battle of the Bulge." The Rangers, still attached to the 6th Cavalry Group, conducted screening operations to deceive the enemy as to their true size. The Ranger and cavalry patrols countered enemy patrols that probed the American lines for a weakness. On 24 December, the 5th Rangers moved to Metz to recuperate, reorganize, and refit.[68] The battalion was then attached to the 94th Infantry Division as it attacked further into Germany.

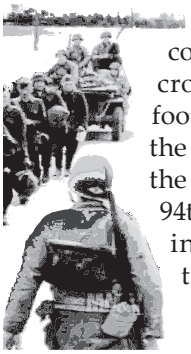
By mid-January 1945, replacements were trained under the tutelage of veteran Rangers amidst sub-freezing temperatures and snow. Allowed to recruit fifty volunteers from rear echelon troops of the Twelfth Army Group, General Bradley said "It [the 5th Rangers] was almost trampled in the rush of a thousand applicants."[69] After selecting the best candidates, the 5th Ranger Battalion strength was still only 398 men and officers, still some 108 soldiers below its authorized strength.[70] But, the unit in its depleted condition was deemed combat ready.

Lieutenant General Walton Walker's XX Corps had managed to breach the Siegfried Line and needed to exploit this success. At Weiten, the 5th Rangers received the mission to infiltrate nine miles behind German lines and seize key terrain between the towns of Irsch and Zerf. At the intersection of four valleys, the road from Irsch to Zerf climbs up for two and a quarter miles eastward through open fields onto a treeless plateau. A Ranger blocking position two miles above Zerf provided an almost unobstructed view of the valley.[71] In a double envelopment, an armored task force from the 10th Armored Division would assault from the north, while the 301st Infantry Regiment, 94th Infantry Division attacked from the west. The 301st would relieve the Rangers. Holding the plateau would prevent the enemy from using the Irsch-Zerf road network to launch counter-attacks against the

American offensive and would block the best German withdrawal route from its defense along the Saar River.[72] The Rangers had less than 24 hours to plan the operation.

With the German Air Force threat reduced to nothing, anti-aircraft "quad 50s" were used as ground support weapons. The four .50 caliber machineguns could send a hail of bullets at the enemy. *(Center for Military History)*

The Irsch-Zerf Fight



On 23 February 1945 under cover of darkness, the battalion crossed the Saar River on a footbridge. Just before midnight, the 5th Rangers passed through the 302nd Infantry Regiment, 94th Infantry Division. Moving in two columns into enemy territory, each man was heavily burdened by extra ammunition and anti-tank mines. Night movement over the rugged, heavily wooded terrain was made more difficult by harassing enemy artillery fire and occasional ambushes. Captured Germans slowed down the Rangers. "The woods became so heavy we were confused. Then we called for artillery fire, two rounds, on our objective to help us establish our position. We listened to the rounds go over. After that we knew our position and directions," recalled LTC Sullivan.[73] The advance resumed through thick woods towards the objective. [74]

A break in contact between Baker and Easy Companies stopped the battalion. Patrols failed to reestablish contact between elements. Finally LTC Sullivan could not wait any longer and the unit continued movement. As a result, the separated 2nd Platoon, Baker Company would not rejoin the unit for a day, to further deplete the already under-strength battalion.[75]

As the Rangers moved closer to the objective, contact became more frequent. Enemy patrols blundered into the Ranger formation and more prisoners were taken. The number grew to 110, further slowing movement. The Rangers happened upon a German aid station. "A doctor with a nice white medical vehicle who when captured said, 'This is 4000 yards behind the lines – No, no! – you can't be here!" recalled LTC Sullivan. "He stayed with us the next four days taking care of our wounded and the wounded Germans and did a good job."[76]

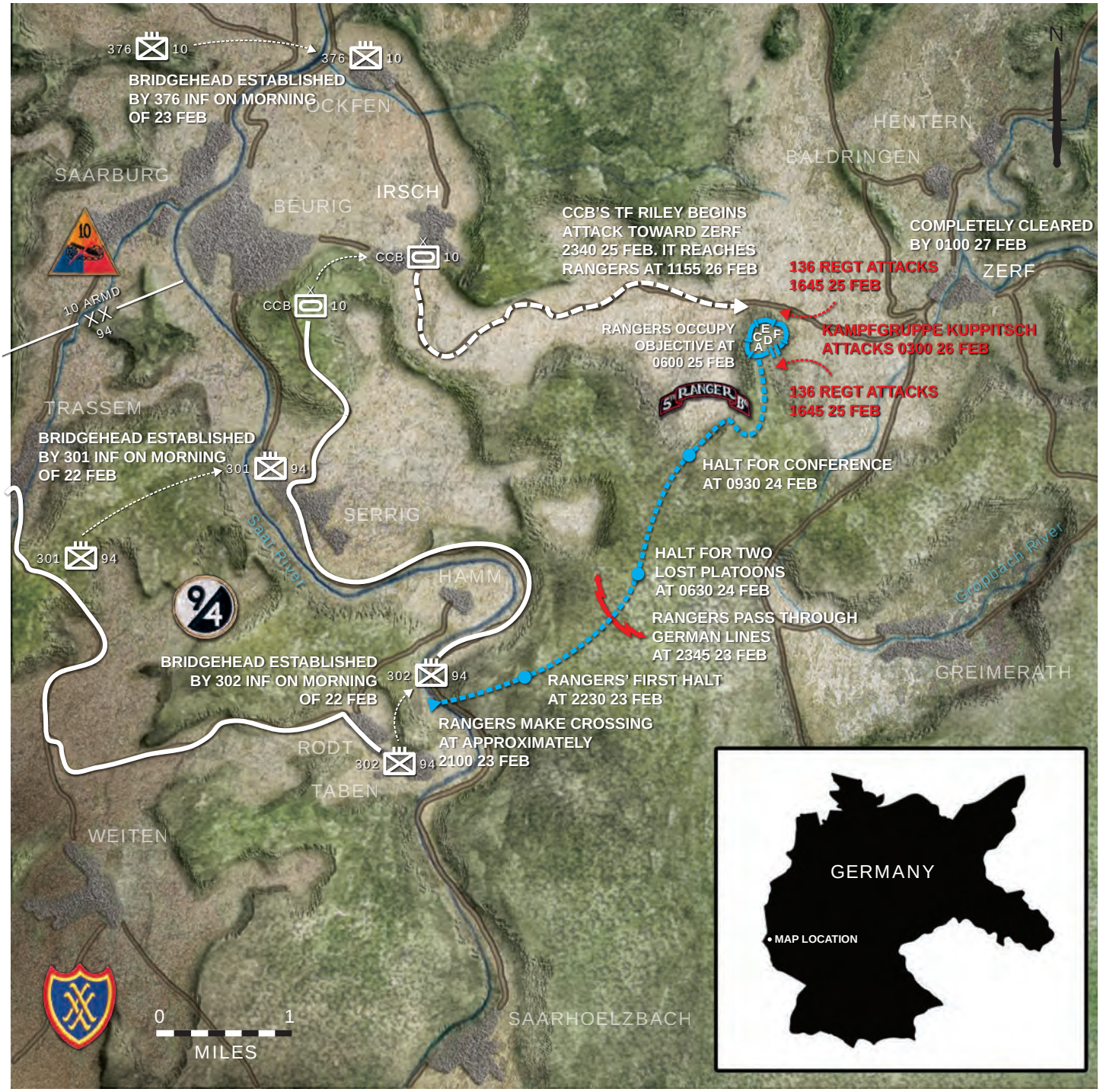
The Germans had no idea a battalion was moving behind their lines.[77] By 0800 hours on 25 February, advanced elements of the battalion had reached the objective. LTC Sullivan ordered the companies to set up their defense as planned. Forming an egg-shaped defensive perimeter 200 yards wide and 1,000 yards long, the Rangers effectively blocked the Irsch-Zerf road on the plateau.[78]

Once discovered, the Germans counterattacked the Rangers with rockets, artillery, and infantry. "We saw a Kraut SP [self-propelled gun] coming down the road from the west. The crew, upon seeing us, jumped out and ran like hell before we could get to them. We fired a bazooka [at it] but it didn't seem to damage the SP. We finally poured gasoline on it and burned it," said LTC Sullivan. "From that point we had trouble."[79] With ammunition, water, food, and medical supplies running low, a 94th Infantry Division artillery spotter aircraft dropped some supplies into the defensive perimeter.[80] "I radioed . . . that we could probably hold out if someone came through to relieve us within 48 hours. I told them we did not have to eat, but we must have enough ammo for 48 hours. Our communications were also running out because of weak [radio] batteries," said LTC Sullivan.[81] The Germans launched repeated counterattacks to dislodge the Rangers.

The next day Task Force Riley (10th Armored Division) managed to reach the Rangers. With them was 1LT Louis J. Gambosi's "lost" platoon (2nd Platoon, Baker Company). Gambosi had joined Task Force Riley, aboard its half-tracks and cleared three roadblocks for the armored element as it fought toward the beleaguered battalion.[82] The reinforcements did not bring relief to the Rangers as planned.

Instead, the Rangers received orders to attack further into Germany attached to the 301st Infantry Regiment. The 301st Infantry brought food, ammunition, and water for the Rangers.[83] To boost its firepower, a platoon of tanks, a platoon of tank destroyers, and a section (two) of anti-aircraft "quad" .50 caliber machineguns on halftracks were attached to the battalion.

The next morning, the Ranger Battalion repositioned to higher ground further to the south to create a stronger defensive position. The Germans repeatedly counterattacked. The heavy artillery bombardments were brutal. During one attack on 1 March, the Baker Company commander, Captain Bernard M. Pepper, said that in one platoon alone, "10 men were casualties during the first 15 minutes of this fire. Only the platoon leader [1LT Gambosi], a radio man, and one rifleman remained [uninjured]."[84] Finally, on 3 March it was over. The two-day defensive mission had lasted nine days and bled the 5th Battalion dry. Captain Charles H. Parker, the Able Company commander, reported that: "A Co. came out of this operation with one officer and 24 men. F Co. came out with two officers and 18 men."[85] Casualties for the battle



The 20th Corps attacks across the Saar River. Attached to the 94th Division the 5th Rangers infiltrated to block the Irsch-Zerf Road. The Rangers were relieved first by the 10th Armored and then the 94th Infantry Divisions only to be given another mission – to attack further into Germany.

at Irsch-Zerf were heavy for the battalion; 34 killed, 140 wounded, and 12 missing, putting the unit strength at only 212 men.[86] Although seriously depleted from sustained combat, the 5th Ranger Battalion continued to serve.

Occupation and the End of the Rangers

Army-wide infantry replacements for the European Theater were scarce in March and April 1945. Although fighting in Germany was still fierce, the end was near for the Nazi regime. In April elements of the U.S. First Army met the Soviets on the Elbe River. On 30 April, Adolf Hitler committed suicide and the Allies accepted the German surrender on 8 May 1945 – VE Day. When the war ended in Europe the 5th Rangers were in Luxembourg. They then moved into Germany, and finally to Austria supporting Military Government units (today's Civil Affairs). The 5th Rangers guarded supplies and rounded up German soldiers. SSG Henry S. Glassman, Headquarters Company, recalled that they collected all weapons and cameras in each German

town. The battalion formed softball, basketball, and boxing teams to keep the troops out of trouble.[87] Many of the Rangers felt this was the "calm before the storm" anticipating movement to the Pacific Theater. However, Japan surrendered on 15 August 1945 (VJ Day) and the 5th Ranger Battalion, like the 2nd before them, was shipped back to the United States as a unit. From Camp Lucky Strike, one of the "cigarette-name camps" established around Le Havre, France, the 5th Rangers boarded the USS *Sea Snipe* for Boston. The 5th Ranger Battalion deactivated without fanfare on 2 October 1945 at Camp Miles Standish, Taunton, Massachusetts. It was an inauspicious end for an elite infantry unit.[88]

Conclusion While the combat exploits of the 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion are less chronicled than those of "Rudder's Rangers" (the 2nd Ranger Battalion) or "Darby's Rangers" (the 1st, 3rd and 4th Ranger Battalions) in the Mediterranean, it contributed significantly to winning the war

Rangers from Headquarters Company enjoy a beer during occupation duty in Germany. They have the older Ranger insignia on their shoulder and the Ranger diamonds with a "5" inside painted on their helmets. *(Military History Institute)*

Richard P. Sullivan: the "unknown Ranger Commander"

Lieutenant Colonel Richard P. Sullivan (1917-1999) was born in Dorchester, Massachusetts on 9 September 1917. In 1936 he joined Baker Company, 101st Infantry Regiment (Massachusetts National Guard), which was part of the 26th Infantry Division (the "Yankee Division"). After graduating from the Massachusetts Military Academy, in November 1940 he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry. On 16 January 1941 the 26th Division was inducted into federal service and began a one year training program. When the Japanese attacked on Pearl Harbor, the division was retained on active duty "for the duration."[1]

In 1943, while assigned to the 101st Infantry Regiment Captain Sullivan volunteered for the 5th Ranger Battalion and became its executive officer (XO). Serving as both the battalion XO and the provisional Ranger Group XO, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for gallantry during the Normandy landings in June 1944. He assumed command of the battalion in July 1944 and led the unit through the Brittany Campaign and into Germany. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in September 1944, Sullivan commanded the 5th Ranger Battalion until the end of the war. In 1946 LTC Sullivan was medically retired from the Army.

LTC Richard P. Sullivan was the commander of the 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion for ten of its eleven months in combat, but he is virtually unknown, except to the veterans of the 5th Ranger Battalion. His awards include the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.[2]

After the war, he returned to Massachusetts and civilian life. He and his wife Evelyn raised two sons

LTC Richard P. Sullivan promotes Dog Company 1SG Raymond M. Herlihy to 2nd LT in January 1945, somewhere in Germany. Sullivan would command the 5th Rangers for ten of its eleven months in combat. *(Military History Institute)*

and three daughters. Sullivan was a member of the Massachusetts Crime Commission for several years and was the president of the Empire Equipment Engineering Company in Providence, Rhode Island for 25 years, until he retired in 1980. He died of natural causes in 1999.[3]

Endnotes

1 Major General (Retired) John C. Raaen, Jr., e-mail to Lieutenant Colonel Robert W. Jones, Jr., 27 March 2009, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC; Colonel (Retired) Leonid Kondratiuk, e-mail to Lieutenant Colonel Robert W. Jones, Jr., 28 March 2009, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC; Richard P. Sullivan National Guard Service Card, Massachusetts National Guard Museum and Archives, Worcester, MA.

2 Richard P. Sullivan National Guard Service Card, Massachusetts National Guard Museum and Archives, Worcester, MA; Kondratiuk e-mail, 28 March 2009; Robert W. Black, *Rangers in World War II* (New York: Presidio Press, 1992), 419.

3 Tom Long, "Richard P. Sullivan, decorated for bravery in D-Day assault; at 81: [City Edition]."*Boston Globe*, August 5, 1999, http://www.proquest.com/ (accessed April 20, 2009).

5th Ranger Training Battalion Dahlonega, Georgia

The unofficial scroll of the 5th Ranger Training Battalion

The 5th Ranger Training Battalion (RTB) is part of the U.S. Army Infantry Center and School's Ranger Training Brigade. The 5th RTB conducts the Mountain training phase of the Ranger Course. It is located at Camp Frank D. Merrill, near Dahlonega, Georgia.

in Europe. Although created for one mission – spearheading the invasion of Europe – its successes on D-Day resulted in the 5th Rangers commitment as a reaction force in France and Germany. The 5th Rangers finished the war in Austria as part of Lieutenant General George S. Patton's Third U.S. Army and supported Military Government units in the Army of Occupation.[89] The 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion unit decorations included two Distinguished Unit Citations and the French Croix de Guerre.

The author would like to thank Major General (Retired) John C. Raaen, Jr. and Colonel (Retired) Robert W. Black for their historical knowledge and insight. Mr. David Keogh at the Military History Institute, Carlisle, PA and Dr. David Hogan, the Center for Military History for their assistance in researching this article. Colonel (Retired) Leonid Kondratiuk at the Massachusetts National Guard Military Museum provided the information on the military career of Richard P. Sullivan. The author would also like to thank the staff at the US Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School Archives, Alex Lujan, Monet McKinzie, and Betty Rucker for their assistance and help.

Robert W. Jones, Jr. is an historian assigned to the USASOC History Office and is a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army. A graduate of the University of Washington, he earned his MA from Duke University and his MS from Troy State University. Current research interests include Special Forces in Vietnam 1960–1966, military government and civil affairs, special operations in World War II, Operation JUST CAUSE, and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Epilogue

The activation of the 75th Ranger Regiment in 1984 was the first time since World War II that the Rangers had a separate command and control headquarters.

The World War II Rangers simply faded away during demobilization. For the next five years the Army was preoccupied with the postwar occupation and defense of Germany, Japan, and Austria from Communism. Constabulary and military government units assumed the post-conflict missions. Faced with budget cuts in early 1950, the Army eliminated units, delayed purchases of new equipment, and deferred maintenance on old equipment.[90] Everything changed in late June 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea.

Realizing the need for Ranger-type units in Korea, the Army Chief of Staff General J. Lawton Collins ordered the formation of a Ranger Training Center at Fort Benning, Georgia.[91] In October 1950 the first "Airborne Ranger" Infantry Companies began training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Several of these companies went to Korea to carry the Ranger legacy forward. However, in a surprising move the Army decided to deactivate the units in August 1951.[92] Only the Ranger Training Center (later the Ranger Department of the Infantry School) was retained as a small unit leadership training course.

The Rangers were reborn in 1974 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.[93] Both Ranger battalions spearheaded the invasion of Grenada on 25 October 1983. Following that success, the Army created a Ranger Regimental headquarters in July 1984, commanded by Colonel Wayne A. Downing. The 3rd Ranger Battalion was activated at Fort Benning, Georgia in October 1984.[94] The first Ranger Regimental mission was Operation JUST CAUSE, where it conducted combat parachute assaults on Rio Hato airfield and the Torrijos-Tocumen Airport in Panama on 19 December 1989.

Endnotes

1 Michael J. King, *Rangers: Selected Combat Operations in World War II* (Fort Leavenworth, KS: Combat Studies Institute, 1985), 53; Robert W. Black, *Rangers in World War II* (New York: Presidio Press, 1992), 293. The official designation of the units was *Ranger Infantry Battalion*. However, most of the time the units were simply referred to as a "Ranger Battalion."

2 Kenneth Finlayson and Robert W. Jones Jr., "Rangers in World War II: Part I—The Formation and the Early Days," *Veritas*, Vol. 2, No. 3, 2006, 64–69; Kenneth Finlayson and Robert W. Jones Jr., "Rangers in World War II: Part II—Sicily and Italy," *Veritas*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2006, 49-58; Robert W. Jones Jr., "Beyond the Beach: The 2nd Rangers Fight Through Europe," *Veritas*, Vol. 5, No. 1, 16-32. The seven Ranger battalions formed in World War II were the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 29th. The 29th Ranger Battalion (Provisional) was formed on 20 December 1942, shortly after the 1st Ranger Battalion shipped out for the invasion of North Africa. Major Randolph Milholland formed the battalion with volunteers from the 29th Infantry Division, a National Guard division with elements from Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. After training in Scotland and England, the 29th Infantry Division commander, Major General Charles H. Gerhardt, ordered the unit disbanded on 15 October 1943. The Rangers returned to their original units and fought with the 29th Infantry Division from D-Day until the end of the war. In some respects, the 29th Rangers fulfilled the original intent for creating a Ranger battalion—to spread experience and training throughout the division.

3 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 77 and 136; Finlayson and Jones, "Rangers in World War II: Part II—Sicily and Italy," 55-57. For the invasion of Anzio (Operation SHINGLE) the three battalions formed together as the provisional 6615th Ranger Force.

4 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 108.

5 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 108 and 112.

6 Maria Moen, editor, *We Remember WWII: A Collection of U.S. Army Ranger Stories* (MN: Meadowlark Publishing, 2003), 48. The 26th Infantry Division was activated on 16 January 1941 and began a train-up that included participating in the Tennessee Maneuvers. While a large part of the 5th Rangers came from the 26th Infantry Division, two other units providing soldiers were the 78th and 98th Infantry Divisions.

7 Marcia Moen and Margo Heinen, *Reflections of Courage on D-Day and the Days That Followed: A Personal Account of Ranger "Ace" Parker* (Elk River, MN: DeForest Press, 1999), 60. The 98th Infantry Division was then at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky.

8 Arden V. Mischke, "D-Day June 6, 1944 Plus 183 Days with Company 'D" 5th Ranger Battalion," unpublished manuscript, Robert Black Collection, Box 1, Folder 3, the Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA, 31 (hereafter cited as Mischke manuscript and page number).

9 Richard N. Hathaway, Jr., *Training For Bloody Omaha: Activation, Training, and Combat of the 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion through 8, June 1944*, http://www.5thrangersecoy.com/history/train/train.html, accessed on 21 December 2008, copy in the USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC (hereafter cited as Hathaway, *Training For Bloody Omaha*).

10 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 339.

11 Moen and Heinen, *Reflections of Courage on D-Day and the Days That Followed*, 65-66; Hathaway, *Training For Bloody Omaha*.

12 Hathaway, *Training For Bloody Omaha*.

13 John L. Burke, 5th Ranger Battalion, Veteran's History Project Questionnaire, Box 3, File 1490, the Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA (hereafter cited as Burke Veteran's Questionnaire).

14 Thomas E. Herring, 5th Ranger Battalion, Veteran's History Project Questionnaire, Box 3, File 1493, the Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA (hereafter cited as Herring Veteran's Questionnaire).

15 James Gabaree, 5th Ranger Battalion, "University of Adversity," copy in the USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC (hereafter cited as Gabaree, "University of Adversity").

16 John J. Reville, 5th Ranger Battalion, Veteran's History Project Questionnaire, Box 3, File 1570, the Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA (hereafter cited as Reville Veteran's Questionnaire).

17 Hathaway, *Training For Bloody Omaha*.

18 Hathaway, *Training For Bloody Omaha*.

19 Hathaway, *Training For Bloody Omaha*.

20 Henry S. Glassman, "*Lead the Way, Rangers*" (Buchdruckerei Hausser, Germany, 1945), 12.

21 Glassman, "*Lead the Way, Rangers,*" 12.

22 Moen and Heinen, *Reflections of Courage on D-Day and the Days That Followed*, 67.

23 Hathaway, *Training For Bloody Omaha*.

24 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 141; Glassman, "*Lead the Way, Rangers,*" 13.

25 James E. Kidwell, 5th Ranger Battalion, Veteran's History Project Questionnaire, Box 3, File 2973, the Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA (hereafter cited as Kidwell Veteran's Questionnaire).

26 Mischke manuscript, 35.

27 Mischke manuscript, 36.

28 Hathaway, *Training For Bloody Omaha*; Moen and Heinen, *Reflections of Courage on D-Day and the Days That Followed*, 69-70; Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 177; Glassman, "*Lead the Way, Rangers,*" 13; Jerome J. Haggerty, "History of the Ranger Battalions, World War II," PhD Dissertation, Fordham University, New York, 1982, 204.

29 Hathaway, *Training For Bloody Omaha*.

30 The five invasion beaches were: Omaha (U.S. 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions), Utah (U.S. 4th Infantry Division), Gold (British 50th [Northumbrian] Division), Sword (British 3rd Infantry Division), and Juno (3rd Canadian Infantry Division).

31 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 175; Gordon A. Harrison, *Cross-Channel Attack* (Washington DC: Center of Military History, 2002), 170.

32 War Department, *Small Unit Actions* (Washington DC: Center of Military History, 1991), 1.

33 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 177; Department of the Army, *Omaha Beachhead* (Washington, DC: Center of Military History, 1994), 31; John C. Raaen, Jr., *Sir, the 5th Rangers have landed intact: A story of D-Day and of the 5th Rangers*, unpublished manuscript, 1999, copy at the U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA, 6.

34 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 179-180; Black, *The Battalion*, 181-183.

35 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 180; Black, *The Battalion*, 63-64.

36 Raaen, *Sir, the 5th Rangers have landed intact*, 8; Black, *The Battalion*, 63-64; Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 179-180.

37 Raaen, *Sir, the 5th Rangers have landed intact*, 8; Moen and Heinen, *Reflections of Courage on D-Day and the Days That Followed*, 27. The 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion was organized like the other Ranger battalions of World War II with a headquarters company and six line companies of sixty-three to sixty-seven men. Each company had a headquarters of four (company commander, first sergeant, company clerk, and runner/messenger) and two platoons of thirty men each. The entire battalion was only 516 men with attached medical personnel. In comparison the current Ranger Battalions are more robust (over 750 Rangers), with a Headquarters Company, four rifle companies, and a support company. Today a Ranger company is much larger with three rifle platoons each with 40 and a Weapons Platoon of 21 (over 150 soldiers).

38 Hathaway, *Training For Bloody Omaha*.

39 Harrison, *Cross-Channel Attack*, 322; Cornelius Ryan, *The Longest Day, June 6, 1944* (New York: Touchstone Book, 1959), 209-210.

40 Harrison, *Cross-Channel Attack*, 313-314.

41 Ryan, *The Longest Day, June 6, 1944*, 199-200; Black, *The Battalion*, 90-92. On 6 June 1944, nineteen of the sixty-eight Rangers in Charlie Company, 2nd Ranger Battalion were killed on Omaha Beach.

42 David W. Hogan, Jr., *U.S. Army Special Operations in World War II* (Washington DC: Center for Military History, 1992), 44; Glassman, *"Lead the Way Rangers,"* 20-24.

43 Glassman, *"Lead the Way Rangers,"* 21; Major Hugo W. Heffelfinger, Headquarters, 5th Ranger Battalion, "5th Ranger Battalion Action Against Enemy Reports, 6 June 1944," ARSOF Archives, John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Museum, Fort Bragg, NC.

44 Black, *The Battalion*, 137-138; Major Hugo W. Heffelfinger, Headquarters, 5th Ranger Battalion, "5th Ranger Battalion Action Against Enemy Reports, 6 June 1944," ARSOF Archives, John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Museum, Fort Bragg, NC (hereafter cited as 5th Ranger Battalion AAR and date); Moen and Heinen, *Reflections of Courage on D-Day and the Days That Followed*, 93.

45 Hogan, *U.S. Army Special Operations in World War II*, 44; Glassman, *"Lead the Way Rangers,"* 20-24; Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 218; Black, *The Battalion*, 146-151.

46 Tom Long, "Richard P. Sullivan, decorated for bravery in D-Day assault; at 81: [City Edition]."*Boston Globe*, August 5, 1999, http://www.proquest.com/ (accessed April 20, 2009); Colin Nickerson, Globe Staff. "One searing day to last a lifetime New England veterans recount the courage, terror and triumph of D-Day:[City Edition]."*Boston Globe)*, May 29, 1994, http://www.proquest.com/ (accessed April 20, 2009).

47 Victor J. Miller, *My Life With the Rangers* (online edition, http://www.5thrangercoy.com/history/miller_story.html, accessed on 21 December 2008, copy in the USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC), 17 (hereafter cited as Miller, *My Life With the Rangers* and page number).

48 Glassman, "*Lead the Way, Rangers,*" 28; Miller, *My Life With the Rangers*, 17.

49 Mischke manuscript, 13; Hogan, *U.S. Army Special Operations in World War II*, 44-45; Miller, *My Life With the Rangers*, 17.

50 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 223; Black, *The Battalion*, 165. Allied intelligence estimated 20,000 defenders, but sailors and construction troops at the bases and miscellaneous troops cutoff by the Allied advance had swelled the defense to almost 50,000. The defenders included the 2nd *Fallshirmjäger* (Parachute) Division, the 266th and 343rd Infantry Divisions, and some contingents of SS troops.

51 Dwight D. Eisenhower, *Crusade in Europe* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1948), 279-280; Hugh M. Cole, *The Lorraine Campaign* (Washington, DC: U.S. Army Center for Military History, 1993), 3-4; Richard Stewart, editor, *American Military History, volume II* (Washington, DC: U.S. Army Center for Military History, 2005), 151-152; Stephen E. Ambrose, *Citizen Soldiers: The U.S. Army from the Normandy Beaches to the Bulge to the Surrender of Germany, June 7, 1944 to May 7, 1945* (New York: Touchstone, 1997), 89; Geoffrey Perret, *There's a War to be Won: The United States Army in World War II* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1991), 329. Field Marshall Bernard L. Montgomery's 21st Army Group was moving in a northern thrust to capture ports along the English Channel, especially the great Belgian port of Antwerp. To the south the Americans attempted to clear the channel ports on the Brittany peninsula. This was a daunting task considering the peninsula was 200 miles long and 100 miles wide.

52 Black, *The Battalion*, 165.

53 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 29 August 1944; Glassman, "*Lead the Way, Rangers*," 31-32.

54 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 3 September 1944; Glassman, "*Lead the Way, Rangers*," 33; James F. Greene, Jr., E Company, 5th Ranger Battalion, "Recollections of Brest," found at http://users.skynet.be/jeeper/page123.html.

55 Mischke manuscript, 16.

56 Glassman, "*Lead the Way, Rangers*," 34; 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 3 September 1944; Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 231.

57 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 5 September 1944; Glassman, "*Lead the Way, Rangers*," 34-35; Mischke manuscript, 17; Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 231-232.

58 Mischke manuscript, 17.

59 Miller, *My Life With the Rangers*, 21; Mischke manuscript, 19; Glassman, "*Lead the Way, Rangers*," 36; 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 9 September 1944.

60 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 234-235.

61 James F. Greene, Jr., E Company, 5th Ranger Battalion, oral history interview transcript by Dr. David Hogan, 8 March 1984, Carlisle, PA; James F. Greene, Jr., E Company, 5th Ranger Battalion, "Recollections of Brest," found at http://users.skynet.be/jeeper/page123.html; Glassman, "*Lead the Way, Rangers*," 37-38; 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 17 September 1944; Miller, *My Life With the Rangers*, 22; Mischke manuscript, 24-25; Captain Edward S. Luther, "After Action Report Company E, 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion, 21 September 1944," Veteran's History Project Questionnaire, Box 3, File 6628, the Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA.

62 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 18 September 1944.

63 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 18 September 1944; Mischke manuscript, 25.

64 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 252; 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 1 December 1944.

65 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 1-4 December 1944.

66 Glassman, "*Lead the Way, Rangers*," 48; 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 4 December 1944; Moen and Heinen, *Reflections of Courage on D-Day and the Days That Followed*, 164.

67 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 252-253; Glassman, "*Lead the Way, Rangers*," 49; 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 4 December 1944; Moen and Heinen, *Reflections of Courage on D-Day and the Days That Followed*, 166-167.

68 Glassman, "*Lead the Way, Rangers*," 51; Miller, *My Life With the Rangers*, 31; Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 270-271; 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 21 December 1944; Hugh M. Cole, *The Ardennes: Battle of the Bulge* (Washington DC: Center for Military History, 1965), 80-81.

69 Omar Bradley, *A Soldier's Story* (New York: Holt, 1951), 491.

70 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 291; Major Hugo W. Heffelfinger, Headquarters, 5th Ranger Battalion, "5th Ranger Battalion Action Against Enemy Reports, 22 February 1945," ARSOF Archives, John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Museum, Fort Bragg, NC; Lieutenant Colonel Richard P. Sullivan, 5th Ranger Battalion, interview by Master Sergeant Monroe Ludden, 9 March 1945, Remich, Luxembourg, interview transcript, the Colonel Robert W. Black Collection, Box 5, Folder 3, the Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA, (hereafter cited as Sullivan interview, 9 March 1945).

71 King, *Rangers: Selected Combat Operations in World War II*, 44.

72 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 291; King, *Rangers: Selected Combat Operations in World War II*, 44.

73 Sullivan interview, 9 March 1945.

74 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 293; King, *Rangers: Selected Combat Operations in World War II*, 45; Glassman, "*Lead the Way, Rangers*," 59-61.

75 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 293; First Lieutenant Louis J. Gambosi, B Company, 5th Ranger Battalion, interview by Master Sergeant Monroe Ludden, 5 March 1945, Remich, Luxembourg, interview transcript, the Colonel Robert W. Black Collection, Box 5, Folder 3, the Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA; Captain Bernard M. Pepper, B Company, 5th Ranger Battalion, interview by Master Sergeant Monroe Ludden, 9 March 1945, Remich, Luxembourg, interview transcript, the Colonel Robert W. Black Collection, Box 5, Folder 3, the Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA; 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 24 February 1945.

76 Sullivan interview, 9 March 1945; 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 24 February 1945.

77 Sullivan interview, 9 March 1945; 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 24 February 1945.

78 Sullivan interview, 9 March 1945; 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 24 February 1945.

79 Sullivan interview, 9 March 1945.

80 Sullivan interview, 9 March 1945.

81 Sullivan interview, 9 March 1945.

82 Task Force Riley, part of the 10th Armored Division's Combat Command B, under the command of LTC John R. Riley, consisted of the 21st Tank Battalion (minus Baker Company), Able Company, 54th Armored Infantry Battalion, and a platoon of Engineers. Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 295; First Lieutenant Louis J. Gambosi, B Company, 5th Ranger Battalion, interview by Master Sergeant Monroe Ludden, 5 March 1945, Remich, Luxembourg, interview transcript, the Colonel Robert W. Black Collection, Box 5, Folder 3, the Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA; 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 25 February 1945.

83 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 27 February 1945; Sullivan interview, 9 March 1945; Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 301; King, *Rangers: Selected Combat Operations in World War II*, 52.

84 Pepper interview, 9 March 1945; 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 24 February 1945.

85 Captain Charles H. Parker, A Company, 5th Ranger Battalion, interview by Master Sergeant Monroe Ludden, 9 March 1945, Remich, Luxembourg, interview transcript, the Colonel Robert W. Black Collection, Box 5, Folder 3, the Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA.

86 5th Ranger Battalion AAR, 25 February 1945.

87 Black, *The Battalion*, 279-281; Moen and Heinen, *The Fool Lieutenant*, 255; Henry S. Glassman, 5th Ranger Battalion, Veteran's History Project Questionnaire, Box 3, File 1570, the Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA (hereafter cited as Glassman Veteran's Questionnaire).

88 Black, *The Battalion*, 283-284. Camp Lucky Strike around Le Havre, France, was one of the "cigarette-name camps" established to house soldiers waiting for transportation back to the United States.

89 Black, *Rangers in World War II*, 252.

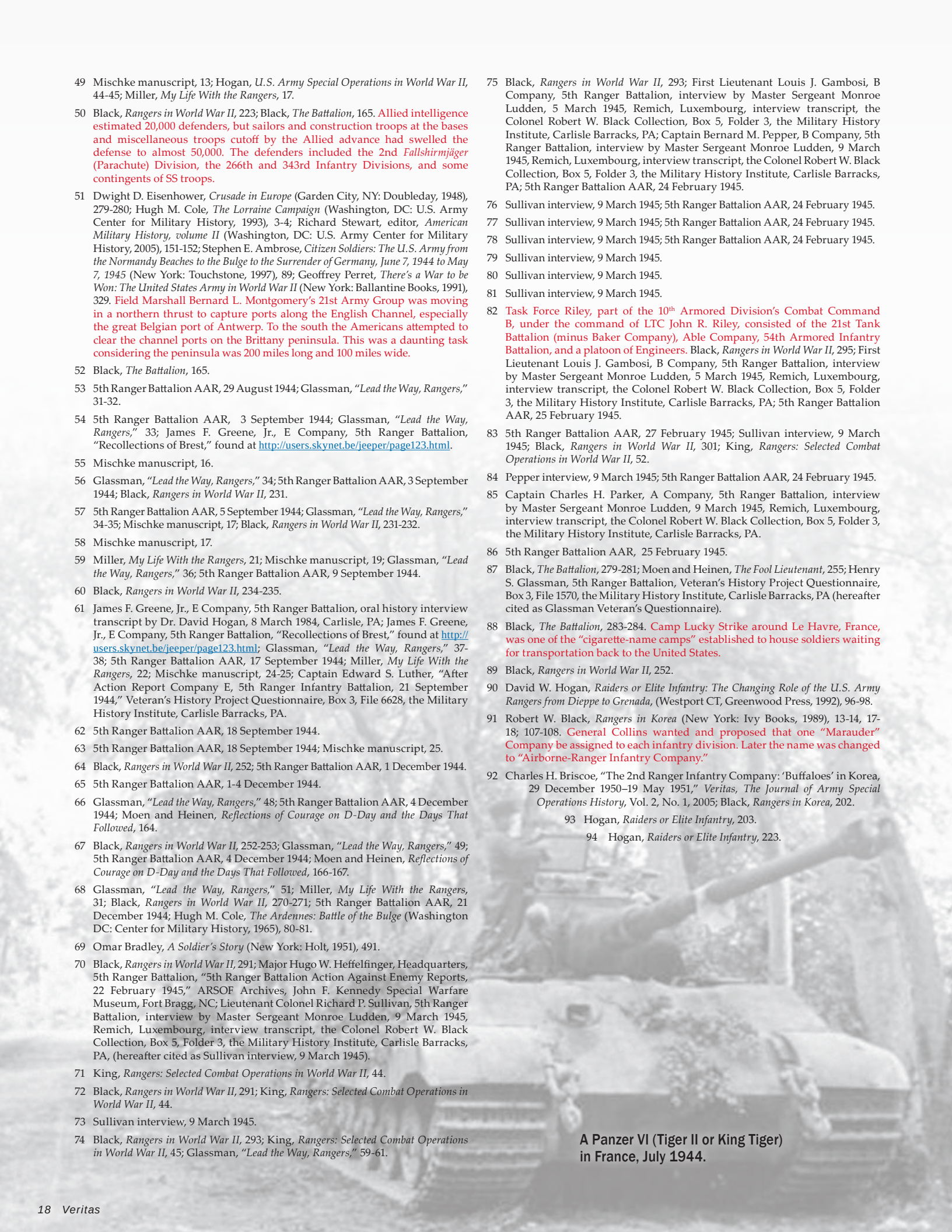
90 David W. Hogan, *Raiders or Elite Infantry: The Changing Role of the U.S. Army Rangers from Dieppe to Grenada*, (Westport CT, Greenwood Press, 1992), 96-98.

91 Robert W. Black, *Rangers in Korea* (New York: Ivy Books, 1989), 13-14, 17-18; 107-108. General Collins wanted and proposed that one "Marauder" Company be assigned to each infantry division. Later the name was changed to "Airborne-Ranger Infantry Company."

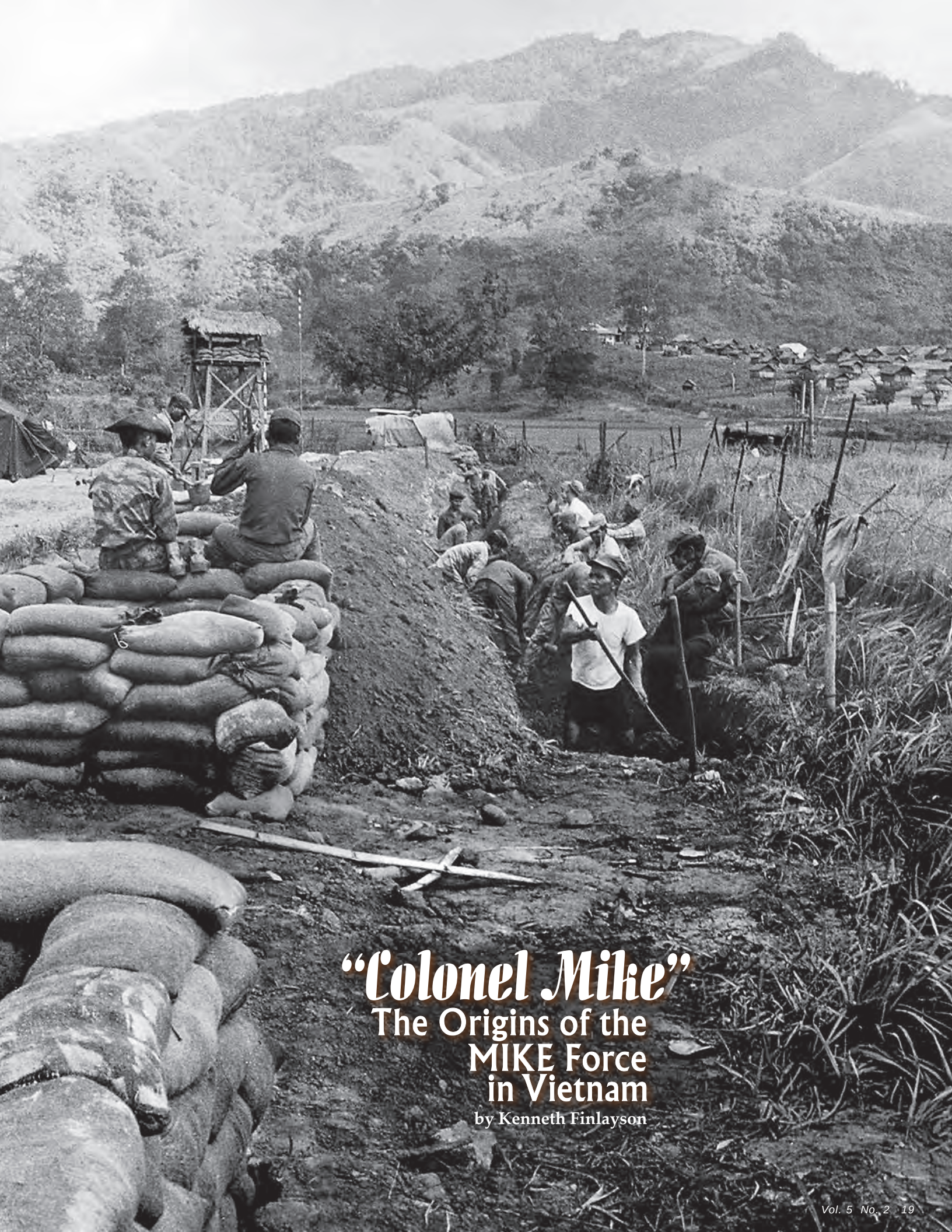
92 Charles H. Briscoe, "The 2nd Ranger Infantry Company: 'Buffaloes' in Korea, 29 December 1950–19 May 1951," *Veritas, The Journal of Army Special Operations History*, Vol. 2, No. 1, 2005; Black, *Rangers in Korea*, 202.

93 Hogan, *Raiders or Elite Infantry*, 203.

94 Hogan, *Raiders or Elite Infantry*, 223.



A Panzer VI (Tiger II or King Tiger) in France, July 1944.



"Colonel Mike"

The Origins of the MIKE Force in Vietnam

by Kenneth Finlayson

5th Special Forces Group Vietnam Flash

MIKE Force Patch

The 5th Special Forces Group was responsible for all Special Forces operations in Vietnam from October 1964 until the Group returned to Fort Bragg in March 1971. From its base at Nha Trang, 5th SFG controlled over 1400 Special Forces personnel in 1965.

1965 was a critical year in the course of the Vietnam War. A resurgent Communist Viet Cong (VC) joined with a growing number of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) units to launch a general offensive against the South Vietnamese Army and its American allies. The frequency and ferocity of the Communist attacks were largely responsible for accelerating the deployment of American conventional forces in 1965. The U.S. Army made its role as advisors to the South Vietnamese Army secondary and took on an increasingly greater role in ground combat operations against the Communist forces. U.S. Army Special Forces (SF) also adapted to these changing tactics. SF became more aggressive in finding and fixing the VC and NVA units and interdicting supply lines into South Vietnam. One long-lasting change that resulted from the 1965 VC offensive was the creation of the MIKE Force.

This article will focus exclusively on the situation and events that promulgated the formation of the MIKE Force battalion in June 1965. The mobile strike and reaction forces that subsequently evolved became an integral element of Special Forces operations throughout Vietnam until late 1972.[1] A comprehensive history of MIKE Force operations during the Vietnam War is beyond the scope of a single article. But the formation, organization, and operations of the first MIKE Force unit will demonstrate how Special Forces overcame a series of setbacks and in doing so, created an offensive capability that had lasting impact on the conduct of the war.

In 1965 the 5th Special Forces Group (5th SFG), headquartered in Nha Trang, controlled all SF operations in Vietnam. The 5th SFG arrived in Vietnam in October 1964. By June 1965, the Group had over 1400 SF personnel organized into a Group Headquarters, four "C" detachments with regional responsibilities, 11 "B" detachments with sector missions in each region, and 48 "A" detachments in the B detachment operational areas.[2] The primary mission of the SF A detachments was to train and advise the South Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) forces.

The CIDG program was jointly developed by the U.S. and South Vietnamese governments to gain control of the ethnic minorities and reduce their susceptibility to Communist influence. The ethnic Vietnamese tendency to marginalize the various minorities made them a prime target for Communist propaganda. By organizing minority paramilitary units, the counter-insurgency effort against the VC could be strengthened and the loss of control of large, strategic land areas to the Communists prevented. Initially under the supervision of the U.S. Military Assistance and Advisory Group (MAAG), the program began in 1961 at Buon Enao and rapidly spread through the country. By 1963, proponency for the program passed to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) under Operation SWITCHBACK. By 1965, there were 80 CIDG camps manned by Special Forces elements.[3] New camps were established near the Cambodian and Laotian borders for border surveillance and to increase security. The effectiveness of the program disrupted VC operations and resupply and consequently triggered more attacks on the camps.[4]

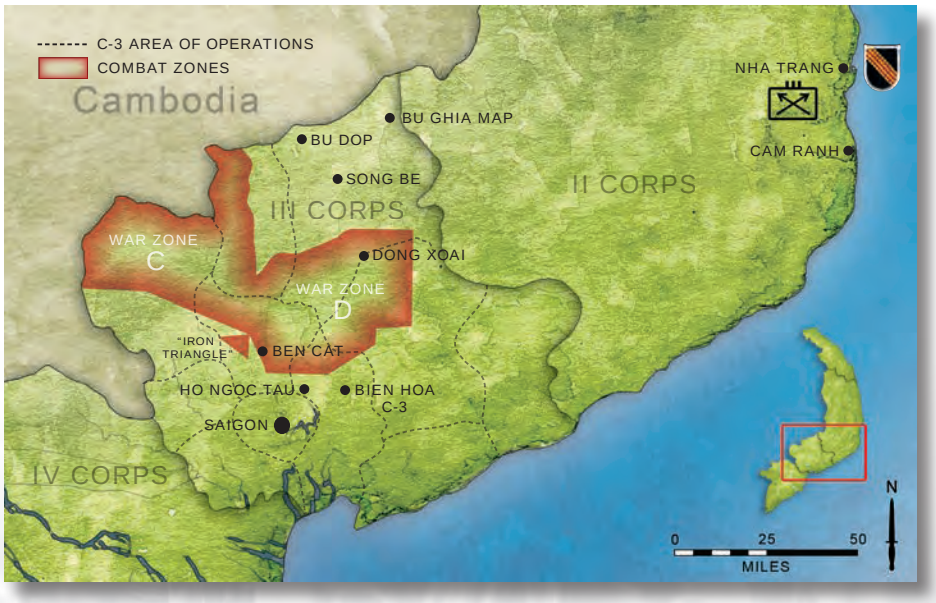
Operationally the Special Forces C detachments were aligned with the four South Vietnamese Army (ARVN) Corps Tactical Zones (CTZs). One of the most hotly contested zones was the III CTZ that ran from the Cambodian border southeast to the sea and included the capital city of Saigon. Within the III CTZ were three VC strongholds, War Zones C and D, and the "Iron Triangle."[5] As a result, several CIDG camps were located north and west of Saigon astride the primary VC supply

routes from Cambodia to the capital. They became the targets of several major VC assaults in 1965. The attacks revealed serious deficiencies in the CIDG forces.

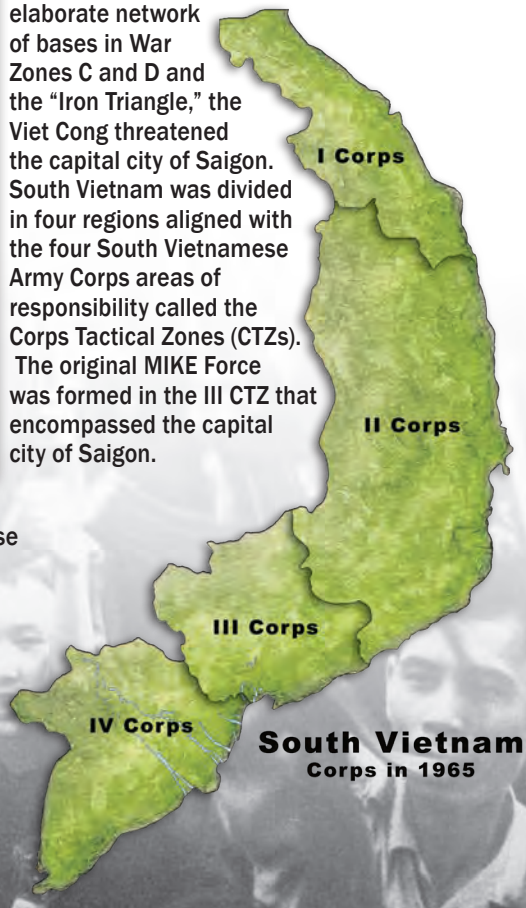
Special Forces operations in the III CTZ in 1965 were the responsibility of Detachment C-3 at Bien Hoa that was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Miguel de la Peña. In January, Captain (CPT) Joseph S. Stringham took command of Detachment A-301 at the Ben Cat CIDG camp.[6] Several major VC attacks in and around Ben Cat from December 1964 through May 1965 led to the formation of the MIKE Force.

Ben Cat was constructed in September 1964 adjacent to the Iron Triangle to the south and War Zones C and D to the north. At Ben Cat, A-301 had three 150-man CIDG companies and a South Vietnamese Army Special Forces (LLDB) detachment.[7] Two of the CIDG companies, 348 and 349, were made up of Chinese Nungs and the third, 346, was filled with ethnic South Vietnamese from the Saigon area.

Captain Joseph S. Stringham commanded Detachment A-301 during his second tour in Vietnam. Given the mission to organize and train a reaction force to support the CIDG camps, he formed the first MIKE Force with ethnic Chinese Nung soldiers in June 1965.



The III CTZ was a stronghold for the Viet Cong insurgency in 1965. From an elaborate network of bases in War Zones C and D and the "Iron Triangle," the Viet Cong threatened the capital city of Saigon. South Vietnam was divided in four regions aligned with the four South Vietnamese Army Corps areas of responsibility called the Corps Tactical Zones (CTZs). The original MIKE Force was formed in the III CTZ that encompassed the capital city of Saigon.



In 1964 a resurgent Viet Cong began a series of offensives in South Vietnam in response to the increasingly effective Civilian Irregular Defense Program. The Viet Cong were the primary combatants until the Tet Offensive of 1968. The VC were severely reduced in strength during Tet and the North Vietnamese People's Army became the principal enemy force on the battlefield.

An aerial view of the CIDG training camp at Ho Ngoc Tau. The camp was the training site for the MIKE Force.

"The Nungs were Chinese that had been run out of China [into Vietnam in the 3rd century BC]," recalled CPT Joseph Stringham. "There was no doubt where their loyalties lay. They were 100% anti-Communist."[8] The tough, experienced Nungs became the nucleus of the MIKE Force after proving themselves in two fierce battles near Ben Cat.

The first action took place at Dong So on 30 December 1964. In the small village, the CIDG 346 Company of 150 South Vietnamese and their three SF advisors, were overrun after a violent night battle with the 272nd VC Regiment, a main force unit roughly 1000 strong. The 346 Company was quickly overwhelmed by the huge enemy force. It happened so fast that the 349 Company, just two kilometers away, could not react to help. Only one SF advisor with 346, SGT Roy Jacobson, survived.[9] In late January 1965, the evening before the Tet holiday began, Captain Stringham took command of Detachment A-301 at Ben Cat. Five months later a disaster similar to Dong So occurred.

"We [349 Nung company] got overrun on 22 May 1965, at high noon," said CPT Stringham. "We got out with only the 348th Company."[10] A VC ambush at Madame Nhu's dairy farm five kilometers from Ben Cat destroyed 349 Company in an open clearing.[11] When the fighting ended, a severely depleted A-301 was barely holding on to the camp. The two attacks cost the lives of more than 200 CIDG soldiers.[12] The remnants of A-301, with 348 Company and a handful of Cambodian CIDG strikers were directed to abandon Ben Cat on 6 June and reestablish themselves at Ho Ngoc Tau, a training camp near the village of Thu Duc between Bien Hoa and Saigon.[13] Meanwhile, the VC continued their attacks on the camps in the area.

While A-301 was recovering at Ho Ngoc Tau, Detachment A-342 at Dong Xoai was attacked on 9 June by an estimated Viet Cong Regiment (1000+). A-342 had arrived at the abandoned ARVN Ranger camp on 25 May 1965 with three CIDG companies and a contingent of Navy SeaBees and was in the process of rebuilding the camp when the VC attacked.[14] After fourteen hours of vicious fighting, the camp was evacuated by A-342. The Detachment Executive Officer, First Lieutenant

The Special Forces camp at Song Be came under heavy attack from the Viet Cong, who assaulted from the woods in the upper right. The VC offensive against the SF camps led to the formation of the MIKE Force.

(1LT) Charles Q. Williams earned the Medal of Honor during the heavy fighting.[15] A very frustrated CPT Joseph Stringham could only listen to the radio traffic during the battle.

"Here we were only thirty miles away and could do nothing," lamented CPT Stringham. "We were all beat up and could not help."[16] After the Dong Xoai battle, Stringham went to see LTC de la Peña at C-3 headquarters. "I told him I had a good 150-man company ready to use and nothing to do." An experienced combat veteran of World War II and Korea, de la Peña, "told me to go back, sit down, and be quiet."[17] Within an hour, Stringham was recalled to the C Team and given a new mission: Form a reaction force.

The recent battles at Ben Cat, Dong Xoai, and Song Be revealed how vulnerable the CIDG companies were at night. Since the South Vietnamese Army did not operate after dark, they would not reinforce the besieged camps until daylight. Darkness also precluded the use of close air support. Viet Cong sympathizers in the ranks made the

In the fierce two-day battle at Dong Xoai, Detachment A-342 barely retained control of the camp. Here South Vietnamese Army troops battle on the outskirts of the village.

The MIKE Force trained at the CIDG camp at Ho Ngoc Tau. Marksmanship and small-unit tactics were the primary training focus.

LTC Miguel "Mike" de la Peña. A World War II and Korean War veteran, LTC de la Peña's nickname was adopted by the MIKE Force.

CIDG companies unreliable. From near-by VC-controlled villages, the enemy could get close to the camps to launch their attacks with impunity. The inhabitants would not alert the defenders. The solution was to create a reaction force of well-trained troops to quickly reinforce a camp under heavy attack. Forming, training, and leading this new force became Detachment A-302's mission.[18]

"There was only one MIKE Force battalion activated as it was, by COMUS MACV [Commander U.S. MACV] letter order," said retired Brigadier General Stringham. "The order was sent from 5th Group that directed C-3 to form one reaction force battalion."[19] Time was critical. A-302 was given less than two weeks to train the new unit. Filling the ranks with new recruits, issuing equipment, and training had to be accomplished by 22 June 1965. After that date, the battalion was to be on call to respond to emergencies in the hotly disputed III CTZ

"The unit was named the MIKE Force. This came from LTC Miguel 'Mike' de la Peña. 'Mike' was his code name," said Stringham.[20] The MIKE Force was composed of three 150-man companies. With 348 Company as the nucleus, A-302 recruited Nungs to fill the ranks of the other companies. Nungs were also hired to form the reconnaissance platoon.[21] There were no Vietnamese CIDG or Special Forces in the first MIKE Force. The strong family ties among the Nungs made the recruitment easy and virtually eliminated the security problems.

A U.S. Air Force B-52D Stratofortress dropping 500 pound bombs over Vietnam. The first MIKE Force mission was to conduct a bomb damage assessment following a B-52 strike.

"Nepotism was the name of the game," said Stringham. "Most of the older Nungs were ex-French Foreign Legion [French Colonial Army] guys and they would vouch for the younger ones. It was kind of a 'self-vetting process,' but we didn't have a lot of time."[22] New recruits were given a cursory physical by the A-302 team medics to check for diseases and fitness. The troops were issued one set of tiger-stripe fatigues and M-2 carbines. Each company weapons platoon had three M-1919A1 .30 caliber machine guns and three 60 mm mortars.[23] For communications, they were issued PRC-25 radios. The equipment for the MIKE Force came from the 5th SFG logistics base at Nha Trang. Being on the MIKE Force was economically advantageous for the troops. MIKE Force Nungs were paid considerably more than their CIDG counterparts. Each man received 6600 *piastres* ($55.00) per month as opposed to the 1500 *p* ($12.00) that was the CIDG monthly wage.[24]

"I was the battalion commander," said Stringham. "Two NCOs [non-commissioned officers] worked with each company. The guys lived with their companies."[25]

The Apache Force

The formation of the original MIKE Force in June 1965 also saw the concurrent creation of another special purpose unit, the Apache Force. Formed as a response to the identified need for a pathfinder element to secure the Landing Zones (LZs) prior to the helicopter insertion of combat troops, the Apache Force was organized and trained in the III Corps Tactical Zone (III CTZ) by members of A-302 and SFC Frank Kokosza of C-3.

SGT Roy Jacobson was given the mission of organizing and training the Apache Force teams. The eight-man teams were composed of Nungs from the CIDG strike force companies. "Our training program was one of intensive marksmanship and land navigation training," said Jacobson, a competent Vietnamese speaker. "They were also given airborne training along with the MIKE Force, one helicopter jump per man. I jumpmastered about sixty jumps in ten days when we were getting trained up."[1] SFC Frank Kokosza, a former Lodge Act soldier and Special Forces veteran was attached from the C Team to run the training. Kokosza's teams became part of the C Team recon element. Kokosza would receive missions from the C Team S-2.[2]

Three members of the Apache Force prior to a parachute jump at Ho Ngoc Tau. The Apache Force was airborne qualified after four hours of training and one training jump from a helicopter.

The impetus for the formation of the Apache Force came from Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) as a response to a series of operations where air assault troops were landed on "hot" LZs. When tasked by MACV, the 5th Special Forces Group designed a ten-man team of two U.S. Special Forces advisors and eight indigenous troops. Six such teams were formed in C-3.[3] Missions for the Apache Force came from MACV to the C Team.[4] Of the six teams formed, the C Team S-2 reconnaissance unit used three and three were devoted to the pathfinder mission, primarily in support of the 173rd Airborne Brigade in III CTZ.[5] Once on the ground, the team worked for the ground commander.

Unlike the MIKE Force concept that expanded to all the corps tactical zones in the years after 1965, the Apache Force was a short-lived experiment that was soon supplanted by other reaction forces, both U.S. and indigenous. The Apache Force became the recon element for the III CTZ MIKE Force.

Endnotes

1 Roy Jacobson, interview with Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 14 May 2009, interview notes, Fort Bragg, NC, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

2 Frank Kokosza, interview with Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 29 May 2009, interview notes, Fort Bragg, NC, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC; Jacobson interview.

3 Headquarters, 5th Special Forces Group, "Apache Force (Pathfinder/Reconnaissance/Combat) Concept, 4 July 1965, National Archives, RG 472, Box 5, 5th Special Forces Group C Detachment Reports.

4 Jacobson interview.

5 Jacobson interview.

SGT Roy Jacobson (c) was the primary trainer of the Apache Force. Originally designed as pathfinders to secure the landing zones for helicopter insertions, the Apache Force became the reconnaissance platoon of the III CTZ MIKE Force. SSG William Parnell (l) and SSG Richard Johnson (r) are at the far right. The Special Forces soldier kneeling front left is unknown.

The bunker on the northwest corner of the camp at Bu Dop prior to the battle. Strong defensive bunkers were located on all four corners of the camp perimeter. The VC destroyed this bunker with recoilless rifle fire.

Aerial view of the CIDG camp at Bu Dop. The Viet Cong attacked the north and west sides of the camp. The SF billets were in the center of the camp.

A-302 focused on marksmanship and infantry small-unit tactics to get the MIKE Force operational. That test came on 22 June 1965.

"The first mission was to take three 6-man teams by helicopter into an area between Highway 13 and the Michelin Rubber Plantation to do a [bomb damage] assessment after a B-52 strike," recalls Stringham. "The B-52s came out of Guam, but due to a mid-air collision during refueling, they missed the target. All they did was knock down enough stuff to make it hard to move through. We got inserted, ran around a while and got picked up. Not a great beginning for the MIKE Force."[26] The real combat evaluation came a month later.

On 19 July 1965, orders came from the C detachment to prepare a MIKE Force company to aid the SF team at the CIDG camp at Bu Ghia Map under attack by two VC battalions. The Mike Force mission was to evacuate the SF team and their CIDG strikers. 348 Company, the new 4th Nung company and the recon platoon were trucked to Tan Son Nhut Airbase to load two C-123 aircraft for the flight that night to Bu Ghia Map near the Cambodian border.[27]

"We went in very light, no rucksacks or food. We landed and it was very dark," said Stringham. " I ran off the plane and straight into a ditch. When we got into the camp, I put my people on the perimeter, and got theirs [the camp occupants] off the wall, since they were likely compromised. There was half an A detachment and a handful of strikers there."[28] There was little contact the rest of the night. The arrival of the MIKE Force had prompted the VC to switch their main attack to the nearby Bu Dop camp. In the early morning the C Team ordered Bu Ghia Map abandoned and the MIKE Force to move to reinforce Bu Dop.

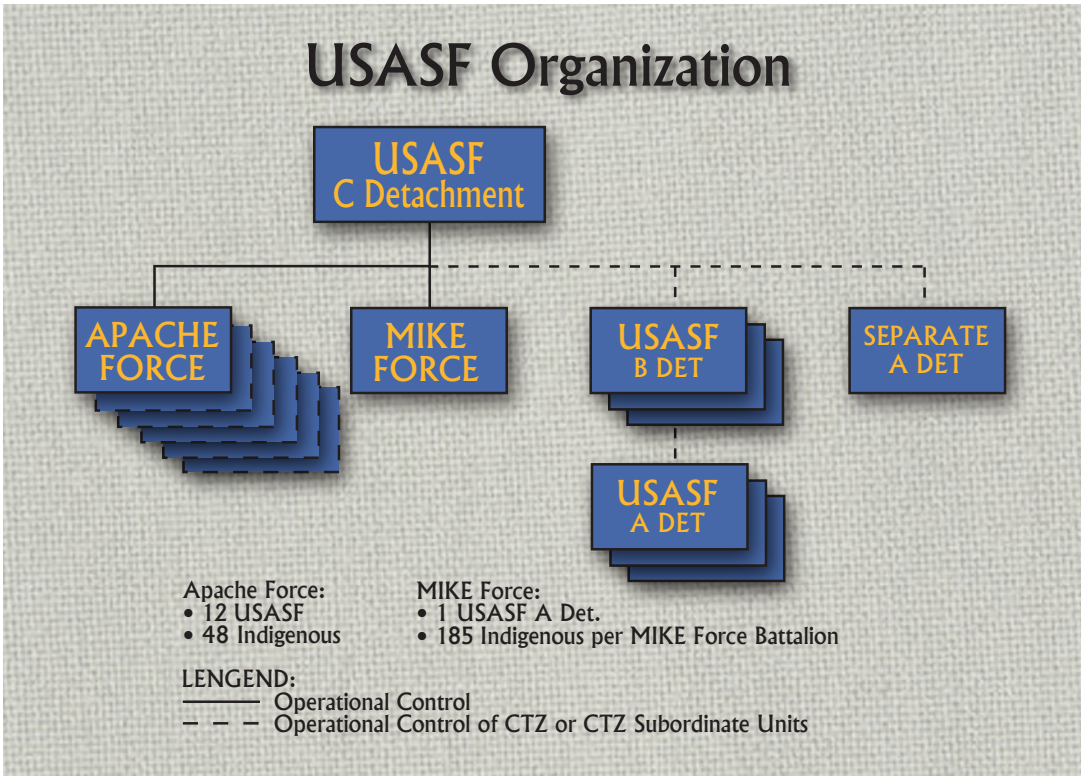
At daylight on 20 July, the C-123s began to arrive to evacuate the CIDG, the MIKE Force and their SF advisors. Stringham's team placed explosive charges throughout the camp, on a five-minute delay. After the MIKE Force was flown out to Song Be, CPT Stringham and two NCOs, SSG William Parnell and SSG Elliot Wilson, were to

The ruins of the Special Forces team billets at Bu Dop after the battle. Little was left of the camp after the heavy Viet Cong assault.

detonate the charges.[29] A helicopter picked up the three Americans, just before the explosives went off. Bu Dop had been hit hard the previous night. Two SF advisors and twenty CIDG strikers had been killed.[30]

Arriving at Bu Dop in the afternoon of 20 July, Stringham positioned his MIKE Force personnel on the south side of the camp perimeter and relocated the CIDG defenders onto the north side. The assumption of the A-302 members was that a good percentage of the CIDG strikers were turncoats and would give the VC access to the camp. The enemy did attack the camp again that night, but could not penetrate the defenses. In the morning, CPT Stringham, now in command at Bu Dop, sent a reconnaissance platoon under SSGs Parnell and Collins out to find the enemy. Since Bu Dop was very close to the Cambodian border, locating the enemy escape route to safety across the border was not difficult. But there were still problems inside the camp.

The team discovered that the claymore mines emplaced on the perimeter defenses had been reversed during the night aiming them into the camp. Based on this, the SF soldiers began to thoroughly interrogate the civilians



and CIDG personnel in the camp. Not surprisingly, there was a mass exodus from Bu Dop. With the MIKE Force to strengthen the defenses and the Communist sympathizers driven off, the threat of further attack was minimal.[31] This established the pattern for the employing the MIKE Force that was used at Dong Xoai.[32]

The Nungs, whose loyalty to the Americans was unquestioned, became a major force multiplier. By November 1965, CPT Stringham and most of the members of A-302 involved in the formation of the original MIKE Force had completed their tours and rotated back to the United States. Their legacy, the III CTZ MIKE Force composed of Nungs, was the genesis of one of the most successful Special Forces initiatives in the Vietnam War.

Drawing on the combat experience and loyalty of the Nungs, the original MIKE Force was a reliable, well-trained hard-hitting combat unit that could be rapidly moved to reinforce or relieve CIDG camps when they were attacked by overwhelming enemy forces. The Special Forces C Teams in the other Corps Tactical Zones were soon directed by 5th SFG Headquarters to establish MIKE Force battalions.[33] These MIKE Force elements caused a major shift in CIDG operations from defense to offense against the VC and NVA. Mobile Strike Groups and other variations of the original MIKE Force model quickly proliferated enabling Special Forces and their CIDG strikers to aggressively seek out and destroy the enemy.

The purpose of this article was to show how several successful VC attacks against the III CTZ CIDG camps prompted the organization of the first MIKE Force. The loyal, high-quality Nungs of the 348th Company became the nucleus of the MIKE Force. LTC Miguel "Mike" de la Peña, whose nickname became associated with the original MIKE Force battalion, saw his moniker attached to reaction forces countrywide. As the Vietnam War evolved, the term "MIKE Force" came to be applied to a variety of units at different times and places. Future articles will examine the varied and complex history of these units that were labeled MIKE Forces.

The author would like to thank BG (ret) Joseph Stringham, LTC (ret) Miguel de la Peña, the other former MIKE Force members who reviewed the article, and especially Roy Jacobson for their invaluable assistance.

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 A forerunner of the MIKE Force units was Eagle Flight, a quick reaction force established in the II Corps Tactical Zone in October 1964. Francis J. Kelly, *Vietnam Studies: U.S. Army Special Forces, 1961-1971* (Washington DC: Department of the Army, 1973), 54.

2 Kelly, *Vietnam Studies: U.S. Army Special Forces, 1961-1971*, 82.

3 Kelly, *Vietnam Studies: U.S. Army Special Forces, 1961-1971*, 50.

4 United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, "Civilian Irregular Defense Group Program in the Republic of Vietnam – Monthly Report for March 1964," National Archives, RG 472, Box 1, 18-23.

5 John M. Carland, *Stemming the Tide: May 1965 to October 1966* (Washington DC: Center of Military History, 2000) 212-213.

6 Operational Detachment A-314 was redesignated A-301 when Captain Stringham took command.

7 LLDB stands for *Lac Luong Dac Biet*, the name of the ARVN Special Forces.

8 Brigadier General (retired) Joseph S. Stringham, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 30 January 2009, Fort Bragg, NC, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. Nung is a Chinese term for farmer.

9 Roy Jacobson, *Hai Si*, unpublished manuscript dated 1 February 2005, copy in the USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, 1-14. At the time of the Dong So battle, Jacobson was a member of ODA-314, 5th Special Forces Group, that had arrived in country only weeks before. A-314 was replaced in May by A-301 after the second battle near Ben Cat. Jacobson was reassigned to A-301. A description of the battle at Dong So is found in Ray A. Bows, *Vietnam Military Lore: Legends, Shadows & Heroes* (Hanover, MA: Christopher Publishing House, 1998), 907-960.

10 Stringham interview.

11 Roy Jacobson, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 14 May 2009, Fort Bragg, NC, interview notes, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. Trăn Lê Xuân, better known as Madame Nhu, was the sister-in-law of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem who was assassinated in 1963.

12 Jacobson interview; 5th Special Forces Group, Annex A to Memo 12, Monthly Operational Summary dated 12 December 1965, National Archives RG 472, Box 5, "C Detachment Operational Reports."

13 Joseph S. Stringham, email to Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 27 May 2009, copy in the USASOC History Office classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

14 James T. Taylor, email to Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 28 May 2009, copy in the USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

15 Headquarters, 5th Special Forces Group, "Dong Xoai After Action Report," National Archives, RG 472, Box 5, "5th SFG After Action Reports," 2-3. At the battle of Dong Xoai, Construction Mechanic Third Class Marvin G. Shields, USN, also earned the Medal of Honor posthumously and Staff Sergeant James T. Taylor won the Distinguished Service Cross. Taylor later joined the MIKE Force.

16 Stringham interview.

17 Stringham interview; Headquarters, 5th Special Forces Group, Annex A to Memo 12, "Monthly Operational Summary" dated 12 December 1965, National Archives RG 472, Box 5, "C Detachment Operational Reports."

18 Captain Stringham was selected by LTC de la Peña to replace the team leader of A-301 after the battle at the dairy farm in May. A-301 was redesignated A-302 when it assumed the MIKE Force mission. Jacobson interview, 14 May 2009.

19 Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Miguel de la Peña, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 29 April 2009, Fort Bragg, NC, interview notes, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC; Stringham interview.

20 de la Peña interview; Stringham interview.

21 Stringham interview.

22 Stringham interview.

23 Roy Jacobson, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 22 May 2009, Fort Bragg, NC, interview notes, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC; Headquarters, 5th Special Forces Group, Letter of Instruction # 2, "Multi Purpose Reaction Force (MIKE Force)," 1 August 1965, USASOC Archives, Fort Bragg, NC.

24 Stringham interview. Each CIDG striker and Nung was eligible for a "death gratuity," equivalent to one month's pay given to a relative in a single lump sum. This program was riddled with graft and corruption and was a continual headache for 1LT Kenneth Kubasik, the A-301 Detachment XO.

25 Stringham interview.

26 Stringham interview; de la Peña interview.

27 Headquarters, 5th Special Forces Group, "Initial Report VC Attack at Bu Dop," 22 July 1965. National Archives, Record Group 472, Box 1, "5th Special Forces Group After Action Reports."

28 Stringham interview.

29 Stringham interview.

30 Headquarters, 5th Special Forces Group, "Initial Report VC Attack at Bu Dop," 22 July 1965. National Archives, Record Group 472, Box 1, "5th Special Forces Group After Action Reports."

31 Stringham interview.

32 The events at Bu Ghia Map, Bu Dop, and Dong Xoai became the basis for the popular 1968 movie "The Green Berets," starring John Wayne, that was adapted from the book by Robin Moore.

33 Headquarters, 5th Special Forces Group, Letter of Instruction # 2, "Multi Purpose Reaction Force (MIKE Force)," 1 August 1965, USASOC Archives, Fort Bragg, NC.

The ruins of the CIDG quarters at Bu Dop after the attack by two reinforced VC battalions. The enemy used bamboo ladders like the ones shown to cross the moat in front of the walls.

America's Foreign Legionnaires:

The Lodge Act Soldiers—Part II

by Charles H. Briscoe

Massachusetts Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. (Republican), who as a U.S. Sixth Army staff officer in WWII, had seen the British, Russians, and Germans use foreign military units, had promoted the formation of a Volunteer Freedom Corps (VFC) since 1948. The VFC, made up of stateless East European males, was to be a bulwark against Communism on the continent. While some U.S. congressmen recognized its merits, the postwar West European governments regarded the formation of a multi-national paramilitary element as a potential economic burden and possible threat to stability.

The single step towards a VFC was passed by Congress on 30 June 1950 five days after North Korea invaded the South. The initial Lodge Act (U.S. Public Law 597, 81st Congress, 2nd Session) authorized voluntary enlistment of 2,500 unmarried foreign national males in the U.S. Army for five years.[1] It was almost a year before the first group of forty-five Lodge Act enlistees was sworn in at the 720th Replacement Battalion in Sonthofen, Germany. By then, the Congress had raised the authorization to 12,500, but prohibitions on recruiting in Austria, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxemburg, and Germany [the future NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) members] negated opportunities to reach the increased authorization.[2]

The Cold War had already doomed the program. The final number of enlistees (1,302) was just over half of the 2,500 authorized in 1950, and just 10.4 % of the 12,500.[3] Little more than a hundred of the Lodge Act soldiers, all of whom enlisted in the U.S. Army in Germany, would be assigned to Special Forces and Psychological Warfare units between 1951 and 1955.[4]

The Lodge Act soldiers should not to be confused with the émigré aliens who joined the Army in the United States under the provisions of Army Regulations (AR) 601-210 and 601-249. As alien émigrés their five years residence for citizenship began when they entered the U.S., not after joining the service.[5] Thus, those aliens that enlisted in the U.S. in the 1950s could become eligible for naturalization with less than five years of military service; Lodge Act soldiers could not. Army Special Regulation (SR) 615-120-15 dated 19 December 1952 applied only to Lodge Act enlistees.[6]

This article will cover some Lodge Act enlistee experiences as they transited Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, enroute to basic combat training or English language school at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. Selected circumstances at basic and airborne training will follow. After first unit postings, how some of the Lodge Act men got into Special Forces and Psychological Warfare at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, proved interesting. Since recruitment, administrative processing, and assimilation of the Lodge Act soldiers was a constant "work in progress" during the Korean War era, few routines were established and standards simply evolved. How one group was processed in 1951 did not mean that the next and subsequent groups were handled the same way.

The Congressionally-mandated Lodge Act enlistment was for only five years. Contrary to popular Special Forces mythology not every Lodge Act soldier volunteered for airborne let alone SF training. There was never an "alumni" association. Long term friendships were maintained by some military careerists. The vast majority worked themselves into American society after their five years in the conventional Army. The conclusion explains why the alien recruiting program in Europe (1950-1955), though a success for individuals, did not meet the expectations of Senator Lodge, provides commonalities among Lodge Act enlistees, and shows the impact that they had on Special Forces during their service and afterwards.

While the article will span experiences over five years, it must be remembered that this Congressional program was conducted by U.S. Army, Europe, Adjutant General (USAREUR AG) in the early years of the Cold War, during a hot war in Korea and an ongoing Red Scare in the United States, and while presidentially-mandated integration of the armed forces was taking

► Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., the U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam in the 1960s, was the primary architect of the post-WWII East European alien enlistment program for the U.S. Army.

Lodge Act & Family Contributors

John C. Anderson*
(Karlis J. Borovskis)
Peter V. Astalos
Edward Bator
Bronislaw Binas
Andre V. Carson*
(Andrej Vasilev)
Paul Ettman
Karel Fux
Egon Goldschmidts
John F. Gordon*
(Woloszyn Wojciech)
John Honer*
(Johann Hontschlaeger)
Rudolph G. Horvath
Vaclav Hradecky
Frank Jaks*
(Frantisek Jaks)
John Koenig
Frank Kokosza*
(Franciszek Kokosza)
Victor Kreisman
Henry M. Kwiatkowski
Clarence C. Mann
Josef Masin
Ctirad Masin
Stanley Minkinow*
(Stanislaw Minkinorow)
Teodor Padalinski
Anthony Pilarczyk
Julius Reinitzer
Hans Saul
Stanley Skowron*
(Stanislaw Skowrovy)
Walter J. Smith*
(Wladyslaw J. Naumowicz)
Jan J. Strek
Henryk Szarek
George S. Taylor*
(Ryszard J. Tayler)
Martin Urich
Jan Wiatr
Lucien Zochowski*
(Lucjan Zochowski)

*Changed Name

PVT Edward Bator and friend from the last Lodge Act group aboard ship in 1955.

Aerial view of Camp Kilmer, NJ, where most Lodge Act soldiers were in-processed in the United States.

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. shakes hands with Private Stanislaw P. Nowalski (Poland) in Havens Hall, Camp Kilmer, NJ on Sunday, 14 October 1951. Standing in the background left to right are: BG Charles F. Craig, CG, Camp Kilmer; COL W.H. Nutter, Deputy Chief of Staff, First Army, and LTC James F. Delaney, 1277th ASU (Army Support Unit) Reception Center commander.

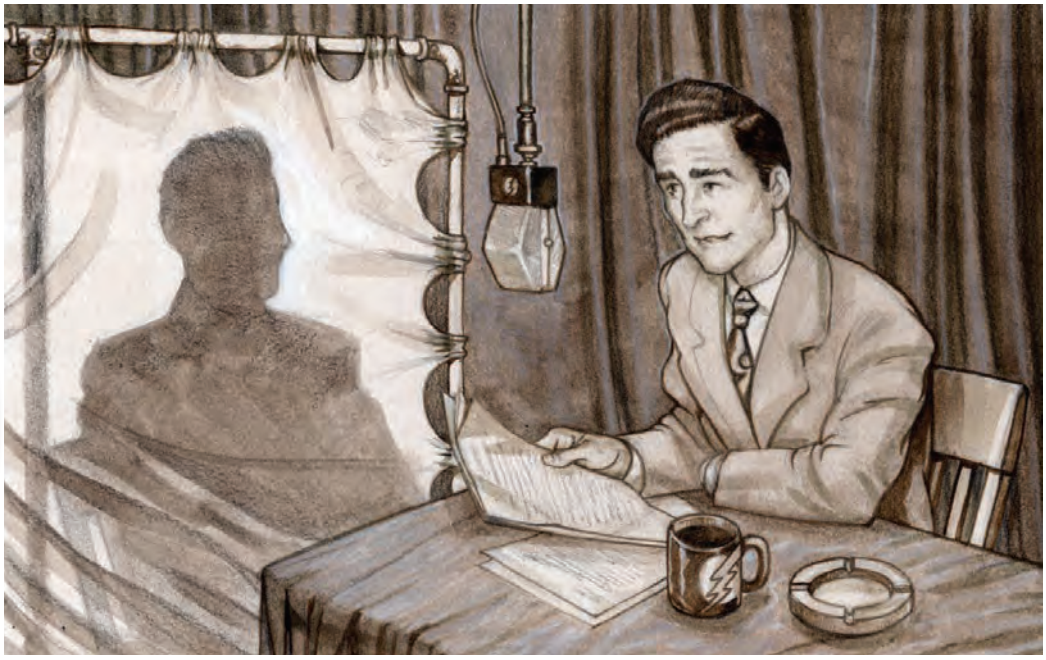
Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. chats with Private Thomas Von Doza and several of his Lodge Act buddies about their impressions of the U.S. Army and the United States outside their barracks at Camp Kilmer, NJ on 14 October 1951.

place. Just as recruiting and induction was a continual work in progress, training and assignment of the new soldiers from East Europe in America was likewise. It was the personal determination of these 1,300 enlistees that made the initiative viable. However, enthusiasm was severely tested crossing the North Atlantic aboard U.S. military troop ships.

The majority of the Lodge Act enlistees were seasick. The winter crossings were the worse. When Walter Smith spotted the Empire State Building towering above the New York skyline, he knew that they had entered a "new world."[7] Sometimes the troops were unloaded onto barges when the Army Transportation Corps dock was occupied by another troopship.[8] But, once everyone got ashore in the New York Terminal, the Lodge Act soldiers boarded a bus for Camp Kilmer, New Jersey (**Note: By the fall of 1955 when the last group of Lodge Act soldiers (14) came to the U.S., they were processed through Fort Hamilton, NY, before being shipped to Fort Dix, NJ.*[9]

The newly-arrived recruits quickly discovered that the barracks at Camp Kilmer were a major step down from the Sonthofen *kaserne* that housed German *SS* officer candidates during WWII. "That was more like a hotel with two to four men per room with their own bathroom. Many rooms had balconies and views of the Bavarian Alps," stated Second Lieutenant (2LT) Clarence C. "Larry" Mann, the replacement company commander.[10] The wooden "temporary" two-story barracks, constructed in the country between Edison and Piscataway, NJ, for Army divisions slated for the war in Europe, would house the Lodge Act soldiers.[11] It was there that Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. welcomed the first group of alien enlistees to America.

On 14 October 1951 the junior senator from Massachusetts explained that "above all we want you to feel that you do not enter the U.S. Army as mercenaries or as a foreign legion. You are very definitely volunteers in the world struggle for human freedom."[12] His short visit was a memorable event for the Lodge Act soldiers. The senator formally shook the hand of all soldiers and posed for



► **Artist sketch of The Army Hour television show with PVT Rudi Horvath from Hungary.** *Illustration by Mariano Santillan*

photos outside the barracks. The first group of 45 came from Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, and Rumania.[13] Andre Carson, a Bulgarian, commented, "About thirty percent of us were Poles. Because many of the Czechs were from the *Sudetenland*, I could speak '*Volks Deutsch*' (peoples' German) to them and use Russian with a former Soviet paratrooper, Yuri Asurenko."[14]

Senator Lodge was not happy with how the military was implementing the Lodge Act. He sent repeated letters to Army officials complaining that they were not aggressive enough in recruiting aliens. Lodge wanted the Army to streamline and simplify its registration, testing, and background security investigations, and he pushed the Chief of Staff of the Army to appoint an energetic, committed general to oversee the project. However, the small postwar Army, fighting an undeclared war

▲ **PVTs Victor Kreisman (2nd soldier from left) and Josef Torok (4th soldier from left) get USO tour at Camp Kilmer.**

▲ **Private Teodor W. Padalinski at Camp Kilmer, NJ, in late April 1952.**

▲ **PVT Frantisek Jaks and a few Lodge Act buddies at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, in February 1953.**

Frank Jaks and his Lodge Act group at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, for English language training in 1953.

Franciszek Kokosza and his Lodge Act group marching at Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

in Korea, was unwilling to devote much effort beyond publicizing it.[15]

In November 1951, the *Army Information Digest*, published by the Public Affairs Office (PAO), explained the "alien enlistment program" in hypothetical terms. "A young man…once a loyal citizen of a European country… that have been swallowed up in the aftermath of war and no longer exist as independent political entities, Doe and thousands more like him fled his native land and can never go back. He found refuge in the United States Zone of Germany. Whether he be a displaced person (DP), a stateless person, or an exile, his status for the purpose of this story is the same."[16] This was the staff response. Army commanders were not being held accountable.

Going beyond its origins as a WWII radio show, *The Army Hour* dedicated a television broadcast to the Lodge Act program. Hungarian Rudolf G. Horvath and George S. Taylor from Poland, who were in basic combat training at Fort Dix, NJ, were taken to Radio City in New York City. The two were escorted by their company commander, a black captain and Korean War veteran. Horvath agreed to answer questions hidden by a screen because his family was still behind the Iron Curtain. The producer agreed because it added some mystery. "Remember, it was 1952. TV was very new and the broadcasts were quite primitive. I tried to answer all the questions to the best of my ability and thus became a 'shadow TV star,'" laughed the good-natured Horvath years later.[17] Like recruiting, testing, and induction done by the USAREUR Adjutant General (AG), the Lodge Act program was administered by staff elements in the stateside Army. The program was not made a command issue. At troop level where the individual Lodge Act enlistees were, they were processed through Camp Kilmer, NJ, like all other new U.S. Army recruits.

> *"Remember, it was 1952. TV was very new and the broadcasts were quite primitive. I tried to answer all the questions to the best of my ability and thus became a 'shadow TV star.'"*
> *— Rudolph G. Horvath*

More technical aptitude, general intelligence, and English language examinations were given, medical and dental records were screened, and a physical fitness test was administered to verify the individual records prepared by USAREUR. At Camp Kilmer further orders were cut based on English language proficiency.[18] Lodge Act soldiers with a "satisfactory" understanding of English were sent directly to Army branch basic combat training (BCT) centers according to individual technical aptitude scores. The rest were sent to Fort Devens, Massachusetts, for eight weeks of English language training before starting BCT. Sometimes, the system short-circuited.

Henryk Szarek, a French Foreign Legion paratrooper and Indochina War veteran, was given a "P1" rating (qualified for parachute and combat arms training). Though scheduled for English language training at Fort Devens, his orders were reversed; the English speakers were shipped to Fort Devens and those that did not were sent to the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Dix, NJ, for sixteen weeks of basic and advanced infantry training.[19]

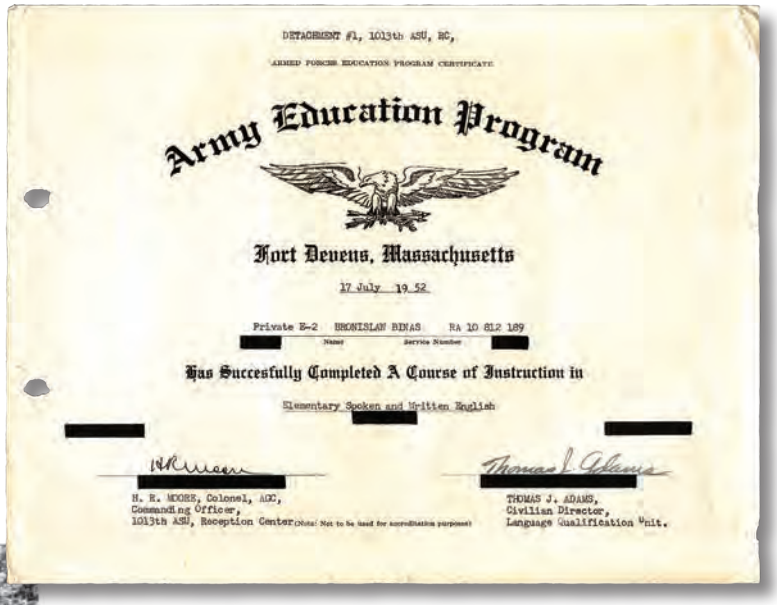
The difficulties of teaching a new language to men 18 to 35 years old whose educations ranged from primary

to secondary school levels (American equivalents) were tremendous. The number of teachers today, who know that one's ability to learn another language after the age of twenty-five drops dramatically, are limited. Most of those with a natural gift for languages had already learned enough English to be sent directly to basic training. As the Lodge Act soldiers soon realized, speaking was just one aspect of learning English while simultaneously trying to assimilate American culture. Conditions conducive to learning were important as well.

> *"I was in the second group. It was cold as hell at Fort Devens in January 1952. I slept between two bunk bed mattresses to keep warm in those old barracks."*
> *— Egon Goldschmidts*

Latvian Egon Goldschmidts remembered: "I was in the second group. It was cold as hell at Fort Devens in January 1952. I slept between two bunk bed mattresses to keep warm in those old barracks."[20] "That was where I met Frantisek Jaks from Jablonc, Czechoslovakia," said Jan Wiatr from Poland. "He was finishing up as my group began classes."[21]

"Most of the twenty-six Lodge Act guys in my class were Poles so I learned a lot of Polish and a little English," recalled Jaks. "It was very basic…identifying things in pictures, describing them—colors, objects, etc. and responding to commands like 'Put your hand on your head' in English. Our teachers were civilians and soldiers. They tried hard but it was difficult because we ranged in ages from 18 to 35 and had different educations



DETACHMENT #1, 1013th ASU, RC,

ARMED FORCES EDUCATION PROGRAM CERTIFICATE

Army Education Program

Fort Devens, Massachusetts

17 July 19 52

Private E-2 BRONISLAW BINAS RA 10 612 189

[redacted] Name Service Number [redacted]

Has Successfully Completed A Course of Instruction in

Elementary Spoken and Written English

[redacted]

H. R. MOORE, Colonel, AGC,
Commanding Officer,
1013th ASU, Reception Center (Note: Not to be used for accreditation purposes)

THOMAS J. ADAMS,
Civilian Director,
Language Qualification Unit.

The Elementary Spoken and Written English Course certificate issued to Private E-2 Bronislaw Binas on 17 July 1952 by the 1013th ASU, Reception Center, Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

Vaclav Hradecky (left) and a Lodge Act buddy pose by the Detachment 1, 1013th ASU (Army Support Unit) Language Qualification sign at Fort Devens.

PVT Henry Kwiatkowski with one of the military English instructors at Fort Devens.

Vaclav Hradecky and Lodge Act friends relax at Ayer lake in Massachusetts.

(L) Jan Wiatr and Josef Bukartek at Fort Devens.

Private Stanley Skowron received the English Course Certificate at Fort Devens, MA from COL George V. Baker on 15 April 1954.

Julius Reinitzer with his group at Fort Devens, MA in 1952.

A group of Lodge Act soldiers visit the Minuteman statue in Concord, MA.

Playing volleyball at Fort Devens, MA.

Lodge Act recruits at the Greyhound Bus terminal after a day of sightseeing in Boston. The train was also popular.

and language aptitudes. There were also several barracks filled with Puerto Ricans who took English in the afternoons."[22] "We started with the alphabet, just like First grade in grammar school," remarked Martin Urich from Filibovo, Yugoslavia.[23]

It was a gentleman's course compared to BCT and parachute school. "Language classes were in the mornings. We had reading and spelling tests weekly. At the end of the course we retook our first exam to see how much we had improved in eight weeks," said Walter Smith.[24] "My test scores showed that I had improved 8 percent after eight weeks of classes. While that was mediocre, it was typical," said Egon Goldschmidts, the ex-Luftwaffe pilot and graduate of the prestigious Hugo Daimler-Benz Institute.[25]

Close order drill, physical training, and sports filled the afternoons. Passes were liberal after Saturday Morning Inspections (SMI). Bus service into town (Ayer) and Boston was readily available. With a sizeable Polish-American population around Fort Devens the ethnic clubs in Lowell, Lawrence, and Worcester were popular with the Poles. For soldiers in uniform drinks in the clubs were usually gratis.[26] Yugoslav Martin Urich visited some of his mother's relatives who had emigrated to Long Island, NY in the 1920's.[27]

"When asked at Fort Devens which branch I wanted, I simply said 'Airborne' like several others. We were assigned to the 11th Airborne Division for basic training. I was a Private E-2 rifleman in F Company, 511th Infantry

PVT Karel Fux (rear rank – right) attended Transportation Corps AIT at Fort Eustis, VA.

PVT Stanley Skowron was retained as AIT cadre in the 69th Infantry Division at Fort Dix, NJ, for three months.

PVT Egon Goldschmidts (wearing the garrison cap) was part of the second group of Lodge Act soldiers and served in the 2nd Special Engineer Brigrade (Amphibious) in Korea.

when I went to jump school at Fort Benning, Georgia. In those days it took 18 months to make PFC. By then I was an acting sergeant in 3rd Platoon, H Company," said Frank Jaks. "Promotion was really slow in the 11th Airborne, so I volunteered for Special Forces." [28]

Slated for the 11th Airborne, Vaclav Hradecky was sent to B Battery, 89th Field Artillery (FA) Battalion (Bn) for sixteen weeks of basic training before being assigned to B Battery, 457th FA Battalion (Airborne). "After Sonthofen and Fort Devens, I looked like an old soldier in my starched khakis and shined boots, but couldn't speak English very well. The basic instructors were oblivious of language problems. Designated a squad leader, I 'taught' my men how to scrub latrines, sew on patches, and set up footlocker displays by simply showing them. I did it without talking. It was just leading by example," said Hradecky. "How I survived blackout driving in a deuce and a half [2 ½ ton] truck to get a driver's license, I'll never know."[29] The Czech from Bilenice learned that each day in the Army would be another challenge. Three Lodge Act men who ended up in Special Forces, Jan Wiatr, Andre Carson, and Walter Smith, had very different basic training experiences at Fort Dix.

"After English language school several of us were assigned to H Company, 42nd Infantry Regiment for basic. The company was filled with Puerto Ricans. The cadre figured that since we all spoke foreign languages that we could communicate with one another. I learned quite a lot of Spanish. The only English words that the Puerto Ricans paid attention to were 'mess hall' and 'pass'" chuckled Wiatr.[30] "None of our instructors spoke foreign languages. I simply said, 'Yes, sergeant,' and mimicked what the other recruits were doing. I was always a half step or a move behind and was constantly 'chewed out' for being slow and for not understanding," remembered Andre Carson.[31] "The lieutenant couldn't pronounce my name (Wladyslaw J. Naumowicz), so he simply called me 'No Name' and chalked it on my helmet liner," said Walter J. Smith.[32] Trying to improve their understanding and spoken English were constant struggles.

> *"I carried simple phrases written on scraps of paper; English on one side, German on the other. I pulled them out of my pocket one by one, cycling through them until I learned every one. Off duty I read comic books and went to lots of movies because they were cheap ways to learn English (10 cents and 20 cents respectively)."*
> *— Andre V. Carson*

"Since we marched to all training, I carried simple phrases written on scraps of paper; English on one side, German on the other. I pulled them out of my pocket one by one, cycling through them until I learned every one. Off duty I read comic books and went to lots of movies because they were cheap ways to learn English (10 cents and 20 cents respectively). I reduced my vocabulary study by determining which words meant the same thing. As I marched through the winter morning snow, the rain at noon, and the afternoon sunshine at Fort Dix, studying my phrases on scraps of paper, my English improved," said Carson.[33] For some Lodge Act soldiers Fort Dix was a good assignment.

"I was assigned to D Company, 364th Infantry, 9th ID while Stanley Minkinow went to a different company. All

Third U. S. Army SSI

11th Airborne Division SSI

69th Infantry Division SSI

2nd Special Engineer Brigade (Amphibious) SSI

82nd Airborne Division SSI

the recruits in my company had 'A to J' names. I was the only 'K' name so I never pulled KP (kitchen police), guard duty, or any details. I was paid by other soldiers to pull their guard duty. By splitting the money with the tactical sergeant, I was off every weekend to go to New York or Trenton and do what I wanted," chuckled an enterprising John Koenig. "It was so good that I spent another year at Fort Dix as a company clerk before going to Augsburg, Germany."[34] Stanley Skowron from Podgorzc, Poland, was kept on after AIT at Fort Dix as cadre for three months in the 69th Infantry Division.[35]

Henry Kwiatkowski, unlike the vast majority of Lodge Act soldiers, got married in the Catholic Chapel at Fort Dix the day after completing basic training. Army Special Regulation (SR) 615-120-15, Subject: Enlisted Personnel: Enlistment of Aliens in the Regular Army, 19 December 1952 specified that Lodge Act enlistees "remain unmarried until the completion of basic training." The honeymoon was short. Kwiatkowski had orders to airborne school at Fort Benning, GA, enroute to Special Forces at Fort Bragg, NC.[36] Most Lodge Act soldiers elected not to volunteer for parachute training nor Special Forces.

◄ PVT Edward Bator's bunk photo for AIT with the 3rd Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Lucjan Zochowski, featured in a 11 October 1953 *Stars and Stripes* article, "27 Refugees Find Army Leading to New Way of Life, " was one of the older Lodge Act recruits at 33, who processed at Sonthofen, Germany, in 1953 with Henryk Szarek (photo on page 41, "America's Foreign Legionnaires: The Lodge Act Soldiers – Part I," *Veritas*, 5:1:2009). Instead of being sent to Fort Devens and then to Fort Dix for infantry basic training, Zochowski was assigned directly to the 3rd Armored Division at Fort Knox, Kentucky. There, he was trained as an M-46 and M-47 "Patton" tank crewman before going to the war in Korea. The Pole served as an M-46 gunner and tank commander in the 21st Infantry Regiment's tank company.[37]

Latvian Egon Goldschmidts, who served as a *Luftwaffe* pilot during WWII, graduated from the Hugo Daimler-Benz Institute in Konigsburg before being drafted in 1944. Based on a postwar Axis equipment analysis assignment with the U.S. Army in Bavaria, Goldschmidts was sent to Ordnance basic and AIT at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. He served with the 2nd Special Engineer Brigade (Amphibious) in Korea during the war and Japan afterwards.[38]

Edward Bator, from Chocznia, Poland, did pipeline construction at Mildenhall Airbase in England before enlisting under the Lodge Act. Labeled as fluent in English, Bator did BCT with the 69th Infantry Division at Fort Dix. Then, he and fellow Lodge Act comrades Emil P. Fiszer, Gyorgy Gaal, Janos G. Nemeth, and Franciszek Turewicz went to Fort Benning for AIT in the 3rd Infantry Division. Bator was sent to a US Army engineer pipeline construction battalion in France and lost contact with Lodge Act soldiers until assigned to Nellingen, Germany. SSG Karel Fux from Czechoslovakia, a truckmaster in a transportation battalion, was his neighbor in government quarters. While the majority of Lodge Act soldiers served

▼ SSG Lucien Zochowski was an M-46 gunner and tank commander in the tank company of the 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division.

▼ SSG Karel Fux, a Czech, and SSG Edward Bator, a Pole, were neighbors in Nellingen, Germany.

the Army in conventional assignments, airborne volunteers often sought out Special Forces assignments.

While assigned to the I&R (Intelligence & Reconnaissance) Platoon of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR), 82nd Airborne Division in the summer of 1952, Corporal (CPL) Stanley Minkinow, was contacted by an "older" lieutenant (most likely 2LT Caesar J. Civitella, a WWII OSS veteran and ex-504th PIR Intelligence Sergeant) recruiting for Special Forces. "He spoke of living with guerrillas in the woods, operating behind enemy lines in civilian clothes, things that would appeal to an ambitious and adventurous young man," said the young Pole. "He told me to report to Captain Herbert R. Brucker in the Special Forces office in the Psywar Center on Smoke Bomb Hill. The next thing that I knew I was a guerrilla supporting Brucker's escape and evasion (E&E) exercise, TENDERFOOT, at Camp Mackall," said Minkinow.[39] It was late 1955 when SF radioman Minkinow, Paul Ettman, and Henryk "Frenchy" Szarek left the 77th SFG for the 10th in Germany.[40]

Private Szarek happened to meet a German-speaking SF soldier on leave enroute to 10th SFG in the post exchange (PX) at Fort Dix. He explained what Special Forces were all about and told Szarek to find Colonel (COL) Edson D. Raff, the 77th SFG commander, when he got to Fort Bragg. Though assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division's 504th PIR, the former French Foreign Legion paratrooper "bee-lined" straight to Smoke Bomb Hill. The intrepid Raff could not help. The Indochina veteran with two combat jumps was sent to the division jump school to become "American airborne qualified" and to do a lot of push-ups. [41]

"My big French jump wings got me a lot of push-ups. After serving in the Legion, the only assignment that appealed was Special Forces. I did not want the parades, singing cadence while running, or spit-shined boots. Those guys were just soldiering. SF could use my foreign languages and experience, but COL Raff lectured me in French after jump school when I tried again. 'If I cannot get you assigned as a colonel, how can you do it?' I said, 'Sometimes little guys can get things done that the big people cannot.' So, I got my car and drove to the Pentagon, found my military file, and went to the SF assignment office. At first they were reluctant because another Legion veteran had refused to go to SF, but I convinced them and got my orders to the 77th SFG on 21 September 1954. Boy, was COL Raff surprised!"[42] Szarek's comrade, Jan Wiatr, did not have to go to all that bother.

"In January 1953, Lieutenant [2LT Timothy G.] Gannon and Sergeant First Class [SFC Antonino] Tony Zarba came to Fort Dix to recruit volunteers for Special Forces. Those of us who did would go to jump school at Fort Benning next. Then, we would go to Fort Bragg for more training. That all sounded good to me. I wanted to go to the war in Korea," said Wiatr.[43] Teodor Padalinski thought that Special Forces were actually Special Services (today's Morale, Welfare and Recreation) and he felt that

► French Parachute Badge

▲ PFC Henryk Szarek (center) was a former French Foreign Legion paratrooper assigned to the 10th SFG.

▼ Victor Kreisman served in the Israeli Army and Navy from 1948-1953.

▲ Henry M. Kwiatkowski's short tenure in the Polish Naval Academy before serving as a merchant seaman on the MS *Batory* of the Gdynia-America Line was enough for Army CIC to deny him a security clearance.

▲ LtoR: SFC Michael Kremar (Czech), SP3 John F. Gordon (Pole), and Michael Daradan (Russian) were sworn in as naturalized citizens in the U.S. District Court in Washington, DC in late August 1956.

◄ PVT Walter Smith while in Airborne School (March 1953) at Fort Benning, GA.

he "had it made" in the Army until they shipped him off to Fort Benning to jump school.[44] When Czech Vaclav Hradecky completed artillery basic at Fort Campbell, he was still not accepted; he was just a "leg" (non-airborne) in the 457th FA Battalion (Airborne). The Army was not prepared to train foreign volunteers.

"The first sergeant of B Battery, 457th FA Battalion, 11th Airborne Division did not know what to do with someone who spoke little English and was not airborne-qualified. After weeks as the Dining Room Orderly [DRO] in the messhall, I was sent off to the dispensary for all kinds of shots and told to pack my bags for Fort Benning. The band was playing when my bus arrived. When I got off, all hell broke loose. The instructors descended on us like locusts, screaming orders to drop for push-ups. Our heads were shaved several times. Since I copied the responses to these orders, I was always a half step behind," related the Czech private.

"During the 34-foot tower training, I happened to be the fifth man in line. I put my risers over the wrong shoulder for the left door because that's how the guys in front of me did it. After doing 40 squat jumps three times for not repositioning my risers the tower sergeant said 'Don't you understand English?' When I said, 'No,' he looked at me incredulously, but he called down for a corporal that spoke Serbo-Croatian. After that, instead of responding when I did something wrong, I ignored them and dropped for 40 push-ups. I was the only one of the four guys from my battalion to graduate. When I got back to Fort Campbell and the first sergeant saw my wings, he welcomed me like some kind of hero. Finally, I had been accepted," said Private Hradecky.[45]

Walter Smith from Majdan, Poland, wanted to go to Korea after BCT at Fort Dix. He was told that all Lodge Act soldiers were going to Special Forces at Fort Bragg, NC, and then would attend airborne training at Fort Benning, GA. After finishing jump school on 3 April 1953, Smith was assigned to the 10th SFG's FA Team 39 with then SGT Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.[46] Czech Victor Kreisman related a similar account of his Lodge Act group. "After basic at Fort Dix, we were all sent to the 82nd Airborne Division for jump school enroute to Special Forces. Those Lodge Act guys having a hard time with parachute training feared that failure to graduate would jeopardize their enlistment and they'd be sent back to Eastern Europe. They were quite relieved to know that they would be reassigned to the non-airborne 525th Military Intelligence Battalion to 'finish their five years on the bayonet' as they say in the Israeli Army" said Kreisman.[47]

> *"When I got back to Fort Campbell and the first sergeant saw my wings, he welcomed me like some kind of hero. Finally, I had been accepted."*
> *— Vaclav Hradecky*

Not all airborne-qualified Lodge Act soldiers sent to SF were allowed to stay. Henry M. Kwiatkowski, from Jaroslav, Poland, a merchant seaman on the M.S. *Batory* (Gdynia-American Line), jumped ship in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1950. After service in the Auxiliary Service of the British Army of the Rhine, he joined Polish Labor Service (LS) in Captieu, France. There he volunteered for the U.S. Army. Assigned to the 77th SFG, the Polish demolitions specialist was assigned to an SF team after finishing jump school. When his security clearance was not granted after several months, the SF aspirant was sent for a polygraph. His short time at the Polish Naval Academy, not the Bronze Cross of Valor awarded to the M.S. *Batory* seaman for smuggling the Secretary of the American Communist Party out of the U.S., doomed his chances for a clearance. After just four months in SF, the newly-wed Army private was unceremoniously reassigned to the 82nd Airborne Division.[48]

While provided the opportunity to volunteer for airborne training, not every Lodge Act man, whose age ranged from 18 to 35, wanted to go let alone join Special Forces. Franciszek "Frank" Kokosza from Warsaw and another Pole (John F. Gordon) were sent directly from Fort Dix to Fort Benning in late 1952. "When we arrived and I saw everyone double-timing around, I said, 'What's going on? I didn't volunteer for jump school.' Because I refused to go, I had to march around the interior of those big quadrangle barracks carrying a rifle and a pack full of bricks. At each corner I had to yell out, 'I'm a quitter.' That was OK as long as they fed me and gave me a place to sleep. After several days they finally gave up and sent both of us to the 6th RB&L Group (Radio Broadcast and

▲ SGT George Taylor* in Korea with the 987th Field Artillery in 1953.

▼ LtoR George S. Taylor, John F. Gordon, and Anthony Pilarczyk with their first car at the Psychological Warfare Center on Smoke Bomb Hill, Fort Bragg, NC, 1952.

Leaflet) at Fort Bragg," said Kokosza. "I showed that I was a good soldier, so my first sergeant sent me to the 6th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Germany in 1953. Twenty-seven months after enlisting at Sonthofen, I was an SFC (E-6). Those who went to SF early were PFCs and CPLs."[49] In 1962, SFC (E-7) Kokosza volunteered for Special Forces.[50]

Meanwhile, John F. Gordon served as a light vehicle driver and automotive repairman in Headquarters & Headquarters Company (HHC), 6th RB&L Group from May 1952 until February 1954, when he left for Japan and the Army Ordnance Automotive Rehabilitation Depot (8071 AU) at Oppama. While there he visited SGT Anthony J. Pilarczyk, the former 6th RB&L parts clerk, who was assigned to the Ordnance Depot in Tokyo. At the end of August 1956, Specialist Three (SP3) Gordon returned to Washington, DC, to become an American citizen in the U.S. Federal District Court with ten other East European refugees. Though all were aliens, Gordon was the only Lodge Act enlistee in the group. He returned to spend five years in Japan.[51]

George S. Taylor, Poznan, Poland, was assigned as the Headquarters Company clerk in the Psywar Center, but trained with the 8th Mobile Radio Broadcast Company of the 6th RB&L. His warrant officer supervisor, WO Surles, erroneously told him that he could not be assigned to Europe because he was not an American citizen. But, service in the Far East was OK. By mid-November 1953, SGT Taylor was in the 987th Field Artillery Battalion in Korea and the Lodge Act soldiers in the 10th SFG were in Germany. Following his Korea tour Taylor volunteered for Yokohama, Japan, and renewed his acquaintance with two old friends from the 6th RB&L Group at Fort Bragg, John F. Gordon and Anthony J. Pilarczyk.[52]

Unlike Lucien Zochowski, Romanian Peter Astalos and Yugoslav Martin Urich, WWII German *Panzer* veterans of the Russian Front, wanted to go to tank training. But, instead of basic armor and AIT at Fort Knox, KY the two recruits fought forest fires. "We were

▲ CPL Anthony Pilarczyk, 13th Consolidated Company, U.S. Army Psywar Center, was the repair parts and supply clerk in the 6th RB&L Group Motor Pool on Smoke Bomb Hill, Fort Bragg, NC. While he did some radio broadcast work, Pilarczyk learned to drive a 2 ½ ton truck supporting the 10th SFG.

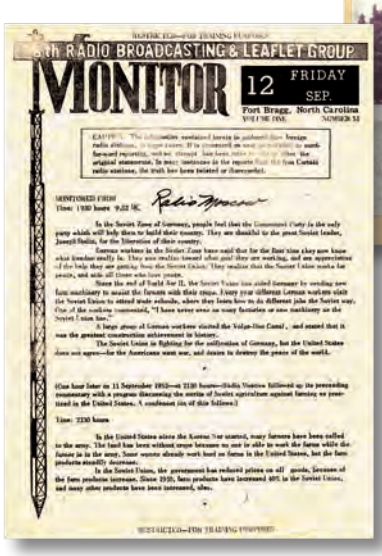
curiosities. The Armor School officers and sergeants were more interested in German tanks and knowing about our experiences. It was easy to figure out how to operate the American tanks. They were pretty good, but the German Tiger I and King Tiger tanks were the best in the world, considering most had the extended barrel 88mm gun. U.S. main tank guns were quite inferior to what we used," said Urich, a well-decorated veteran like Astalos.[53] When the two reported in to the 10th SFG, COL Aaron Bank welcomed them in perfect German.[54] They were assigned to FA Teams and sent to Fort Benning for jump school. The twenty-eight year old former coal miner and textile worker, Astalos, enjoyed mountain, glacier, and ice climbing and ski training in Colorado and Wyoming before going to Germany with the 10th SFG.[55] Pole Stanley Skowron, another coal miner, had a much different experience.

▲ 10th SFG Lodge Act soldiers during snowshoe training in Germany. (LtoR) Paul Ettman, Teodor Padalinski, Zbigniew Bernatowicz, Alexander A. Paduch, Jan Wiatr, unk, and Tadeus Kempczyk.

◄ The WWI Polish eagle coat of arms. ▼ The Polish Silver Cross of Valor was awarded to Stanley Skowron's father by the Russian Czar for gallantry in action in WWI.

◄ The 6th RB&L Group published "The Psyn-Post" to keep the printers and Psywar writers busy. It highlighted activities on Smoke Bomb Hill at Fort Bragg, NC.

◄ PVTs Martin Urich and Peter Astalos during BCT at Fort Knox, KY.



► After the Lodge Act soldiers in the 6th RB&L translated Communist Bloc radio broadcasts, they were transcribed, summarized, and printed daily as a training exercise. This was a boon to SF recruiting.

Skowron, the son of a highly decorated WWI veteran, had done forced labor in Germany from 1939 until 1945. After a five-year stint as a coal miner in Holland, he rejoined the Polish Labor Service to serve in France. In Verdun, he applied to join the U.S. Army. The tough Pole volunteered for tank and airborne training. He got his wish. Assigned to C Company, 714th Tank Battalion, tank crewman PFC Skowron was the oldest graduate in his 82nd Airborne Division Airborne School class in February 1955. He later "gyroscoped" (infantry regimental rotation) to Germany with the 505th Airborne Infantry Regiment's tank company. Skowron was a senior SSG when he joined SF in May 1969.[56]

Only twenty-two Lodge Act soldiers were assigned to the 10th SFG at Fort Bragg, NC, in December 1952.[57] Three of the early ones were Paul Ettman, Rudi Horvath, and Andre Carson. Paul Ettman from Poland did not raise his hand for tank, airborne, or Special Forces training at Fort Dix. When he got to Fort Benning, he thought it was advanced infantry training until they started double-timing and doing push-ups all the time. "But, after I made that first jump there was no way that I was going to quit. Being airborne provided $50 dollars more a month. I wasn't so sure about Special Forces. I thought that it had something to do with Special Services and sports and entertainment. After meeting COL Aaron Bank I was sold. He was a wonderful guy. We called him 'Daddy' in Polish," recalled Ettman fondly.[58] Bulgarian Andre Carson thought his college major would determine his assignment.

"Before graduating from basic and advanced infantry training at Fort Dix, I requested assignment to the Chemical Corps because I had a chemistry degree. It turned out that the 6th RB&L at Fort Bragg, NC, needed Bulgarian and Russian speakers," said Carson. For weeks I listened and transcribed taped Soviet Bloc news broadcasts and helped with leaflet production. We supported field exercises at Camp Mackall. The work was pretty boring, but I met Rudi Horvath, another Lodge Act guy who had managed to escape Psywar and gotten assigned to Special Forces."[59]

"In early 1952, they were organizing Special Forces next door to the 6th RB&L. LTC (Jack) Shannon talked sixteen of us into joining. We were told that we could make rank faster and would not be sent to Korea. As privates drawing $71 a month, that

Martin Urich with the *Panzers* in Poland after withdrawing from Russia.

Private Stanley Skowron, C Company, 714th Armored Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, at Camp Stewart, GA, for tank gunnery with an M-48 Patton tank, 1954.

OSS veteran, Captain Herbert R. Brucker, 10th Special Forces Group.

had real appeal. We all knew that the colonel's driver in the RB&L retired as a corporal after twenty years. Though he had more than 12 years in grade, he competed for sergeant with the youngsters," said Carson.[60]

"We carried footlockers and set up bunk beds with LTC Shannon and pulled a lot of KP before being told that we had to be airborne to stay in Special Forces. Sixteen Lodge Act guys went to jump school at Fort Benning in April 1952. Several Poles and Czechs did not graduate in May 1952. I started out in the 16th Detachment, but went to Germany in the 21st," said Carson.[61]

Since Special Forces at Fort Bragg essentially split in half when the 10th SFG left for Germany, there was a good number of Lodge Act soldiers in SF training and more scheduled after Airborne School. The remaining SF soldiers were assigned to the newly created 77th SFG under the command of LTC Jack Shannon, the SF Department deputy, until COL Edson Raff arrived in mid-1953. Though John C. Anderson from Riga, Latvia, was in the second group of Lodge Act men, he was initially assigned as a clerk-typist in the 6th RB&L. He spent most of his time in-processing soldiers for the 10th SFG. Anderson did finally get himself transferred to 10th SFG on 19 August 1952, but did not go to jump school until October. "The die was cast"—77th SFG."[62] With the 10th going to Europe, the 77th had to be filled to strength.

Corporal Vaclav Hradecky was involuntarily reassigned to SF from the 11th Airborne Division in early June 1954. "Everything was in a state of flux. Everyone was assigned an MOS and put on an FA team for training.

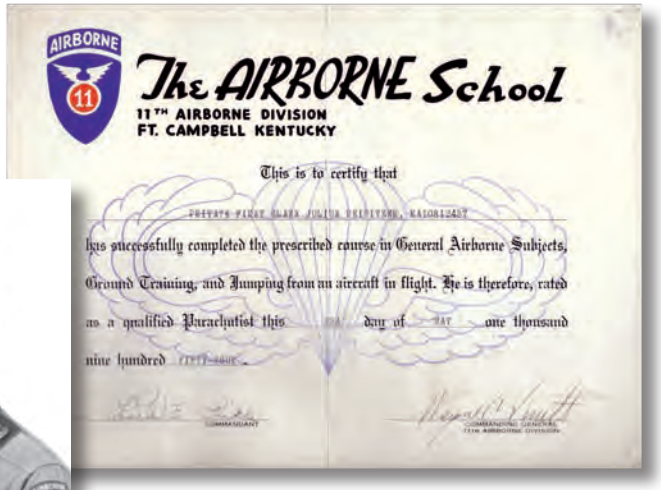
10th SFG soldiers at E&E safehouse with SGT Martin Urich (2nd from left) and SFC Antonino "Tony" Zarba (far right).

My first company commander was CPT Frank Dawson, DSC (Distinguished Service Cross) at Omaha Beach with the 5th Ranger Battalion. Our teams were understrength; seven men led by a lieutenant. After finishing the classroom training and being awarded a 1½ prefix [one half of the SF designation (prefix 3) number before the MOS (military occupation specialty)], CPT (Herbert R.) Brucker pulled me for his E&E (escape and evasion) exercise called TENDERFOOT I," recalled Hradecky. "That was better than barracks fire guard, whitewashing coal bins, and guard duty because corporals were not treated as junior NCOs. Brucker didn't refer to us as DPs (displaced persons) either."[63] CPL Julius Reinitzer was also drafted from the 11th Airborne.

Julius "Bear" Reinitzer from Prague, Czechoslovakia, third Lodge Act group (November 1952), processed at Camp Grohn in Bremen. He did BCT and AIT in the 11th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell. He volunteered for Korea several times but his First Sergeant refused, filling weekly 20-30 man levies with "8 Balls" (problem soldiers). "You're too good a soldier," said the WWII combat veteran. "With your languages, you should be in Europe. That's why you're going to Special Forces at Fort Bragg."[64] Reinitzer, Frank Jaks, Jan Novy, and Vaclav Hradecky, 11th Airborne paratroopers, all eventually joined the 10th SFG in Germany. "I was happy as a pig in a mud puddle at Bad Toelz," said Hradecky.[65] It was while the three were

▲ The SF MOS 1 ½ training certificate awarded to CPL Vaclav Hradecky on 1 October 1954 by COL Edson D. Raff, 77th SFG.

▲ PFC Julius Reinitzer after completing airborne and basic training with the 11th Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky in 1953.



▲ PFC Julius Reinitzer graduated from the 11th Airborne Division Jump School in May 1954.

▲ Josef (right) and Ctirad "Ray" Masin (center) and Milam Paumer (2nd from right) with friends in front of the 77th SFG Gymnasium sign on Smoke Bomb Hill, Fort Bragg, NC.

▲ Corporal Victor Kreisman (right) and 77th SFG buddies sport green berets at Fort Bragg.

in the 77th SFG that they met three Czechs who joined the Army's Lodge Act program through a side door.

Three Czech anti-Communist guerrillas bypassed the Lodge Act application and testing phase. With their armed resistance against Communist authorities on the verge of compromise and some facing military conscription, Josef and Ctirad "Ray" Masin, Milan Paumer, and two others left Czechoslovakia in October 1953. A planned three-day exodus to West Berlin via East Germany (200+ miles) stretched into a month after they killed several policemen while resisting arrest. This triggered a nationwide manhunt. The fugitives had to live off the land in one of the harshest winters in history. Following a second shootout in which two were wounded, two were also captured. The Masin brothers, manhandling the badly wounded Paumer the final thirty-five miles to West Berlin, narrowly escaped thousands of East German police and military that had been mobilized for the declared national emergency. After reaching safety in West Berlin, the three survivors were covertly flown to West Germany. Ensconced in a safehouse in Erlangen, they were interrogated, polygraphed, and debriefed for several weeks.[66]

When they declined to return to Czechoslovakia as Army CIC (Counter-Intelligence Corps) agents, enlistment in the U.S. Army under the provisions of the Lodge Act was offered. "At the time, it was the only acceptable option. We had informed U.S. intelligence that, in the event of armed conflict in the European theater, segments of the Czechoslovak Army would be disposed to support American military actions. My father's old friend, Frantisek Vanek, a former general in Czechoslovak Army, and his group could deliver a whole frontline division—fourteen thousand men. If the division stood down and didn't fight, the Western forces could pour through the breach and attack Soviet bloc troops to the north and south from the rear," said Josef Masin. "*Radio Free Europe* had been encouraging resistance for years and Dwight

D. Eisenhower had promised to free the Eastern Europe countries during his presidential campaign."[67]

The three Czechs were delivered to Zweibrucken, issued U.S. Army uniforms, and sworn in. They joined a group of Lodge Act enlistees in Sonthofen and shipped out from Bremerhaven aboard the USTS *General Butler* in December 1953. While in AIT at Fort Dix, NJ, the trio volunteered for airborne and Special Forces training and got orders to the 77th SFG at Fort Bragg. They wanted to return home to organize, train, and fight with the Czech resistance forces when the Americans came to free Eastern Europe from Communist control.[68]

They were among the hundred Lodge Act soldiers that served in Psywar and Special Forces during the early years (1952-1960). When 10th SFG left for Germany in December 1953, thirty-three Lodge Act soldiers went with it.[69] Some were replaced later by Lodge Act men from the 77th SFG at Fort Bragg, like the Masin brothers, Milam Paumer, Frank Jaks, Jan Novy, Julius Reinitzer, and Vaclav Hradecky. A lot of Lodge Act soldiers had already worked together in the escape and evasion exercises directed by CPT Herb Brucker, the 10th SFG S-2 (Intelligence Officer), who had been a British SOE (Special Operations Executive) and OSS operative in France, Burma, and China during WWII.

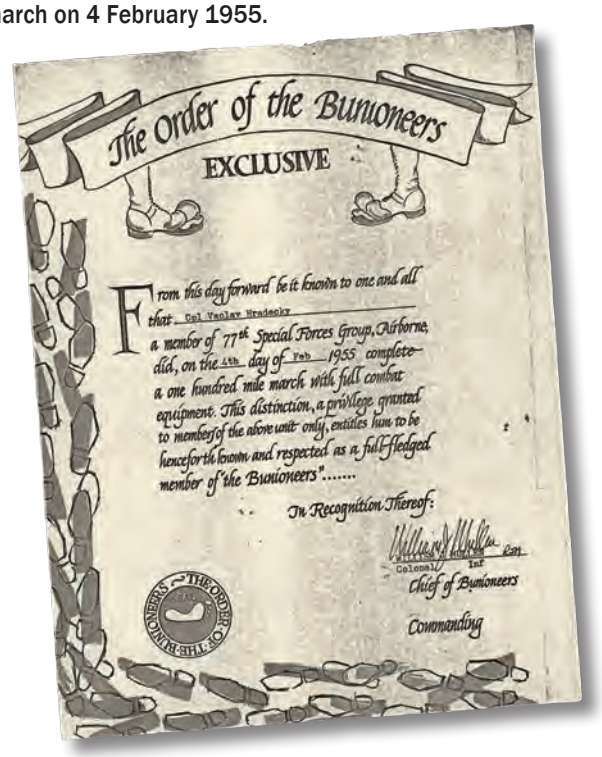
Numerous Lodge Act soldiers were selected by CPT Brucker to assist with escape and evasion (E&E) exercises at Fort Bragg (TENDERFOOT I) and in Europe (CORDON BLEU). "The area of operations was south of Munich in the vicinity of Chiemsee and Garmisch. It had fifteen or twenty small towns where we could establish safehouses. Brucker typically issued us bicycles (like he had ridden in France during WWII), but he checked the network regularly in his Studebaker. Herb was one of the few guys in the 10th who was shorter than me," laughed Martin Urich. "Teodor Padalinski and Marian Romeo [Marin Tymczyszyn] also worked for Brucker."[70] "CPT Brucker gave me a bicycle to work my sector. I traded a case of the resupply C-rations for a motorcycle,"

▲ Jan Wiatr, 10th SFG, guerrilla agent at work.

▲ A view of the 77th SFG headquarters area on Smoke Bomb Hill, Fort Bragg, NC.

▲ Lto R: PFC Josef Masin, PFC Smith, MSG Jones, and SFC George Maracek, 77th SFG, after completing the 100+ mile march from Camp Lejeune to Fort Bragg, NC.

▼ The Order of Bunioneers certificate that COL William J. Mullen awarded to all 77th SFG soldiers who completed the 100+ mile march on 4 February 1955.


The Order of the Bunioneers

EXCLUSIVE

From this day forward be it known to one and all that Col Vaclav Hradecky a member of 77th Special Forces Group, Airborne, did, on the 4th day of Feb 1955 complete a one hundred mile march with full combat equipment. This distinction, a privilege granted to members of the above unit only, entitles him to be henceforth known and respected as a full-fledged member of the Bunioneers".....

In Recognition Thereof:

William J. Mullen
Colonel, Inf
Chief of Bunioneers
Commanding

THE BUNIONEERS THE ORDER OF

SPORTS

Soccer Champs

SOUTHERN REGION CHAMP... The 10th Sp Forces Gp Soccer team (above) captured the Southern Region Army Troops, Seventh Army soccer championship held recently at Bad Tolz. Members of the team are: *first row (l to r):* Victor Eichvalds, Granvil Kincaid, *second row:* Jan Strek, Kas Skolimowski, Tony Hennel, Jake Jakubowski, Marty Ulrich, Jan Waitr, *third row:* Coach Joe Ryan, Laszo Besci, Joe Meszaros, Rudy Bender, Jules Reinitzer, Fred Schiller, Tony Barek, Don Hitchcock, Bernie Bernatowicz. Army Photo.

10th Sp Forces Cops Southern Soccer Title

◄▲ The majority of the 10th SFG Championship Soccer Team in 1954 were Lodge Act soldiers.

► Andre Carson, far left, bottom row, with fellow Lodge Act soldiers, at one of CPT Herbert R. Brucker's E&E exercise safehouses in Bavaria.

chuckled Stanley Minkinow.[71] Jan Wiatr bought a WWII-era automobile from his host farmer. "I would drive it on a Sunday, not realizing that it still had Nazi license plates with swastikas. The local *Polizei* flagged me down. The farmer and I had to do a lot of explaining to avoid a citation," recalled Wiatr.[72]

Service in the Army's Special Forces after fulfilling initial enlistment obligations was not sufficient incentive for all SF-qualified Lodge Act soldiers. Promotion came slow.[73] Many still struggled with English after several years.[74] Josef and Ctirad Masin, Milam Paumer, and Andre Carson became disillusioned with SF in the mid-1950s, more so after the Hungarian Revolution in 1956 when President Eisenhower reneged on his campaign pledge to free Eastern Europe from Communism.[75] Two 10th SFG soldiers had no choice. Severe injuries as aggressors against the 11th Airborne Division resulted in medical evacuations to the States and subsequent permanent medical profiles for Teodor Padalinski and Marian Romeo.[76] One Lodge Act soldier assigned to the 10th in Bad Toelz, a Czech named Orolin, fell to his death after losing his balance on a Flint Kaserne window sill in the early 1950s. It was a sobering tragedy.[77]

Final numbers of enlistees fell far short of the Lodge Act authorizations. According to the Annual Reports of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (U.S. Department of Justice), Lodge Act enlistees naturalized in 1958 numbered 173. The following year, 179 became citizens. After those years the numbers dropped below a hundred until 1963. Then they dwindled to single digits from 1967 to 1970. The last big group naturalized was 56 in 1971 and after that it is single digits through 1977. Some naturalizations were posthumous to eliminate citizenship questions for family members. The total number of Lodge Act enlistees that became U.S. citizens from 1958 through 1977 is 815. Those naturalized in 1956 and 1957 were lumped together with the WWI, WWII, and Korean War veterans. As of May 1957 only 1,302 aliens had been enlisted via the Lodge Act, a little over half of the initial 2,500 authorized in 1950. That amounted to 10.4 % of the 12,500 authorized in 1951.[78]

The enlistment period for Lodge Act citizenship entitlements was 25 June 1950 through 1 July 1955.[79] Expeditious naturalization of alien military personnel was offered as a *quid pro quo* for honorable service in the U.S. military. The philosophy that anyone who fights for the United States is entitled to become a citizen is deeply engrained in America's social values.[80] However, extraterritorial judicial issues were rarely considered for Lodge Act soldiers and other alien U.S. servicemen assigned overseas duty.

The legal status of Lodge Act alien enlistees overseas depended on whether Status of Forces Agreements (SOFA) approved by the U.S. Senate had been ratified by

the individual country wherein the soldier was serving. They were ineligible under U.S. laws and treaties to serve a foreign court-imposed sentence in the country of their military allegiance. While Lodge Act enlistees took the same oath to protect and defend the Constitution and the United States as American citizens did, they were not entitled to the same protection under the American flag.[81]

"It wasn't really safe for Lodge Act soldiers to be wandering around Europe alone. While we were in the U.S. Army, we were not American citizens," said Vaclav Hradecky.[82] Jan Wiatr volunteered to go to the war in Korea but was denied because there was no SOFA in effect.[83] This element alone should have been an impetus to apply for naturalized citizenship, but it was not. Someone was watching over those Lodge Act innocents who served faithfully overseas in blissful ignorance of the risk.

The timing of the alien enlistment initiative could not have been much worse. Between the Cold War defense and reconstruction in postwar Europe and Japan, the hot war in Korea, a Congressionally-promulgated Red Scare, and presidentially-mandated integration of the armed forces, the program had little chance of success. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. got lukewarm support from the Congress, the Pentagon, Army commanders in Germany and Austria, and the West European nations. The recruiting achievements are attributed to USAREUR AG, but the credit for enlistment really belongs to the 1,302 determined men who persisted against long odds to join the U.S. Army. Since it was an evolving social experiment, a number of the Lodge Act enlistees, typical in any military force, were not good soldiers and they were released from the service or disciplined accordingly.[84]

While Senator Lodge may have been disappointed, the vast majority of the individual Lodge Act men were not. "This program enabled East Europeans to serve and contribute to the U.S. Army and afterwards to the civilian work force. We all brought something to the table. It was a great success from an individual point of view," reminded Egon Goldschmidts.[85] It was Special Forces that probably benefited the most.

There were several constants among Lodge Act soldiers that served in Special Forces during the early days (1952-1960). Most served in an ethnic Labor Service unit that supported the U.S. Army in postwar Germany and France. Polygraph tests were required; some annually until the Lodge Act soldiers became naturalized U.S. citizens.[86] They had Regular Army (RA) serial numbers allocated from "RA10812016 through RA10814515" and issued chronologically according to date on enlistment.[87] Most of the early SF soldiers were demolitions sergeants and specialists (some had been miners in postwar Europe). Many of them worked with OSS veteran, CPT Herb Brucker, supporting his E&E exercises at Camp Mackall outside Fort Bragg, NC, and in Europe. All universally respected Colonels Aaron Bank, Edson Raff, and Donald Blackburn, the early 10th and 77th SFG commanders.

The Army had no specific "bootstrap" education programs to level the playing field for Lodge Act soldiers.

COL Donald D. Blackburn with a group of Lodge Act soldiers in the 77th SFG.

Few improved their English in formal classes. It must be remembered that adults were taught languages just like children were in the 1950s. It would be forty years before linguistics specialists "discovered" that adults should be taught differently. The foreign language capabilities and European cultural experiences were unappreciated and not capitalized upon by most Special Forces officers and enlisted men. Lodge Act soldiers and the emigrants that joined the Army in the U.S. were typically lumped together by SF soldiers and all were euphemistically referred as DPs (displaced persons).

However, while their numbers were small, they were true force multipliers in Special Forces into the 1980s because of their languages and cultural experience. How hollow the SF language capability was did not become glaringly apparent until Operation DESERT STORM when the Lodge Act soldiers were long gone. There was a certain innocence shared by Lodge Act soldiers, a belief and sincere trust that the great democratic America and its Army would treat them right. All are strong patriots and extremely proud to have served their country in its Army and the Special Forces.

"I am an American citizen. Though I was born in Poland, I am not a Polish American. My children are American citizens of Polish descent. I'm an American," Henry Kwiatkowski reminded me after the funeral of BG Donald D. Blackburn at Arlington National Cemetery.[88] "See that American flag flying in my back yard. It flies 24 hours a day. Floodlights come on automatically at dusk. I am so very proud to be an American and to have been able to serve in the U.S. Army. It is my simple way of showing respect for the greatest country in the world," said Edward Bator with great pride.[89]

The purpose of this article was to explain the Lodge Act and the training of these East European unmarried volunteers and to allow these soldiers to share their experiences at Camp Kilmer, NJ, English language school at Fort Devens, MA, and during BCT and AIT at Forts Dix, Knox, Campbell, Benning, Eustis, and Aberdeen Proving Ground. Life in the airborne schools at Forts Benning, Bragg, and Campbell was another adventure. Why the program envisioned by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. did not achieve its authorized numbers was

explained. The article was designed to introduce these veterans, well-known to older SFers, to today's Army SOF soldiers. There is much more to the story. We hope that these two articles will prompt other Lodge Act soldiers to become involved in a command-sponsored book, like *Weapon of Choice: ARSOF in Afghanistan* and *All Roads Lead to Baghdad: ARSOF in Iraq*, to commemorate the Lodge Act volunteers who served in the U.S. Army. I will conclude with a sincere thank you to all Lodge Act veterans and families who gave generously of their time, documents, and photos to make this article possible.

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 Department of the Army. Bulletin No. 10 dated 20 July 1950, IV. ENLISTMENT OF ALIENS IN REGULAR ARMY. 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, U.S. Code, Title 8, Chapter 12, Subchapter III, Part II, §1440 dated 3 January 2005 at http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode08/usc_sec_08_00001440----000-notes.html dated 7 January 2009 and Letter, Lodge to General James Lawton Collins, Army Chief of Staff, 26 November 1951, Henry Cabot Lodge II Papers, Legislative Subject Files, Box 39, Massachusetts Historical Society cited in James J. Carafano, "Mobilizing America's Stateless," *Journal of Cold War Studies* 1:2 (1999), 69.

2 The Act of June 19, 1951, ch. 144 § 21, 65 Stat. 75 increased the alien recruiting authorization from 2,500 to 12,500. Department of the Army. Bulletin No. 12 dated 9 July 1951, UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING AND SERVICE ACT. TITLE II, Enlistment of aliens, retired COL/Dr. Alfred H. Paddock, Jr. email to retired COL John H. Crerar, 24 September 2007, Subject: Lodge Act, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited by name and date. These numbers came from Department of the Army, Office of the Chief of Psychological Warfare (MG Robert A. McClure) files for 1952 and Carafano, "Mobilizing Europe's Stateless," 64.

3 James B. Jacobs and Leslie Anne Hayes, "Aliens in the U.S. Armed Forces: A Historico-Legal Analysis," *Armed Forces and Society*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (Winter 1981), 197.

4 Jacobs and Hayes, "Aliens in the U.S. Armed Forces," 196, 197 and endnote 95 [H.R. Rep. No. 689, 85th Cong., 1st Sess. 102 (1957) and H.R. Rep. No. 834, 89th Cong., 1st Sess. 2 (1955)].

5 Army Regulation (AR) 601-249, PERSONNEL PROCUREMENT: ENLISTMENT OF ALIENS IN REGULAR ARMY, dated 8 November 1957 and retired CSM Tadeusz Gaveda, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 18 May 2009, Fayetteville, NC, personal notes, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. Rules change. By the 1980s, an alien who performed three years of honorable peacetime service and who was lawfully admitted to permanent residence could be excused from ordinary residence requirements if he filed a naturalization petition within six months after leaving the service. The six months residence in a state, residence within the jurisdiction of a naturalization court, and the 30-day delay period between petition and hearing requirements could also be waived if the person was still in the armed forces and if he/she and his/her witnesses appeared before a naturalization examiner. Jacobs and Hayes, "Aliens in the U.S. Armed Forces," 197 and endnote 96.

6 Army Special Regulation (SR) 615-120-15, ENLISTED PERSONNEL: ENLISTMENT OF ALIENS IN THE REGULAR ARMY, dated 19 December 1952.

7 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.

8 Egon Goldschmidts, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 22 April 2009, Silver Springs, MD, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Goldschmidts interview with date.

9 Retired MSG Edward Bator, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 23 April 2009, Vass, NC, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC hereafter cited as Bator interview with date. This final group had personnel who had enlisted as early as July 1955 as well as Edward Bator and Emil P. Fiszer in October 1955. Bator and Fiszer were sworn into the U.S. Army in civilian clothes by CWO George Candee, OIC, Alien Enlistment Program -Testing & Interviewing Team #6, US Army, Europe (USAREUR), in Seckenheim, Germany, on 7 October 1955, before going to Zweibrucken to join their Lodge Act group. HQ, USAREUR, Alien Enlistment Program – Testing and Interviewing Team No. 6, Ltr Ord 10-20, SUBJECT: Orders, 7 October 1955, HQ, Personnel Center, Fort Hamilton, 1400TH SU, Returnee-Reassignment Station, Brooklyn 9, NY, SPECIAL ORDERS NUMBER 109, 4 November 1955, and Bator interview, 23 April 2009.

10 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.

11 Mann interview, 14 April 2008. These same barracks at Camp Kilmer, NJ, were also used to house Hungarian refugees after that revolution against the Soviet Union failed in 1956. Two Lodge Act soldiers supported that program. Rudolf Horvath, who elected to leave the US Army after five years (deployed with 10th SFG to Bad Toelz, Germany, in 1953), volunteered to serve as a translator for several months before becoming disillusioned with those claiming to be "freedom fighters." Private Edward Bator, in basic training at Fort Dix, NJ, was part of a detail sent to clean the barracks for the incoming Hungarians. Rudolf G. Horvath, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 10 June 2008, Dumont, NJ, digital recording, USASOC History Office Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Horvath interview with date and Bator interview, 22 April 2009.

12 Statement of Senator Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., 14 October 1951, Henry Cabot Lodge II Papers, Legislative Subject Files, Box 39, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Massachusetts, from Carafano, "Mobilizing Europe's Stateless," endnote 6 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.

13 "Aliens Start Army Training," EUCOM Information Bulletin (November 1951).

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

15 Letter, Lodge to General James Lawton Collins, Army Chief of Staff, 26 November 1951, Henry Cabot Lodge II Papers, Legislative Subject Files, Box 39, Massachusetts Historical Society cited in Carfano, "Mobilizing America's Stateless," 69.

16 Joe C. Lambert, "These Aliens Also Serve," *Army Information Digest*, Vol. 6, No. 11 (November 1951), 39-42.

17 Horvath interview, 15 May 2008.

18 Smith interview, 28 July 2008 and retired SFC Teodor W. Padalinski, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 18 July 2008, Boulder, CO, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Padalinski interview with date. By the last group in the fall of 1955, USAREUR orders had asterisk annotations by the Lodge Act servicemen who spoke English fluently. In the last group of 22, only seven did not have asterisks. HQ, 4th Replacement Group, USAREUR, APO 872, SPECIAL ORDERS NUMBER 248, 12 October 1955, copy USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

19 Headquarters, 9th Infantry Division, G3, Troop Information and Education Division, Fort Dix, NJ, Memorandum, SUBJECT: Notification of Test Arrival, dated 9 April 1954, Henryk Szarek personal files, copy in USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

20 Goldschmidts interview, 22 April 2009.

21 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.

22 Retired MAJ 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 cited as Franks interview with date, Smith interview, 28 July 2008, and retired Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Vaclav Hradecky, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 10 September 2008, New Ipswich, NH, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, hereafter cited as Hradecky interview with date.

23 Retired MSG Martin Urich, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 25 July 2008, Bensalem, PA, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Urich interview with date.

24 Smith interview, 28 July 2008 and Padalinski interview, 18 July 2008.

25 Goldschmidts interview, 22 April 2009.

26 Hradecky interview, 10 September 2008, 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, and Padalinksi interview, 18 July 2008.

27 Urich interview, 25 July 2008.

28 Jaks interview, 14 June 2007.

29 Hradecky interview, 10 September 2008.

30 Wiatr interview, 2 October 2007.

31 Carson interview, 28 November 2007.

32 Smith interview, 28 July 2008.

33 Carson interview, 28 November 2007.

34 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.

35 Retired SFC Stanley Skowron, interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 21 September 2008, Fayetteville, NC, digital recordings, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Skowron interview with date.

36 Retired SFC Henry M. Kwiatkowski, telephone interviews by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 21 and 24 October 2008, Silver Springs, MD, digital recordings, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, and U.S. Army Special Regulation (SR) 615-120-15, ENLISTED PERSONNEL: ENLISTMENT OF ALIENS IN THE REGULAR ARMY dated 19 December 1952.

37 Lucjan Zochowski, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, Wall Township, NJ, 31 March 2008, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC. *The Stars and Stripes* elaborated on alien recruit life at the 320th Replacement Battalion (Repo Depot) in Sonthofen in October 1953. Robert J. Dunphy, "27 Refugees Find Army Leading to New Way of Life," *The Stars and Stripes (Europe)*, Sunday, 11 October 1953, 7.

38 Goldschmidts interview, 22 April 2009.

39 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 and retired MAJ Caesar J. Civitella, interview by Drs. Kenneth Finlayson and Charles H. Briscoe, 19 January 2001, Fort Bragg, NC, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

40 Minkinow interview, 28 October 2008.

41 Headquarters, 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC, Special Orders Number 236 dated 21 September 1954, Henryk Szarek personal files, copy in USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

42 Headquarters, 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC, Special Orders Number 236 dated 21 September 1954, Henryk Szarek personal files, copy in USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

43 Wiatr interview, 2 October 2007.

44 Padalinski interview, 18 July 2008.

45 Hradecky interview, 10 September 2008.

46 Smith interview, 28 July 2008 and Special Forces Association, "Deployment of the 10th Special Forces Group in 1953," *Special Forces: The First Fifty Years 1952-2002* (London: Faircount LLC, 2002), 99, 100.

47 Retired CSM Victor Kreisman, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 19 May 2009, Las Vegas, NV, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

48 Kwiatkowski interviews, 22 September, 1 October, and 24 October 2008.

49 Retired MSG Frank Kokosza, interviews by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 26 June and 7 July 2008, Fayetteville, NC, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Kokosza interview with date.

50 Kokosza, interviews, 26 June and 7 July 2008.

51 Retired CWO-2 John F. Gordon, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 19 June 2008, Shirley, MA, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Gordon interview with date and "11 Veterans, Iron Curtain Refugees, Made Citizens," *The Evening Star* (Washington, DC), 1 September 1956, copy in USASOC History Office Classified Files.

52 Retired CSM George S. Taylor, telephone interviews by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 11 and 15 September 2008, Hopedale, MA, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Taylor interview with date and retired USAF SSgt Anthony J. Pilarczch, 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 Pilarczyk interview with date.

53 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 and Urich interviews 22 and 25 July 2008. Both men had received the German Iron Cross Second Class and several *Panzer* assault badges. Miraculously, neither was wounded.

54 Astalos interview, 25 June 2008 and Urich interview, 25 July 2008.

55 Astalos interviews, 25 June 2008 and 15 July 2008.

56 Skowron interviews, 21, 23 and 30 September 2008. Skowron's father was awarded the Polish Silver Cross of Valor, a level higher than the Bronze Cross presented to Lodge Act soldier Henry M. Kwiatkowski. Skowron interview, 21 September 2008.

57 Headquarters, The Psychological Warfare Center, Fort Bragg, NC, letter to BG Robert A. McClure, from COL C.H. Karlstad, 25 November 1952, Record Group 319, Army-Chief of Special Warfare, 1951-54, National Archives cited in Paddock, *US Army Special Warfare*, 149.

58 Ettman interview, 19 September 2008.

59 Carson interview, 28 November 2007 and Allan H. Smith, 8th MRBC, telephone interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 4 June 2009, New Rochelle, NY, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

60 Carson interviews, 28 November and 7 December 2007. The reality was that 1LT Joseph M. Castro, his first SF detachment commander, was levied for Korea. Castro was killed while serving as a partisan advisor with the 8240th Army Unit. Carson Interview, 29 April 2008.

61 Carson interviews, 28 November 2007 and 29 April 2008.

62 Retired SGM John C. Anderson, telephone interview by Dr. Briscoe, 26 June 2008, Boulder, CO, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Anderson interview with date.

63 Hradecky interview, 11 September 2008.

64 Retired SGM Julius Reinitzer, telephone interviews by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 25 and 28 August 2008, Hudson, NH, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, hereafter cited as Reinitzer interview and date.

65 Hradecky interview, 11 September 2008.

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

67 Masin interview, 10 November 2008 and Barbara Masin, *Gauntlet*, 320.

68 Masin interview, 10 November 2008 and Barbara Masin, *Gauntlet*, 320.

69 Special Forces Association. "Deployment of the 10th Special Forces Group in 1953," *Special Forces: The First Fifty Years* (London: Faircount LLC, 2002), 94-101 and 10th Special Forces Group Abn. TEAM FA, SP FORCES OPN DET DIST "B" (ABN).

70 Urich interview, 25 July 2008 and Padalinski interview, 23 July 2008.

71 Minkinow interview, 28 October 2008.

72 Wiatr interview, 9 October 2007.

73 Horvath interview, 10 June 2008.

74 Smith interview, 28 July 2008.

75 Masin interview, 10 November 2008 and Carson interview, 28 November 2007.

76 Padalinski interview, 23 July 2008. SGT Padalinski was reclassified to the Transportation Corps as a truckmaster. During his twenty year career, SFC Padalinski served overseas in Korea and Germany twice and Vietnam. After fifteen years with the U.S. Postal Service in Denver, CO, Padalinski retired in 1988. Padalinski interview, 23 July 2008.

77 Wiatr interview, 6 May 2009.

78 Jacobs and Hayes, "Aliens in the U.S. Armed Forces," 196, 197 and "Iron Curtain Fugitives First Citizens Under Lodge Act," *New York Times* (1 September 1956), 9 from select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=FB0C13FC345B157B93C3A91782D85F428585F9, 20 May 2009.

79 U.S. Code, Title 8, Chapter 12, Subchapter III, Part II, §1440 dated 3 January 2005 at http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode08/usc_sec_08_00001440----000-notes.html dated 7 January 2009.

80 Jacobs and Hayes, "Aliens in the U.S. Armed Forces," 187-188.

81 Lawrence W. Jackley, "Aliens in the U.S. Armed Forces: Same Service, Different Justice," *Army* (January 1986), 15.

82 Hradecky interview, 11 September 2008.

83 Wiatr interview, 2 May 2009 and Horvath interview, 18 May 2009. "When I was the First Sergeant of the 1st Loudspeaker & Leaflet Company at Fort Bragg, we received a number of Lodge Act enlistees. They were either good soldiers or duds who pretended not to understand English and were trying to get over. I put them on Fort Bragg furnace detail (cleaning and stoking coal furnaces that heated the family quarters' buildings all over post for ninety days. That was a real #%&* detail since you had to work all day, every day and involved stoking the furnaces for the night. They didn't finish up until 2200 hours. When that did not work, I filled my levies to Korea with them," said retired MSG Joe Lissberger, Interview by Dr. Charles H. Briscoe, 20 May 2007, Fort Bragg, NC, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

84 Horvath interview, 6 May 2009.

85 Goldschmidts interview, 1 June 2009.

86 Hradecky interview, 18 September 2008.

87 US Army Special Regulation (SR) 615-120-15, ENLISTED PERSONNEL: ENLISTMENT OF ALIENS IN THE REGULAR ARMY, Paragraph 10 dated 19 December 1952.

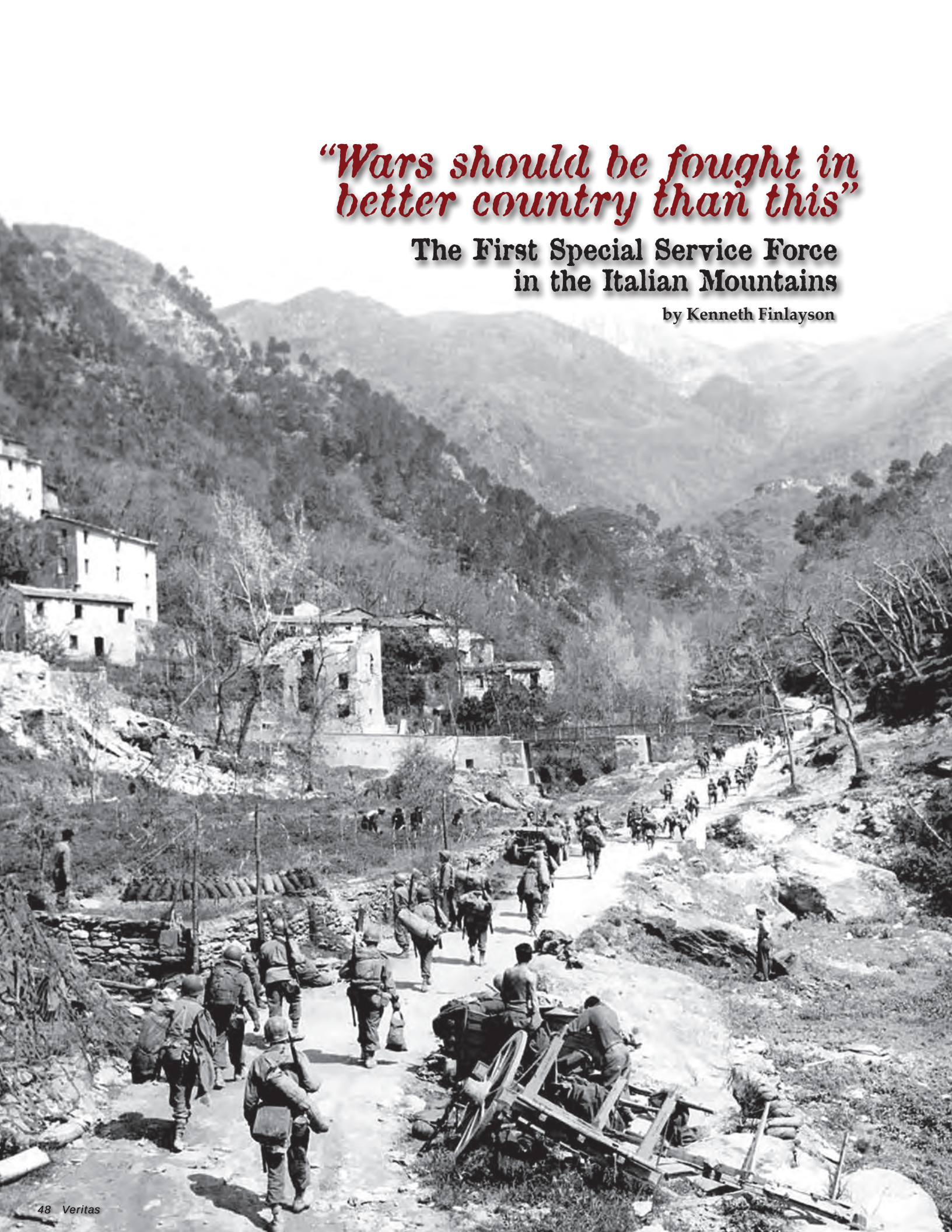
88 Kwiatkowski interview, 5 December 2008.

89 Bator interview, 27 April 2009.

"Wars should be fought in better country than this"

The First Special Service Force in the Italian Mountains

by Kenneth Finlayson



Heavy fighting raged across the summit of Monte La Defensa. The First Special Service Force (FSSF) was decisively engaged with the German defenders on the mountain. LTC Ralph W. Becket, commanding 1st Battalion of the First Regiment, witnessed the assault of a Second Regiment platoon against a German machine gun position. 1LT Maurice Le Bon led his men to a concealed position 30 yards from the flank of the enemy. "I watched all this develop, not missing a thing. When our machine guns and mortars opened fire from the right, the enemy replied with strong machine gun and *Schmeisser* pistol fire," said Becket. "Suddenly our fire stopped and for the first and only time I heard the order – in Le Bon's strong French-Canadian accent– 'Fix bayonets!' A moment later Le Bon emerged into the clearing with his section and the men, with bayonets fixed, charged the enemy position from above. It was a fantastic sight to see, of courage and determination."[1] The section routed the Germans. Close, intense combat like this became the hallmark of the First Special Service Force during the Italian campaign in World War II.

Today's Army Special Forces Groups take their official lineage from the First Special Service Force, a unique Canadian-American infantry unit of World War II. Activated on 20 July 1942 at Fort William Henry Harrison, near Helena, Montana, the FSSF was originally intended for a special mission in Norway.[2] Operation PLOUGH was designed to destroy the Norwegian hydroelectric dam at Vermork that was producing deuterium, the "heavy water" vital to the German nuclear program.[3] The cancellation of PLOUGH resulted in the FSSF being sent first to the Aleutians and then to the Mediterranean.

It was in southern Italy that the Force first saw combat. The Force's reputation as an elite unit was made during the U.S. Fifth Army's grueling campaign to break through the German Winter Line south of Rome. This article will look at the two phases of this operation and show how the bloody fighting in the mountains of Italy had a deep and lasting impact on the unit.

The First Special Service Force was composed of roughly an equal mix of American and Canadian volunteers. (For the purposes of pay and promotion, the Canadian contingent was called the 1st Canadian Special Service Battalion). The 3,000-man FSSF was divided into two elements, the Combat Echelon and the Service Echelon. The Combat Echelon consisted of three regiments of two battalions each. Each battalion had three companies of three platoons. The regiments were less than half the size of a normal 870-man U.S. infantry battalion, averaging 32 officers and 327 enlisted men.[4]

The small size of the regiments was due in large part to the absence of any organic support personnel. They were all assigned to the Service Echelon in the Force Support Battalion. With this unique organization, the combat elements were relieved of support details and could focus entirely on training and operations.[5]

The original PLOUGH mission envisioned the Force conducting a winter crossing of Norway's high central

The 60 mega-watt Vermork hydroelectric plant near Telemark, Norway, supplied deuterium (heavy water) for Hitler's nuclear weapons program. It was the target of the original PLOUGH mission for the First Special Service Force. In 1943, Norwegian commandos destroyed the deuterium processing facility.

Rigorous mountaineering and skiing were the cornerstone of the First Special Service Force training program at Fort William Henry Harrison, Montana. The mountain training paid big dividends in the Italian campaign.

The "dry run" at Kiska was a validation of the Force training program for these First Regiment men on Blue Beach, 9 August 1943. Within three months they would be fighting in the mountains of Italy.

HIGHEST AUTHORITY DIRECTS THAT YOU RETURN SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE TO SAN FRANCISCO WITHOUT DELAY - NIMITZ[8]

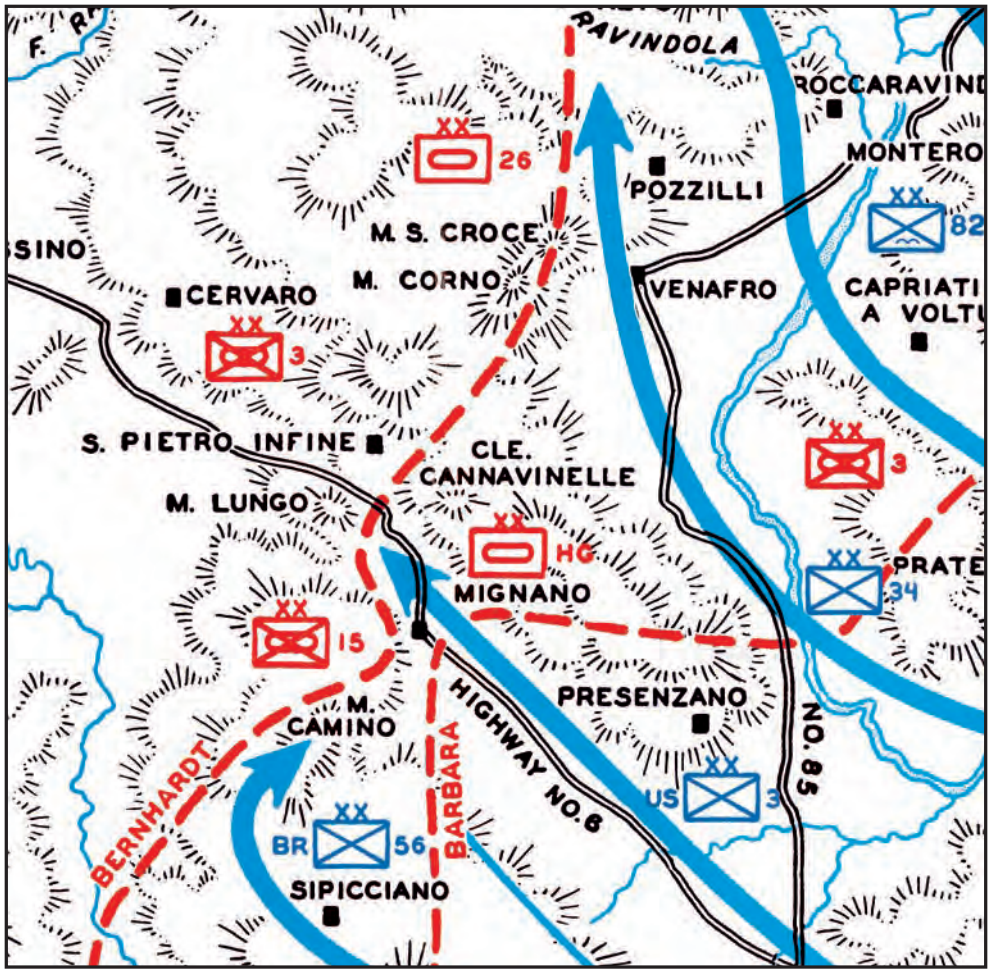
Official Report

plateau to destroy the Vermork facility. Consequently, the training at Fort Harrison stressed rigorous physical training, parachute qualification, demolitions, infantry small unit tactics, skiing, and mountaineering. Lengthy cross-country foot marches in all types of weather conditioned the Forcemen to move rapidly and carry heavy loads in the mountains. This training proved to be the ideal preparation for Italy.

The FSSF left Helena on 13 April 1943 and traveled to Camp Bradford, Virginia for amphibious operations training. In May the Force was tested by the Army Ground Forces staff at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, to validate their infantry training prior to overseas deployment. After PLOUGH was cancelled, Colonel (COL) Robert T. Frederick, the Force commander, saved the Force from being disbanded by volunteering to lead the amphibious landings in the Aleutian Islands during Operation COTTAGE.[6] At the end of June the Force moved to San Francisco and embarked for the Aleutian Islands.[7] The 1st and 3rd Regiments landed in rubber assault boats on Kiska, on 15 and 16 August, only to find the Japanese had evacuated earlier. Though no fighting occurred, the "dry run" at Kiska proved to be a valuable test for the Force, validating their physical conditioning and combat procedures. Then new orders directed them to Europe.

The FSSF sailed back to San Francisco and following a short period of leave, boarded trains for Camp Ethan Allen for additional training. On 28 October 1943, the Force sailed for North Africa aboard the Canadian Pacific's *Empress of Scotland*. Arriving in Casablanca, Morocco on 5 November 1943, the unit moved by train to Oran, Algiers, and sailed in increments to Naples, Italy, arriving between 17 and 19 November. Their new mission was to help crack the tough German defenses south of Rome. The German Winter Line had stymied the Fifth Army since October 1943.

The rugged terrain and inclement weather coupled with stiff German resistance slowed the Fifth Army's advance toward Rome. Fighting was often at the squad level as the Allies slowly pushed northward.



As the Fifth Army approached the Bernhardt Line in November 1943, the British 56th Division attacked the Monte Camino/La Defensa hillmass. The U.S. 3rd Infantry, 34th Infantry, and the 82nd Airborne Divisions were arrayed from south to north.

Official Report

The First Special Service Force arrived at Naples, Italy on three ships, the USS *Jefferson*, USS *Dickman*, and USS *Barnett* during the period 17-19 November 1943. After going to temporary bivouac in Naples, the Force moved on 20 November 1943 to a permanent bivouac area in the Italian Artillery School barracks approximately one-half mile west of Santa Maria, Italy – FSSF Historical Report.[9]

Rugged terrain, bad weather, and too few Allied troops slowed the Fifth Army's progress to a crawl. The mountain ranges south of Rome were the highest along the west coast of Italy, rising to over 3,000 feet. Narrow valleys hindered off-road deployment of forces and limited the use of armored units. Winter brought drenching rains and penetrating cold that slowed movement on the few roads and exposed the troops to frostbite and hypothermia. The few divisions dedicated to the Mediterranean Theater were insufficient to crack the stiff German defenses.

Lieutenant General (LTG) Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army had been fighting north since landing at Salerno on 9 September 1943. As the Italian campaign began to bog down, Allied planners were stockpiling troops and resources for the cross-channel attack into France, the centerpiece of the Allied Grand Strategy.[10] Everything LTG Clark needed to maintain momentum, manpower, equipment, landing craft, aircraft, and logistics was constrained. With his freedom of maneuver hampered, he was forced to grind his way north towards Rome through the teeth of the German defenses.

When the FSSF landed at Naples in November, Fifth Army had two light corps, two American and one British. The U.S. VI Corps led by Major General (MG) John P. Lucas contained the 34th and 45th Infantry Divisions and the lead elements of the 1st Armored Division. The U.S. II Corps (MG Geoffrey T. Keyes) had the veteran 3rd and 36th Infantry Divisions. The British 10th Corps (Lieutenant General Sir Richard L. McCreery) had the 46th and 56th Infantry Divisions. The 1st, 3rd, and 4th Ranger Battalions, commanded by LTC William O. Darby, and the Force, were the "fire brigades" to be directed against the toughest objectives. Advancing slowly northward after the successful landings at Salerno, the Fifth Army became stalemated by the Germans in mid-November.

The Fifth Army's primary objective was to capture Rome. It was believed that whoever held the "Eternal City" would control southern Italy. Though Italy had surrendered on 8 September and joined the Allies, the Italian Army would not be ready to fight against their former German allies until December. Their absence did not materially weaken the German defenses.

From the south, the wide Liri Valley and Highway 6 ran directly to Rome. Access to the Liri was blocked by ranges of mountains running laterally across the Fifth Army's line of advance. The German defenses incorporated these massifs to form three defensive belts that the Allies called the Winter Line.

The Germans called the first line the *Barbara Line*. This was a series of fortified outposts running from the west coast eastward through the foothills. Behind this came the much stronger *Bernhardt Line*, a wide belt of defensive

Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark aboard the Amphibious Force Command ship USS *Ancon*, his headquarters for the landing at Salerno in September 1943. The Fifth Army commander, Clark employed the First Special Service Force as one of his "fire brigades" during the fierce fighting in Italy.

Generalfeldmarschall Albert Kesselring (C) commanded German forces in Italy. A master of defensive warfare, he used the mountainous terrain to establish a series of defensive belts that stymied the Allied advance on Rome.

fortifications from the mouth of the Garigliano River up and over the forbidding summits of Monte Camino, Monte La Defensa, Monte Majo, and Monte Sammucro. The third and most formidable was the *Gustav Line*. It was anchored on the Garigliano and Rapido Rivers and incorporated the natural fortress of Monte Casino.[11] The German commander in Italy was the brilliant *Generalfeldmarschall* Albert Kesselring, whose forces outnumbered the attacking Allies.

As the Commander-in-Chief Southwest, Kesselring had been given control of all German forces in Italy, a total of fifteen divisions. Opposing the LTG Clark's Fifth Army in southern Italy was the German Tenth Army, a force with more than seven divisions.

In the XIV *Panzer* Corps were the 94th Infantry Division, the 3rd and 15th *Panzer Grenadier* Divisions and a battle group from the *Hermann Goering Panzer* Division. The LXXVI *Panzer* Corps consisted of the 26th *Panzer* Division, the 1st Parachute Division, and the 65th and 305th Infantry Divisions.[12] Manpower shortages in the German Army forced reorganization in October 1943 that reduced each infantry regiment to two battalions. The German infantry division strength was 13,500 men, 1,200 riflemen less than the larger (14,253) American infantry division.[13] But the Germans fielded more divisions.

While most German units had Eastern Front or North African combat experience, the "new formations were put together in Sicily. The 15th *Panzer Grenadier* Division and the *Hermann Goering Panzer* Division were reconstituted after being destroyed in Tunisia," recalled Kesselring after the war.[14] Manpower and equipment shortages were offset by the advantages accrued by defending the mountains that blocked entry to the Liri Valley. LTG Clark never achieved the desired 4-to-1 superiority needed to overcome the German defenses. Beginning in early November, the Fifth Army began Operation RAINCOAT, the assault on the *Bernhardt Line* to punch into the Liri Valley towards Rome.[15]

"Wars should be fought in better country than this."—MG John P. Lucas II Corps.[16]

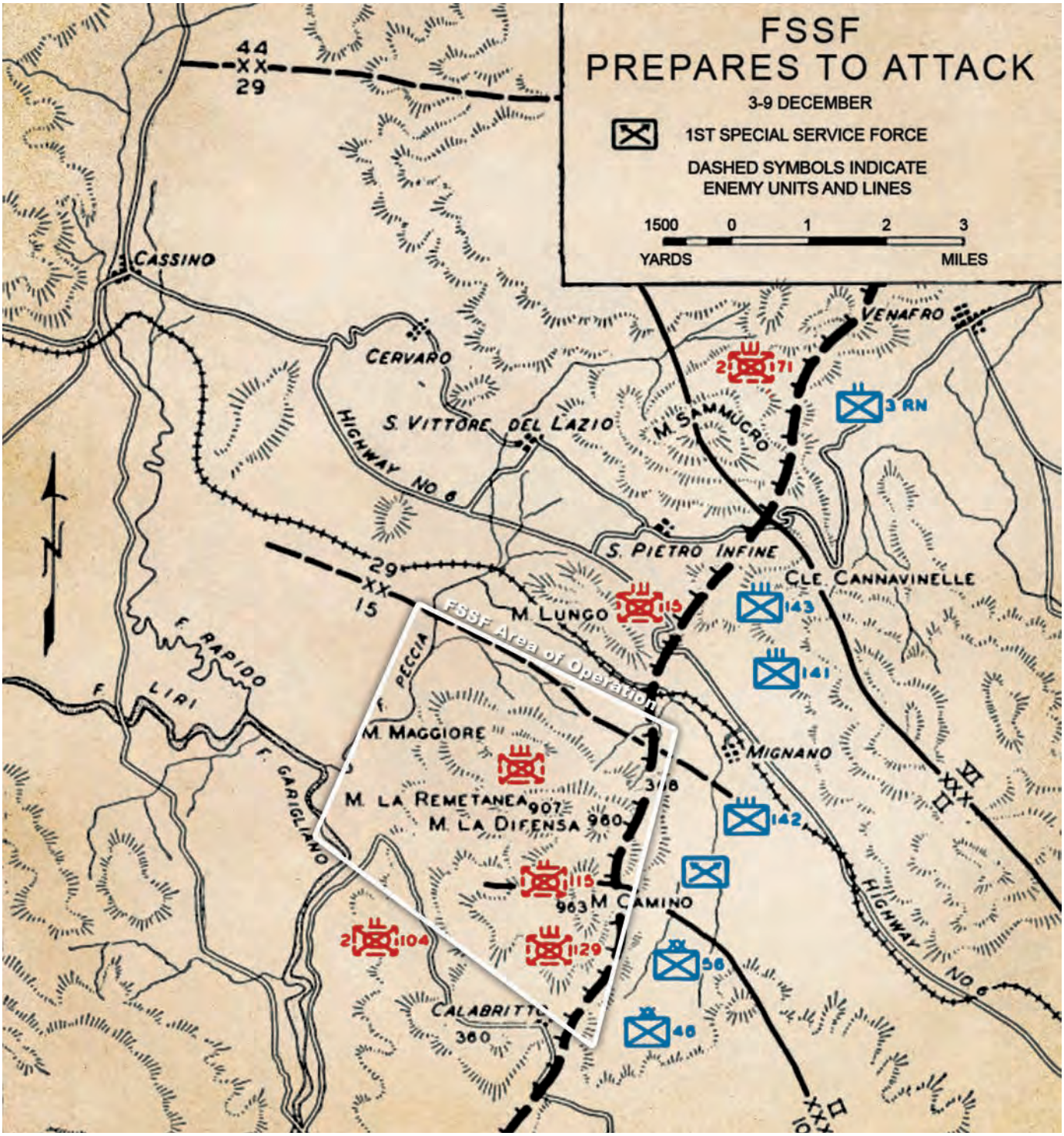
Official Report

The Allied offensive began on 5 November 1943 when two brigades of the British 56th Infantry Division assaulted the 3,150 ft Monte Camino from the southwest. The troops struggled to fight their way up the bare, rocky, booby-trapped slopes that were raked by German machine guns. In weather that grew progressively colder and wetter, the British fought doggedly up Camino. On the 8th, the 15th *Panzer Grenadiers* launched a series of counter-attacks that nearly pushed the 56th off the mountain. Finally on 12 November, LTG Clark ordered the division to withdraw from Monte Camino. A similar scenario took place on neighboring Monte la Defensa.

Less than two miles to the northeast of Monte Camino and connected by a bare ridgeline, the steep slopes of Monte La Defensa (3,140 ft) presented an even more formidable obstacle to the U.S. 3rd Infantry Division. The 7th Infantry Regiment initiated the attack. Success would not only rupture the *Bernhardt Line*, but it would assist the British with Monte Camino. With a lineage stretching back to the Battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812, the 7th Infantry "Cottonbalers," veterans of North Africa and Sicily, struggled for ten days. The 3rd Division main attack

For the operations against MOUNT LA DEFENSA and MOUNT REMETANA, the Force was attached to the 36th Division. On the night of 1 December 1943, the Combat Echelon moved forward to a bivouac near its objective in preparation for operations that were to begin on night 2-3 December - FSSF Historical Report.[17]

Official Report



The II Corps attack on Monte La Defensa supported the attempt by the British 56th Division to take Monte Camino. After the U.S. 142nd Infantry Regiment was turned back on La Defensa, LTG Clark sent in the First Special Service Force.

to the north of La Defensa failed as well, LTG Clark called off further offensive operations on 13 November. The lull would last for two weeks, giving the First Special Service Force time to prepare and the Germans to regroup.

After arriving in Naples, the Force based at Santa Maria just north of the city. The unit spent ten days redistributing equipment as it arrived from the port, range firing, and conducting cross-country marches "to recondition them for immediate action."[18] The FSSF was attached to II Corps' 36th Division on 22 November, prepared for the attack on La Defensa.

Numerous scouting parties were sent up to the area of operations to survey the terrain. During one reconnaissance, a faint trail up the steep cliffs on the north side of the mountain was discovered. Properly strung with ropes to assist the heavily laden troops climb the cliff, the trail could get the Forcemen up the peak behind the German positions. This would be their best option.

Troops of the British 56th Division dug into the hillside of Monte Camino. The struggle for Monte Camino would not end until the First Special Service Force took the adjacent Monte La Defensa.

Official Report

The Second Regiment was assigned the mission of scaling Mount LA DEFENSA and launching an attack at dawn on 3 December against the defenders of this important hill mass. The First Regiment was assigned as reserve to the 36th Division. The First Battalion, Third Regiment was assigned as reserve for the First Special Service Force. The Second Battalion, Third Regiment was assigned supply and evacuation duties in support of the attack on Mount LA DEFENSA – FSSF Historical Report.[19]

On the night of 1 December 1943, the Second Regiment loaded 6x6 trucks in Santa Maria to move the 20 miles to their drop-off point prior to marching up the mountain in an assembly area. The over-burdened Forcemen faced a march of more than five miles in a steady, soaking rain that turned the roads to mud. Private First Class (PFC) Robert M. Davis of 1st Company, Second Regiment recalled that night march up the mountain: "The road was very muddy. It was a real ordeal just to get one foot out of the mud. We moved for about 12 hours to get to our bivouac up on the mountainside and it was very hard."[20]

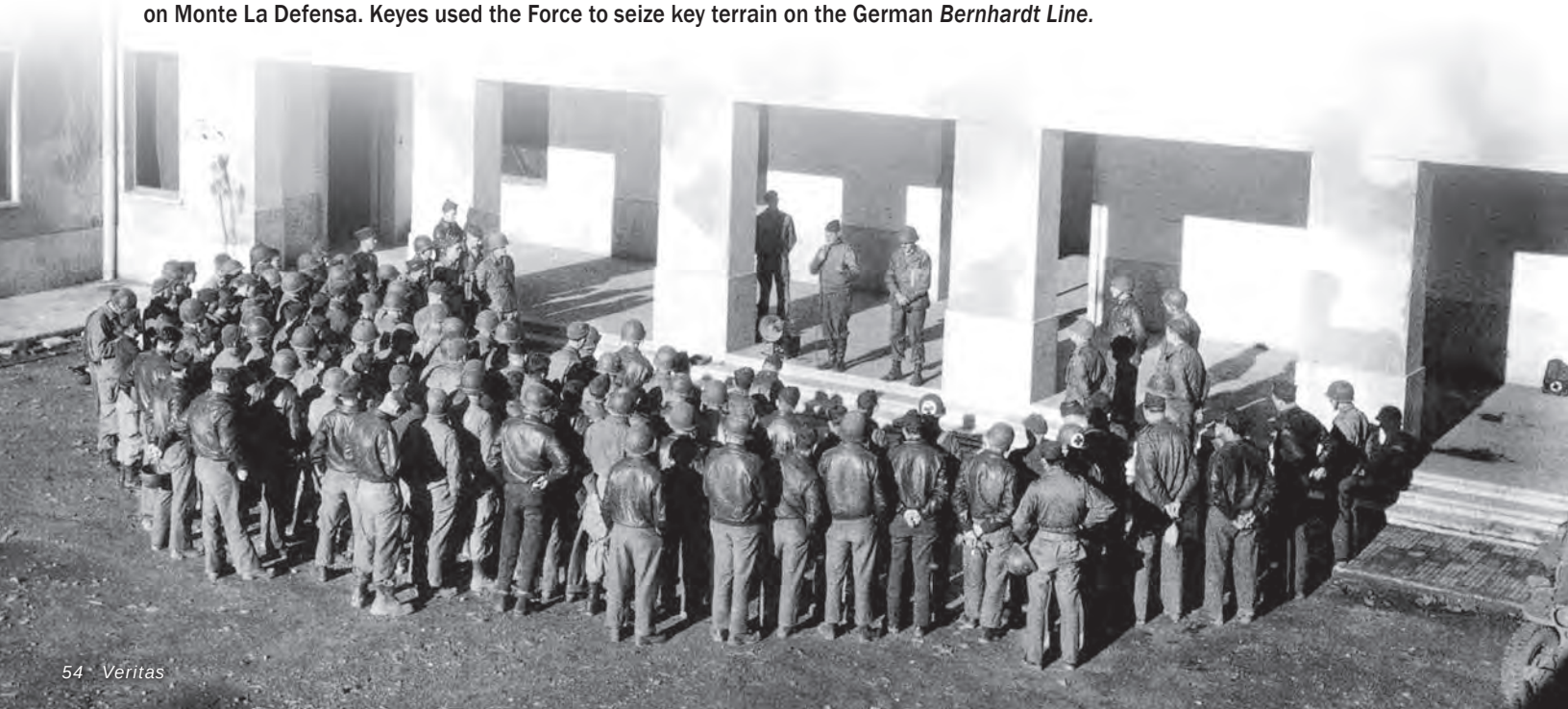
"The approach march took a good part of the night," said First Lieutenant (1LT) William S. Story of 4th Company, Second Regiment. "We went up the mountain until we were concealed from the top by the bushes and trees. Then we pulled our tail up so there was no visible evidence that we had come up in the dark of the night."[21]

Two 1st Company scouts, Sergeants (SGTs) Thomas E. Fenton and Howard C. Van Ausdale, prepared the trail to the crest of the mountain by anchoring ropes as a handrail to assist the men on the ascent. SGT William B. Walter and Private (PVT) Joseph J. Dauphinais helped in the rope placement. "Both of the scouts happened to be hard rock miners in civilian life and could really read terrain," said 1LT Story. "They found what they thought was the best and relatively easy route where you could anchor your ropes without hammering in pitons. They got up close enough to hear the Germans."[22]

"Both of the scouts happened to be hard rock miners in civilian life and could really read terrain."
— 1LT William S. Story

The preparation for the attack on La Defensa began late in the afternoon of 2 December with a heavy barrage from the II Corps artillery. More than 925 artillery pieces

Major General Geoffrey Keyes, II Corps commander, addresses the officers of the First Special Service Force before the attack on Monte La Defensa. Keyes used the Force to seize key terrain on the German *Bernhardt Line.*



of all calibers hammered the Monte Camino-La Defensa Massif. The Allies concentrated their fires on the crests and the southern and western approaches used before. 75,000 rounds were fired in support of the attack.[23] The Force came in from the east side and climbed onto the northern shoulder of the mountain as the artillery pounded the hill masses.

"I never saw another barrage like that during the war," recalled Robert M. Davis. "That was a lulu."[24] "I thought that there shouldn't be one left up there after that barrage," said SGT Joe Glass. "After that bombardment, we called La Defensa the 'Million-Dollar Mountain'."[25] The order of march was 1st, 2nd, and 3rd companies, the Regimental headquarters, and then the 4th, 5th, and 6th companies. The last 500 feet was up the steep cliffs. The ropes proved invaluable and were key to getting machine guns, mortars, and supplies up quickly.

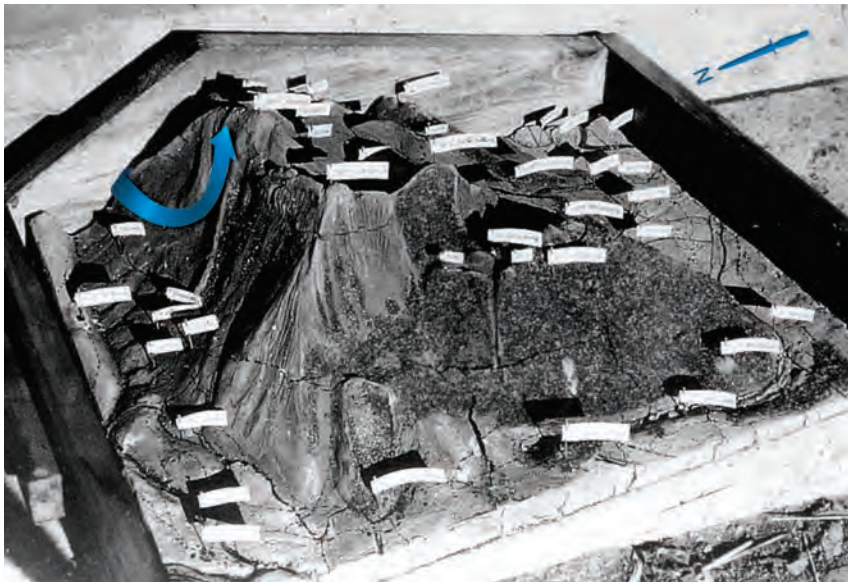
Climbing in the darkness, the lead elements of 1st Company reached the crest of the mountain shortly before dawn. PFC Kenneth W. Betts, 1st Section, 1st Platoon, 1st Company of Second Regiment, was one of the first to reach the top. "We came up the back way," said Betts. "We caught them by surprise, but it didn't last long. [It was] only enough to get over the edge."[26] PFC Robert M. Davis remembered "coming up single file. Every sound made you think people in Rome could hear us coming."[27]

The 1st Company crested the hill and spread out to the left as 2nd Company behind them extended the line to the right among the rocks on the summit. The battle commenced when an alerted German sentry began firing. "We were virtually on top of the German positions when someone kicked a stone loose and a German challenged the two scouts," said SGT Donald MacKinnon. "Someone shot, and that's when machine gun fire opened up all around us."[28] A fierce firefight erupted along the crest. The Germans had their machine guns pointed to the southwest and had to work feverishly to turn their weapons around to meet the assault. The action quickly became a close-quarters shoot-out.

"It was really a series of individual firefights," said 1LT Bill Story. "We were dealing with individuals or small groups of Germans."[29] A marksman with a *Schmeisser* machine pistol pinned down PFC Robert Davis. "That guy was an artist with that burp gun," said Davis. "It finally took [PFC Dennis] George hitting his position with a rifle grenade to allow us to move."[30]

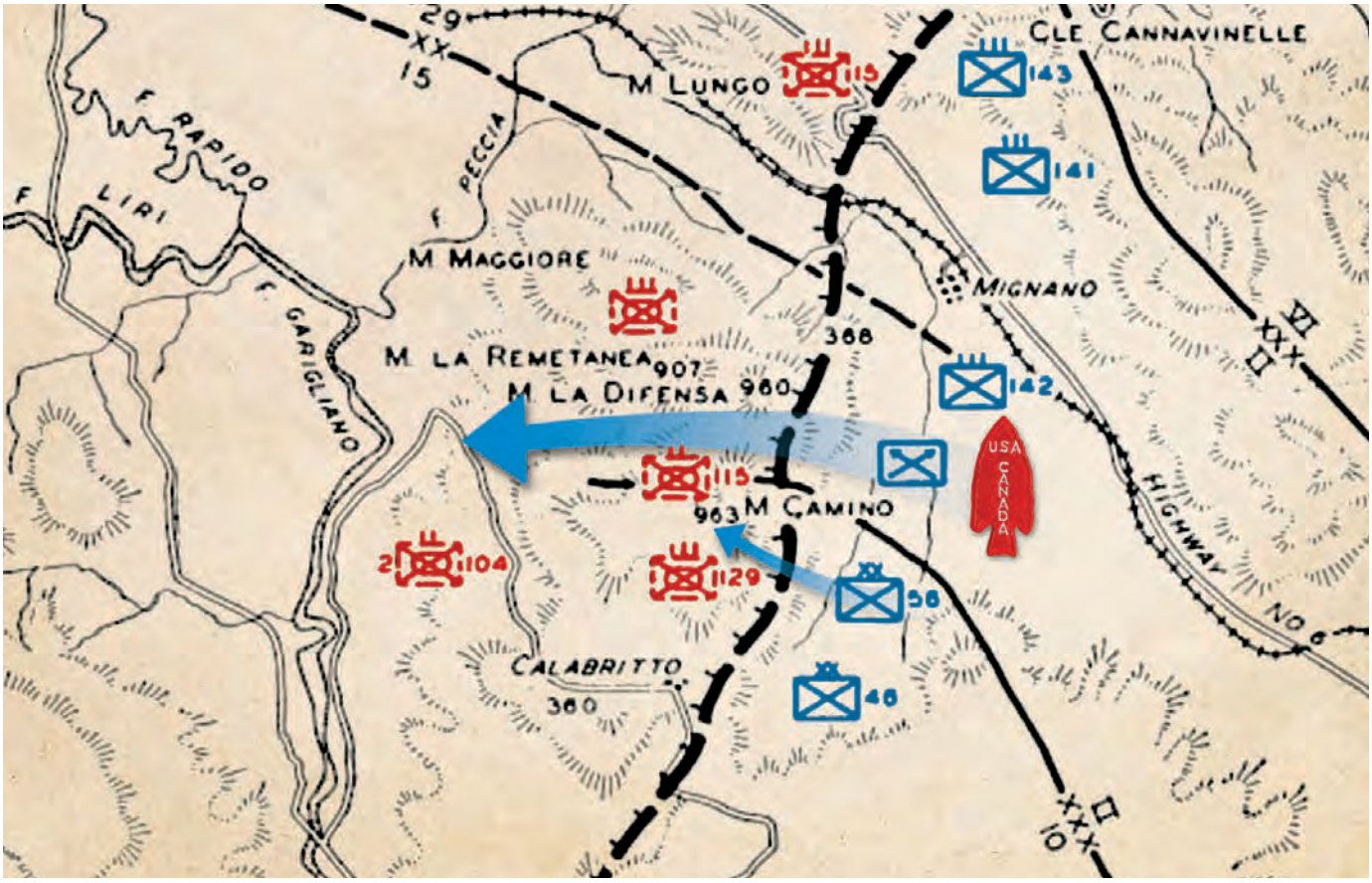
As the Force rushed across the top of the mountain, the German defenders abandoned their positions to escape down the mountain to Monte Camino or across the northwest saddle towards Monte Remetana. "We had the top cleared in about two hours," said SGT Joseph M. Glass."[31] The unexpected appearance of the Force along the cliff tops had proven too much for the German defenders. "They had expected the assault to come up the forward slope," said Bob Davis. "Once we got rid of the guys along the forward area, the rest folded up."[32] With the crest in their hands, the Forcemen quickly began to prepare defensive positions to meet the expected German counterattack.

The next three days were constant rain, snow, and freezing temperatures punctuated with German shelling and counter-attacks. The miserable conditions hindered the resupply and evacuation of the heavy casualties suffered from the German artillery. PFC Kenneth P. Thelen: "I had 18 different holes in me, two broken arms and two broken legs. I lay there for almost a day and a



A model of the sand table used by the Force in the planning of the attack on Monte La Defensa. By finding a small trail (Blue Line) up the steep north side, the Forcemen were able to assault the German defenders from the rear.

This 8" (240 mm) howitzer of the Fifth Army artillery supported of operations against the Winter Line in the Mignano area. A stunning artillery barrage enabled to the Force to maneuver behind the German positions on La Defensa.



The attack of Monte La Defensa took the Forcemen around the east side of the mountain and up the steep cliffs on the north side. They quickly pushed the surprised German defenders off the summit.

half before I was moved. Then it took 18 hours to get me down off the mountain."[34] German prisoners were put to work. "You could use up to six German prisoners to carry one stretcher off La Defensa," said 1LT Bill Story. "It was the only way we could get our wounded troops down off the tops of those mountains."[35]

Official Report

The Second Regiment reached its objective at dawn on 3 December and after bitter fighting, gained a foothold on the crest of MOUNT LA DEFENSA. Fighting in this area was continuous and bitter during the next forty-eight hours – FSSF Historical Report.[33]

Once reinforced by the First Regiment, the Second Regiment moved to clear the saddle running northwest to the summit of Monte Remetana. A series of attacks on 6 and 7 December dislodged the Germans. Simultaneously, the British succeeded in capturing Monte Camino, eliminating the remaining sniper and artillery threat to the Force's west flank. The FSSF linked up with the British and by the evening of 7 December, had control of Monte Remetana. The next night the Force was relieved by the 142nd Infantry, 36th Division, and returned to Santa Maria. The first phase of the mountain campaign for the FSSF had ended. The Force had pushed the Germans off Monte La Defensa in a matter of hours despite the Fifth Army planners' predictions that it would take two or three days.[36] However, success was very costly.

The 3,000-man Force suffered 511 casualties on Monte La Defensa: 73 killed; 313 wounded; and 9 missing in action; and 116 evacuated with frostbite, trenchfoot, and exhaustion.[37] Eight wounded later died.[38] One battalion

First Special Service Force SSI

Fifth Army SSI

VI Corps SSI

II Corps SSI

The First Regiment was assigned to support the attack of the Second Regiment and arrived at the to of MOUNT LA DEFENSA on 5 December. During the period 5-9 December, the First and Second Regiments continued the operations required to clear the enemy from MOUNT LA DEFENSA – FSSF Historical Report 2.

commander (LTC Thomas C. MacWilliam), one company commander (CPT William T. Rothlin), and several platoon leaders, platoon sergeants, and section sergeants had been killed. The Force rested in Santa Maria for the next eleven days and reshuffled leaders.

While the FSSF had been fighting for Monte la Defensa, II Corps attacked the Monte Lungo-Monte Sammucro complex further north. The 36th Division, with the 3rd Ranger Battalion attached, suffered heavy casualties but failed to capture the two hills and the village of San Pietro.[39] The Force was called upon to lead the second attempt.

For the attack on Monte Sammucro, the depleted Force had the U.S. 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment and the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry attached. Fire support came from the 6th Armored Field Artillery Group and the 376th and 456th Parachute Field Artillery battalions.[41] The reinforcements were badly needed because the three Force regiments were down to less than 200 men each.

The troops left the Ceppagna bivouac site on 22 December 1943 for an assault the next night. Insufficient coordination and communications among the task force elements caused COL Frederick to delay the attack until

A Forceman in his winter parka fires an M-1941 Johnson machine gun. The "Johnny gun" was the favorite of the Force, who preferred this lighter Marine Corps weapon to the Army's Browning Automatic Rifle.

Orders were issued on 22 December to have the First Special Service Force attack to capture MT SAMMUCRO, HILL 730. The First Regiment, First Special Service Force, assisted by fire from the First Battalion, 141st Infantry, accomplished this mission of the night 24-25 December. They were relieved by First Battalion, 141st Infantry, on 26 December, withdrawing to bivouac at CEPPAGNA - FSSF Historical Report 3.[40]

Men of Second Regiment carrying supplies in support of the First Regiment's assault on Monte La Defensa. The steep rugged terrain dictated that everything be man-packed or hauled on mules. Casualties from artillery and snipers were high among the supporters. In the lead is Private Harlan S. Morgan, a medic in 3-2.

Official Report

In the area south of ROME, December provides the most unfavorable weather conditions of the year for military operations. It is the culmination of the autumnal rainy season. . . . Conditions of temperature and humidity, though by no means severe, are such that requires extra clothing and fuel for efficient operations. – II Corps G-2 Meteorological Report, 27 November 1943.[42]

Christmas Eve. The assault on Mont Sammucro would launch a three-week concentrated effort to push the Germans off the *Bernhardt Line* and position Fifth Army for the *Gustav Line* and Monte Cassino.

The troops sat in cold fog and rain for two days waiting for the attack to begin. The plan called for the First Regiment to hit Monte Sammucro while 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry assaulted nearby Hill 630, and the 504th, Hill 580. The attack began at 5:00 am on Christmas. In deadly, close-quarters fighting, the First Regiment ejected the Germans from their positions and fended off several counterattacks. The 504th captured Hill 580 and the 141st Hill 630. On the night of the 26th, the 141st relieved the Force on Monte Sammucro. The Force casualties were 77 dead and wounded in the fight.[43] Following a respite of three days, the Force rejoined the offensive as Fifth Army continued to push to the north and west.

The first week of January 1944 was spent in fierce fighting in the hills surrounding the village of Radicosa. This was the precursor to facing the formidable mountains in the *Gustav Line*, Monte Majo, Hill 1270, and Monte Vischiataro. These high, rocky peaks would be the German's final defense on the *Bernhardt Line*. The continual fighting and debilitating weather brought the Force to the brink of exhaustion. The final push began on 6 January to conquer Monte Majo.

Now reorganized as Task Force B, Frederick commanded the 133rd Infantry Regiment, Company A of the 19th Engineer Regiment, and Company A, 109th Medical Battalion. The 36th Division Artillery provided direct support. The largest Force regiment, the Third at roughly two-thirds strength, would lead the attack on the evening of 6 January 1944. The battle lasted through the night.

"There was no cover, just a bald hill. I sent scouts forward to take out the German machine gun positions. The Germans didn't even know we were on them; the attack was that well executed."
— CPT T. Mark Radcliffe

CPT T. Mark Radcliffe, 3rd Company commander, 1st Battalion, Third Regiment said: "We were one of the companies ordered to attack Monte Majo. There was no cover, just a bald hill. I sent scouts forward to take out the German machine gun positions. The Germans didn't even know we were on them, the attack was that well executed."[44] By 5:30 am the last enemy positions were overrun. The Forcemen prepared for the inevitable counterattacks because Monte Majo was key to the final German defenses.

As soon as their infantry abandoned the hilltop, the Germans began to shell the summit. "They would drop those mortars in so quickly, and when you're on the reverse slope of the hill, you can't hear them fire," remembered

Sergeant Lewis J. Merrim with mule hauling supplies. Merrim was the Force photographer assigned to the Regimental Headquarters.

Forcemen receive coffee and doughnuts from the Red Cross at Santa Maria after the battle on La Defensa. The Forceman in the left center is wearing the wooden clogs issued as hospital shoes to those suffering trenchfoot or frostbite.

9 January 1944. Today's Force casualty return has 122 names. Again, nearly half are frostbite and exposure. There won't be much left of the Force if casualties keep at this rate – 1st Canadian Special Service Battalion War Diary.[49]

Official Report

CPT Radcliffe.[45] "Don McKinnon and Herbie Forester and I dove into this foxhole when we got a barrage right after we had taken the top of the hill," recalled SGT Joe Glass. "A dud landed right in our hole, right in back of our legs. So we just leaped out, but it never exploded."[46] Then the German infantry came.

"Those were the worst counterattacks I have ever been involved in," said Mark Radcliffe. "There were at least twenty-six and they came real close to pushing us off the hill."[47] Over the next two days, the Forcemen endured more than 40 counterattacks on Majo. Low on ammunition, the troops used abandoned German MG-42 machine guns and ammunition to beat back the determined assaults.[48] The Force held firm.

After capturing Monte Majo, Task Force B was reinforced with Algerian troops, the battalion-sized *Bonjour Groupement* from the 3rd Algerian Division of the French Expeditionary Corps on 10 January. "I had some contact with the Algerians," said SGT Joe Glass. "We traded some of our rations for their canned meat, which turned out to be horsemeat."[50] The Algerians were attached to the Task Force for two days, when the FSSF captured their second major objective, Monte Vischiataro.

During the final phases of the mountain campaign, high casualty rates required major force restructuring. The 1st Battalion, Second Regiment was so depleted that the six line companies were merged into two; the new A Company under CPT Mark Radcliffe had men from 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Companies; and B Company with

Force Headquarters scouts, Private D. M. M. Hill (L) and Private Francis B. Wright disarm a German mine. Both men would later be killed; Wright on Monte Majo, and Hill at Anzio.

Colonel Robert T. Frederick leads the FSSF command section out of the village of Radicosa. Controlling operations in the mountains was difficult because mountain fighting was often conducted by squads and sections acting independently.

4th, 5th, and 6th company soldiers led by CPT Daniel P. Gallagher.[51] Task Force B was dissolved on order of II Corps on 13 January. The Third Regiment captured Hills 780 and 1030 on 14 January and held them for the next three days.[52] This proved to be the last fighting the Force would do in the southern Italian mountains.

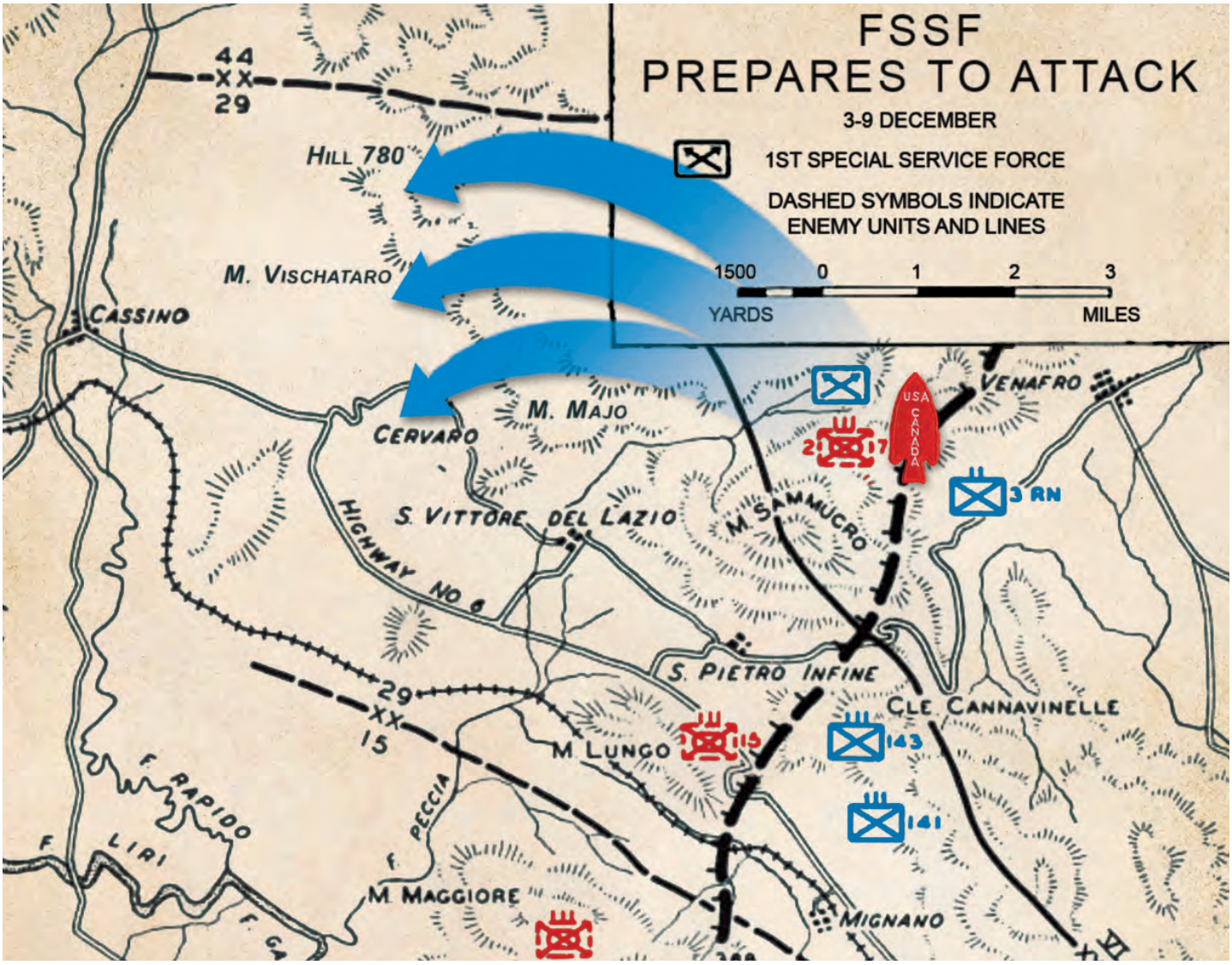
The mountain campaign had decimated the Force. Of the 1800 men in the Combat Echelon, 1400 had been killed, wounded, or hospitalized. The brutal, dangerous job of resupplying the combat forces had reduced the Service Echelon to 50% combat effectives.[54] Though the Force broke the *Bernhardt Line* and opened the way to the *Gustav Line* and Monte Cassino, it was no longer combat effective. Those bloody campaigns would fall to other units of Fifth Army. Cassino would not fall until May.

Official Report

The First Special Service Force returned to bivouac vicinity SANTA MARIA by truck the afternoon 17 January in order First Regiment, Second Regiment, Third Regiment, Supply Personnel. Last elements of First Special Service Force closed CEPPAGNA at 172345A January - FSSF Historical Report 3.[53]

"We were exhausted, we couldn't have taken the next outhouse. You could always say 'if we kept going,' but we couldn't keep going. There wasn't that much pressure left in the tank."
—Technician 4th Class John R. Dawson

"We got darn close to Cassino before withdrawing. In fact, I think I saw guys on patrols that were halfway up Monte Cassino. If there had been a nice, fresh American division, it could have gone up and saved all that fuss later on," surmised Technician 4th Class John R. Dawson. "We were exhausted; we couldn't have taken the next outhouse. You could always say 'if we



The Force took the summit of Monte Majo and Monte Vischataro, the last German strongholds on the *Bernhardt Line.* At the end of two months of hard, exhausting mountain warfare, the Force was at the end of its effectiveness.

kept going,' but we couldn't keep going. There wasn't that much pressure left in the tank."[55]

The FSSF returned to Santa Maria to rest and refit. 250 American volunteers joined the unit and were put through an intensive training program. The Canadian Army did not replace all of their contingent's losses, leaving only 300 men fit for duty. Some volunteers came from the 1st Canadian Division, British 8th Army, over the next year.[56] But Canada never filled their element to full strength again. In fact, LTC Thomas P. Gilday, the ranking FSSF Canadian after the mountain campaign, recommended that all of the Canadians be reassigned to the Canadian Parachute Battalion in England.[57] Fortunately, this did not happen because the Force still had battles to fight at Anzio, into Rome, and in southern France.[58]

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.

Official Report

On 29 January 1944 the First Special Service Force received orders to prepare for movement to ANZIO BEACHEAD area. The Force moved to concentration Area No. 3 near Naples on 30 January and sailed aboard LST's and LCI's for Pozzuli on the evening of 31 January. The unit debarked at ANZIO at 1000, 1 February.[59]

Captain T. Mark Radcliffe, the company commander of 3rd Company, 3rd Regiment, would later command a composite A company formed from the consolidation of three 3rd Regiment companies. In the battle on Monte Majo,his men would fight off 26 German counterattacks.

A Force combat patrol clears a ruined village near Radicosa. Private Charles N. Russell, (L) covers the advance of the patrol.

Third Regiment Forcemen observe the Rapido River valley towards Monte Cassino. The Force would be in Anzio when Fifth Army finally broke through the *Gustav* Line by capturing Cassino in May 1944.

Endnotes

1 R. William Becket, First Regiment, "The Stars and Jack," unpublished manuscript dated 1993, copy in the USASOC History Office Classified Files, 76.

2 The First Special Service Force is one of the most well documented units in World War II. Numerous books have been written about the Force, including a number of recent studies. While not a complete compendium of books about the unit, the following volumes represent the majority of the most current works. Robert H. Adleman and George Walton, *The Devil's Brigade* (Philadelphia: Chilton Books, 1966); Robert D. Burhans, *The First Special Service Force: A Canadian/American Wartime Alliance, The Devil's Brigade* (Dalton, GA: Lee Printing Company, 1947); Anne Hicks, *The Last Fighting General: The Biography of Robert Tryon Frederick* (Atglen, PA: Schiffer Military History, 2006); Kenneth H. Joyce, *Snow Plough and the Jupiter Deception* (St. Catherines, Ontario: Vanwell Publishing Limited, 2006); John Nadler, *A Perfect Hell: The Forgotten Story of the Canadian Commandos of the Second World War* (Scarborough, Ontario: Doubleday Canada, 2005); Mark J. Nelson, *With the Black Devils: A Soldier's World War II Account with the First Special Service Force and the 82nd Airborne* (Atglen, PA: Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 2004); Robert Todd Ross, *The Supercommandos: First Special Service Force, 1942-1944, An Illustrated History* (Atglen, PA: Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 2000); Joseph A. Springer, *The Black Devil Brigade, The True Story of the First Special Service Force: An Oral History* (Pacifica, CA: Pacifica Military History, 2001); James A. Wood, *We Move Only Forward: Canada, The United States and the First Special Service Force, 1942-1944* (St. Catherines, Ontario, Vanwell Publishing Limited, 2006).

3 Deuterium is a naturally occurring isotope of hydrogen with one proton and one neutron in the nucleus. Deuterium was used extensively in the early development of nuclear reactors. The Vermork facility in Norway was supplying deuterium for the German nuclear research program.

4 Burhans, *The First Special Service Force: A Canadian/American Wartime Alliance, The Devil's Brigade,* 15; Kent Roberts Greenfield, Robert R. Palmer, and Bell I. Wiley, *The U.S. Army in World War II, The Army Ground Forces: The organization of Ground combat Troops* (Washington DC: Office of the Chief of Military History, 1947), 274-275.

5 Kenneth Finlayson, "Unique Support for a Unique Unit: The Service Battalion of the First Special Service Force," *Veritas: The Journal of Army Special Operations History*, Vol. 2, No. 3, 2006, 11-17.

6 Kenneth Finlayson, "Operation COTTAGE: First Special Service Force, Kiska Campaign," *Veritas: The Journal of Army Special Operations History*, Vol. 4, No. 2, 2008, 30-43.

7 Burhans, *The First Special Service Force: A Canadian/American Wartime Alliance, The Devil's Brigade,* X.

8 Burhans, *The First Special Service Force: A Canadian/American Wartime Alliance, The Devil's Brigade,* 82; Ross, *The Supercommandos*, 70.

9 Narrative Report: First Special Service Force, 17 November 1943 – 1 February 1944, 28 November 1944, Department of the Army, Adjutant General's Office, Washington DC, Historical Records Section, copy in the USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, 1. (Hereafter referred to as Narrative Report, First Special Service Force).

10 Martin Blumenson, *The U.S. Army in World War II, The Mediterranean Theater of Operations: Salerno to Cassino* (Washington DC: Office of the Chief of Military History, 1969), 7.

11 Blumenson, *The U.S. Army in World War II, The Mediterranean Theater of Operations: Salerno to Cassino,*207-208.

12 Blumenson, *The U.S. Army in World War II, The Mediterranean Theater of Operations: Salerno to Cassino,* 224.

13 Blumenson, *The U.S. Army in World War II, The Mediterranean Theater of Operations: Salerno to Cassino,* 225.

14 Albrecht Kesselring, *The Memoirs of Field Marshall Kesselring* (Novato CA: Presidio Press, 1989), 161.

15 American Forces in Action, *Fifth Army at the Winter Line* (Washington DC: Center of Military History, 1990), 15-19.

16 Blumenson, *The U.S. Army in World War II, The Mediterranean Theater of Operations: Salerno to Cassino,* 234.

17 Narrative Report, First Special Service Force, 1.

18 Narrative Report, First Special Service Force, 1.

19 Narrative Report, First Special Service Force, 1.

20 Robert M. Davis, 1-2 First Special Service Force, taped narrative, subject: Operations on La Defensa, date unknown, tape in the First Special Service Force Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

21 William S. Story, 4-2 First Special Service Force, interview by Dr. Joseph Fischer, 10 August 1995, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada, transcript, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, 77-78.

22 Story interview, 79.

23 Blumenson, *The U.S. Army in World War II, The Mediterranean Theater of Operations: Salerno to Cassino,*265.

24 Davis interview.

25 Joseph A. Springer, *The Black Devil Brigade, The True Story of the First Special Service Force: An Oral History* (Pacifica, CA: Pacifica Military History, 2001), 76.

26 Kenneth W. Betts, 1-2, First Special Service Force, taped narrative, subject: Operations on La Defensa, date unknown, tape in the First Special Service Force Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

27 Davis interview.

28 Springer, *The Black Devil Brigade, The True Story of the First Special Service Force: An Oral History*, 78.

29 Story interview, 80.

30 Davis interview.

31 Joseph M. Glass, 1-2 First Special Service Force, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 9 April 2009, Helena, MT, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

32 Davis interview.

33 Narrative Report, First Special Service Force, 1.

34 Kenneth P. Thelen, 5-1 First Special Service Force, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 11 October 2000, Fort Bragg, NC, tape recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

35 Story interview, 85.

36 *Fifth Army at the Winter Line*, 28.

37 Burhans, *The First Special Service Force: A Canadian/American Wartime Alliance, The Devil's Brigade*, 124.

38 Among the casualties was Captain William T. Rothlin, 1-2 Company Commander, killed at the outset of the battle, and Canadian LTC Thomas C. MacWilliam, 1st Battalion, Second Regiment Commander. The Headquarters building of the 3rd Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, NC is named for LTC MacWilliam.

39 Blumenson, *The U.S. Army in World War II, The Mediterranean Theater of Operations: Salerno to Cassino*, 270-289.

40 Narrative Report, First Special Service Force, 2.

41 Burhans, *The First Special Service Force: A Canadian/American Wartime Alliance, The Devil's Brigade*, 131-132.

42 Headquarters, First Special Service Force, S-2 Report, 27 November 1943, copy in the First Special Service Force Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

43 Burhans, *The First Special Service Force: A Canadian/American Wartime Alliance, The Devil's Brigade*, 139.

44 T. Mark Radcliffe, 3-2 First Special Service Force, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 9 April 2009, Helena, MT, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

45 Springer, *The Black Devil Brigade, The True Story of the First Special Service Force: An Oral History*, 131.

46 Joseph M. Glass, 1-2 First Special Service Force, interview by Dr. Joseph Fischer, 10 August 1995, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, transcript, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC, 19.

47 Radcliffe interview.

48 Story interview; Radcliffe interview.

49 1st Canadian Special Service Battalion War Diary, period 5 January 1944 to 12 January 1944, copy in the First Special Service Force Collection, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

50 Glass interview.

51 Radcliffe interview.

52 *Fifth Army at the Winter Line*, 96-101.

53 Narrative Report, First Special Service Force, 3.

54 Burhans, *The First Special Service Force: A Canadian/American Wartime Alliance, The Devil's Brigade*, 162.

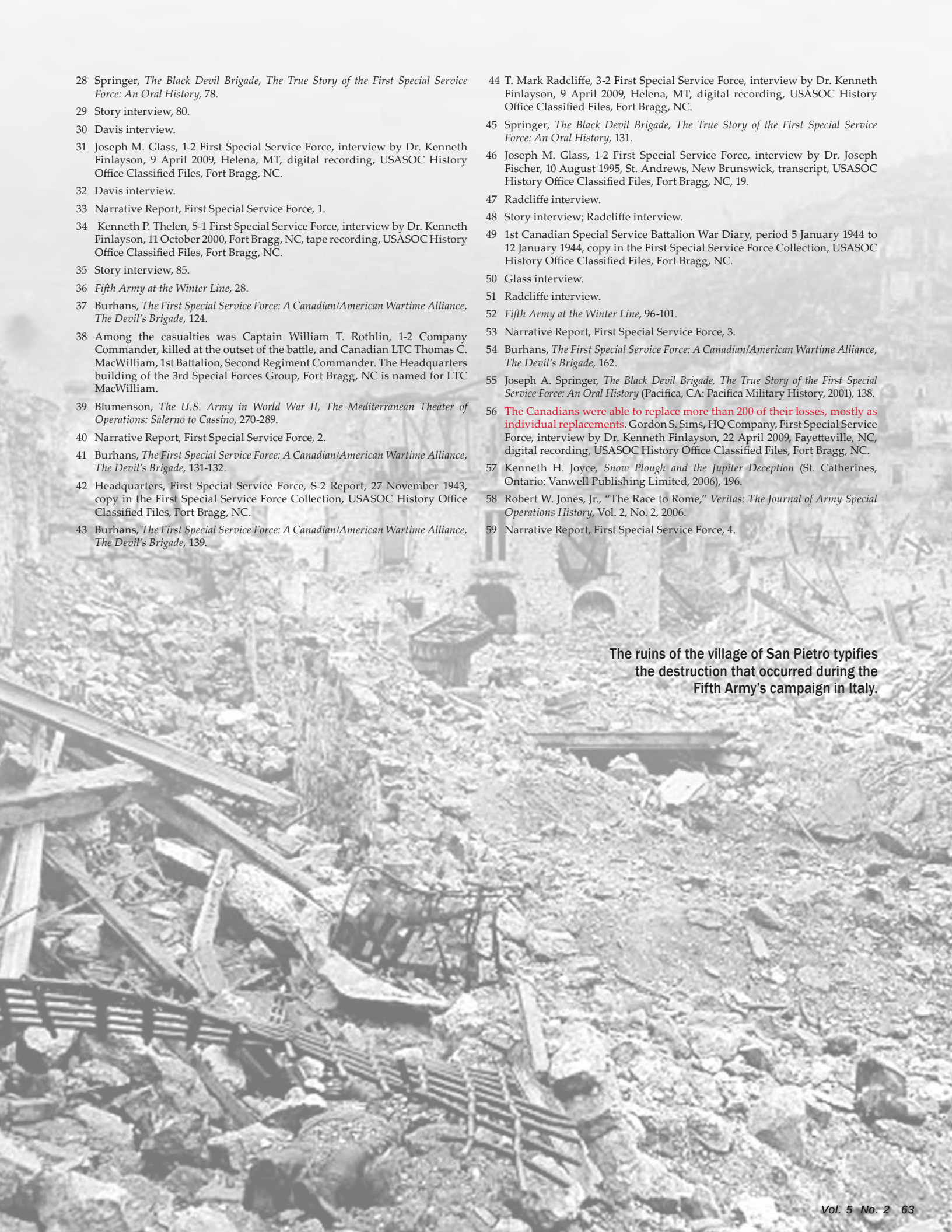
55 Joseph A. Springer, *The Black Devil Brigade, The True Story of the First Special Service Force: An Oral History* (Pacifica, CA: Pacifica Military History, 2001), 138.

56 The Canadians were able to replace more than 200 of their losses, mostly as individual replacements. Gordon S. Sims, HQ Company, First Special Service Force, interview by Dr. Kenneth Finlayson, 22 April 2009, Fayetteville, NC, digital recording, USASOC History Office Classified Files, Fort Bragg, NC.

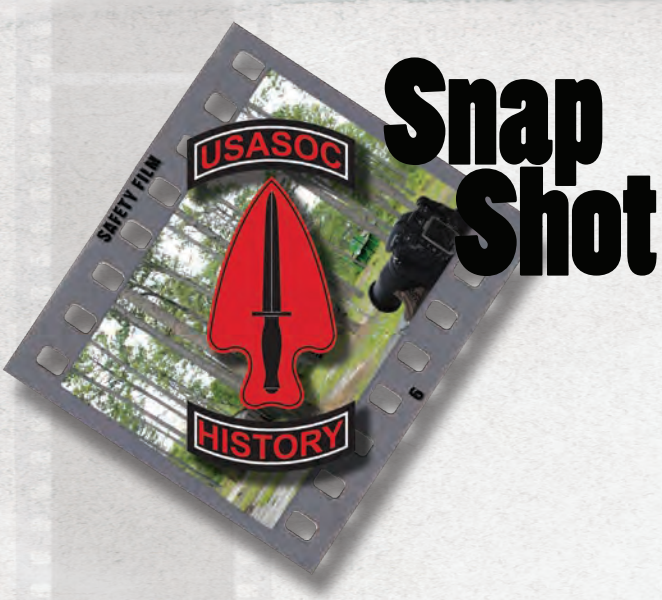
57 Kenneth H. Joyce, *Snow Plough and the Jupiter Deception* (St. Catherines, Ontario: Vanwell Publishing Limited, 2006), 196.

58 Robert W. Jones, Jr., "The Race to Rome," *Veritas: The Journal of Army Special Operations History*, Vol. 2, No. 2, 2006.

59 Narrative Report, First Special Service Force, 4.



The ruins of the village of San Pietro typifies the destruction that occurred during the Fifth Army's campaign in Italy.



Snap Shot

by Earl J. Moniz

In the last Snap Shot (*Veritas*, Vol 4, No. 3), the photographic techniques for creating panoramic images was explained. This final article covers the application of final touches. The model for this article consists of two images used to create the panoramic shot included in "SORT(ing) Out the Casualties: the Special Operations Resuscitation Team in Afghanistan," *Veritas*, Vol 5, No. 1, 52-53.

Fundamental Photoshop Terms

The previous article recommended two fundamental techniques: 1: Use the fuzziest setting on the erase tool to best blend at the seams; and 2: Erase stubborn irregularities in areas of bright light, dark shadows, or random patterns.

Now, two basic repair terms must be clarified within the context of Adobe Photoshop.

The first term is clone. Cloning is selecting a point within an image (the source) to graft it on another point in the image (the destination).[1] If a piece of the image has been hidden or damaged, we can clone another section to replace the blemish.

The second term is heal. Using the healing tool, we select only the *pattern* of the source to replace the damaged *pattern* in the destination area.[2] The program retains the color and shading in the destination area while replacing the pattern from the source to make the repair.

Determining whether to use the clone tool or the heal tool is primarily determined by the damage or blemish requiring repair. Basically, if the blemish is physical damage like a tear, a wrinkle, or the loss of a piece of the photo's top layer, use the clone tool to recreate or reconstitute that part of the image. Likewise, if the blemish was caused by the scanning or conversion to digital form (digital artifacts and dust particles), use the healing tool. (Figures 1 & 2.)

With Adobe Photoshop, most brush, pencil, healing, cloning, or erase tools have at least two settings. The first setting is the diameter size. The diameter is increased or decreased depending on the degree of precision required. Use a larger diameter for repairing sizable expanses; skies, lakes, and fields with similar grasses or vegetation. Use a smaller diameter for fine, detailed work around faces, emblems, and insignia. (Figure 3 & 4.)

The second tool setting is for hardness. Open the drop-down menu for any of these tools to get several selections. One option is for hardness. The slider bar decreases or increases the percentage of hardness between 0 and 100%. The higher the percentage, the more precise, or hard, the edge becomes. One-hundred percent is a very precise edge, like writing with a very fine-tipped pen. Zero percent produces a very fuzzy edge, the effect of writing with a very dull pencil.

This fuzzy edge is called feathering. The program samples the pixels immediately surrounding the repair area and blends them together smoothly.[3] In most cases, repairs require considerable feathering since the changes must blend in and look like part of the original image. With those preliminary definitions understood, we can move to the project at hand.

Figure 1 Figure 2 Figure 3 Figure 4

Preparation and Stitching Steps

1. Open Photoshop.
2. Open the first two images of your project, (the SORT scans – Figures 5 & 6.).
3. Use the left image as the base.
4. Drag the other image from its window atop the base image. Right image over the left is our rule.
5. Duplicate each layer and rename them in the layers window ("left" and "right"). Users cannot rename the original layer.

Because these "SORT" images were shot without any real intent to turn them into a panorama, our SSOFAS guidelines were overlooked. The significant problems are insufficient overlap and different exposures.

Figure 5. The original SORT LEFT image scan.

Figure 6. The original SORT RIGHT image scan.

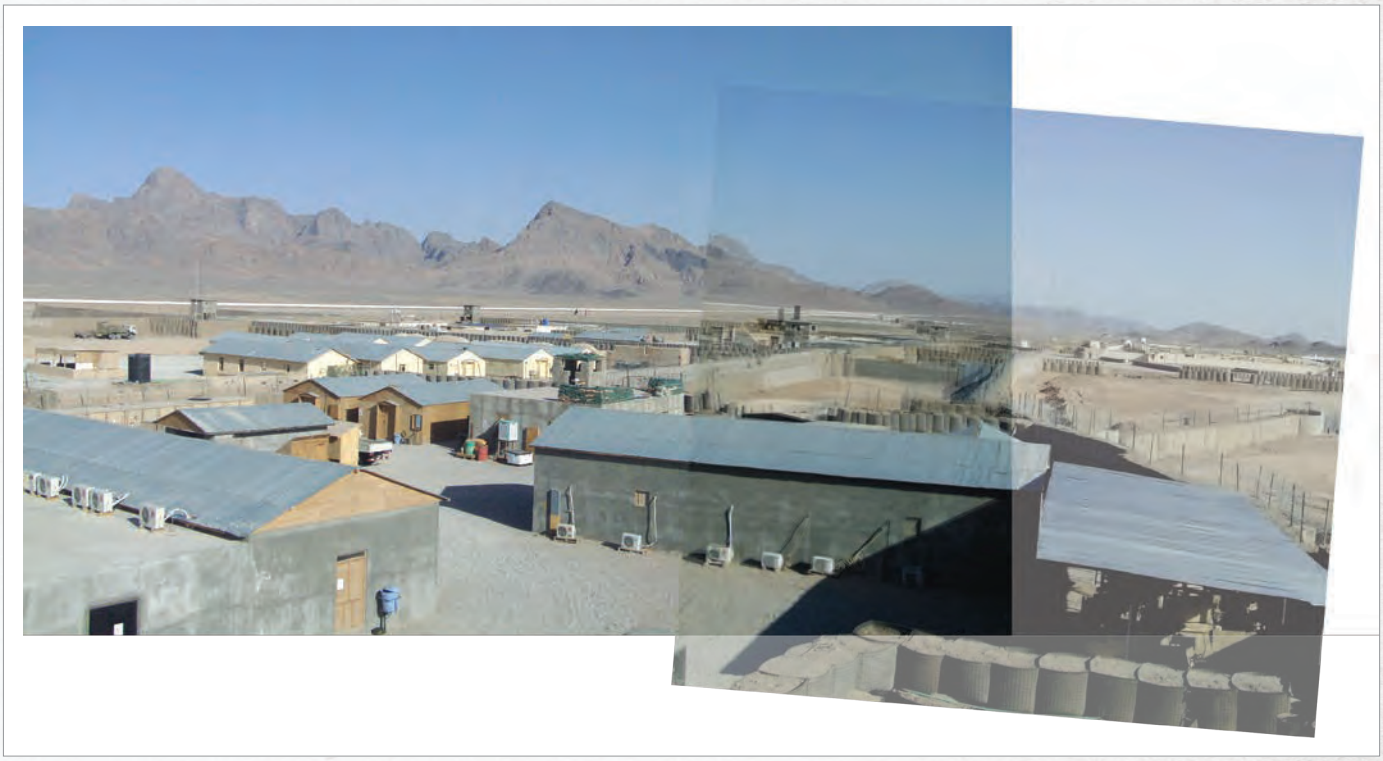


Figure 7. Overlap the LEFT and RIGHT images. Use the Opacity setting to align the images and the Curves window to adjust for the best sky blending.

With those problems identified, let's fix what we have, starting with the exposure problem.

SSOFAS: *shoot from the* ***Same Spot****; determine the* ***Overlap****; keep the* ***Focus*** *constant; use the same* ***Aperture*** *setting; and determine a* ***Sequence****.*

Adjust Exposure Differences

1. Overlap the two images in their approximate final positions. Hold down the control key and tap the minus key either on the number pad or left of the backspace key in the upper right corner of the keyboard section [Ctrl-] to reduce the size of the entire image . Control plus [Ctrl+] will enlarge the image in Photoshop.
2. Use this shrink/enlarge function until the image is clear enough to find a section of the sky where the two images overlap. As you do this, a number label appears at the top of your screen near the end of the filename text box. That number indicates the size of the image as a percentage.
3. For this adjustment, use 25 or 50%. Computer displays provide best clarity at multiples of 5%. Twenty-five percent will display better than 33%, and 50% will display better than 66%.

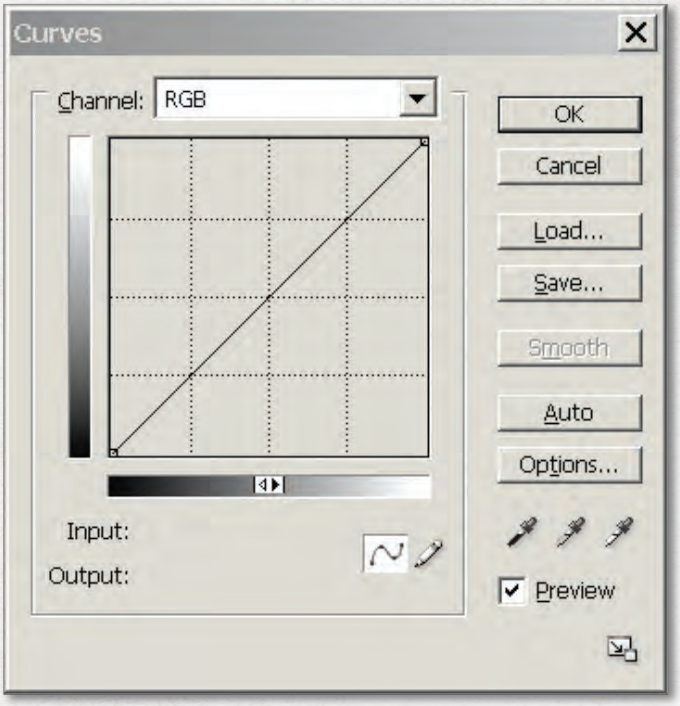


Figure 8. Curves window indicating the default view when opened.

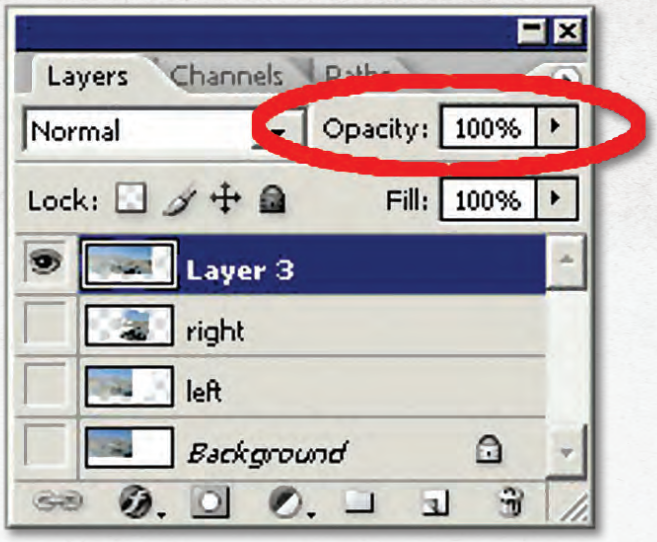


Figure 9. Layers window with the Opacity adjustment identified.

Figure 10. Rotation confirmation window during the final Arbitrary rotation step.

4. The sky is the exposure discriminator. Position the image with the overlapping sky edge of the right layer atop the left layer. (Figure 7.)
5. Hold down the control key and tap the letter M [Ctrl-M] to open the curves window. (Figure 8.) This curves function is a powerful and effective method to adjust exposure within images and between layers.[4]
6. Move the mouse (a cross-hair symbol) over the center of the grid in the curves window where the diagonal line intersects the vertical and horizontal center of the grid.
7. Left-click and drag the diagonal line in any direction to view the result of each directional change shift. Adjust the layer to blend as closely as possible with the neighboring layer without distorting the color of rest of the layer.
8. Click OK to apply the adjustments.
9. Select the other layer in the layers window and adjust that layer using the curves function.
10. Continue this see-saw process to adjust one layer and then the other until the seam in the sky where the two layers intersect is as closely blended as possible without distorting the other colors in either layer.

With the exposure problem overcome and the colors of each layer is blended, the precise alignment of the layers is tackled.

Aligning Varying Perspectives

Without using a tripod, one layer inevitably must be rotated to match the other. There are two options:
1. Align the horizon without worrying about the foreground detail;
2. Align the foreground items and disregard the horizon.

For the "SORT" article, the foreground details hold more interest. The horizon will be addressed at the end. Adjusting the horizon to align each layer is simpler than adjusting all the details in the foreground of a panorama. But, in this case, adjusting the foreground is the less complex and time-consuming. Now, back to work.

Fixing the Foreground

1. Select the right layer and lower the opacity (50-70%) to better view the underlying left layer as you rotate the right layer to align it with the left layer underneath. (Figures 7 & 9.)
2. Use the transform function (hold the control button and tap the letter T (Ctrl-T) to rotate the right layer. When the transform function is activated, the selected layer is silhouetted and eight handles appear: one at each corner; and one on each side for size adjustments.
3. For the rotation adjustment, don't use the handles around the image. The cursor is moved outside the silhouetted layer to change the cursor into a curved, two-sided arrow. This transformed icon indicates that the selected area is ready to rotate around the pivot point. By default, this pivot point is in the middle of the selected layer. However, left-clicking on the pivot point allows the user to move it to anywhere in the selected area. Now, rotate the layer around the pivot point. For most purposes, rotation around the center will suffice. (Figure 10.)
4. Here is what we are trying to accomplish. Rotate the right layer until the roof lines of the center buildings are aligned as closely as possible. You can use the enlarge/

Figure 11. Using the same erase tool on the fuzziest setting, erase the roof on the central building and down the near wall to the wall's shadow line on the wall to the ground shadow from the lean-to. Overlap the erasure just inside the shadow produced by the lean-to.

shrink functions for a closer look. Once the roofs are aligned, move the right layer to overlap and cover the left layer below.

Erase to Fix the Problem Areas

Keeping the opacity of the right layer mostly transparent, look at the underlying left layer to determine how much of the right layer on top can be erased before we run out of real estate on the one below. The shadows in the center of the image and the near wall of the central building are the boundaries of what we want to erase in the right (top) layer.

1. With these limits in mind, raise the opacity of the right (top) layer back to 100%.
2. In the foreground, use the erase tool on the fuzziest setting, erase the roof of the central building and down the near wall to the wall's shadow line on the wall and to the ground shadow from the lean-to. Overlap the erasure just inside the shadow produced by the lean-to.
3. Slowly and carefully, work up toward the horizon, erasing only enough of the top layer to produce a blended and seamless transition between the layers. Figure 11 shows the erasures on the right layer needed to blend it smoothly over the left (bottom) layer.

Remember to create blend points in shadows (just inside the shadows), areas having random patterns (the distant foothills of the mountains in the background), or the sky to make the most seamless blending. Now, erase most of the right layer on the left side of the berm in the middle of the compound and most of the pipes near the horizon to make the panoramic ready for the last touch-up.

The Final Steps

First, the two layers are flattened into one layer and the healing tool is used for final blending. Since horizontal

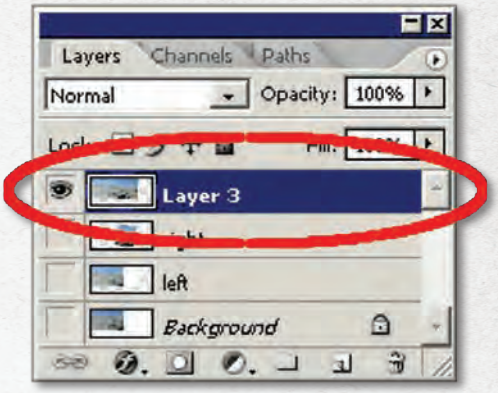


Figure 13. Layers palette identifying the new flattened layer.

Figure 14

Figure 15

Figure 12. Flattened layer ready for blending with the healing tool.

Figure 16. This image depicts the final composition with the horizon leveled, the sky faded, and color-corrected for publication; as used in the "SORT" article in *Veritas*, Vol.5 No. 1, 2009.

alignment was put off until the end, that task is the last step. The final panoramic image must be oriented properly on the natural horizon. Our product at this point looks as though the right slopes gently downwards. (Figure 12.)

For this task, we will use the measure tool. It is located under the eyedropper tool.

1. Hold down the button on the eyedropper tool and one of the options that appears is the measure tool. (Figures 14 &15) It is an excellent tool for plumbing and leveling an image. If the angle created by a drawn line is less than 45 degrees, it will adjust the horizontal orientation (level). If the angle is greater than 45 degrees, it will adjust the vertical orientation (plumb).
2. With the measure tool selected, draw a line by left-clicking and dragging it across the flattened image from the base of the mountains on the left to the base of the mountains on the right.
3. To activate the adjustment once the line is drawn, select image>rotate canvas>arbitrary. The degrees shown in the window deviate from the horizontal or the vertical.
4. Selecting OK will adjust the line to exactly level (zero degrees) or plumb (90 degrees) using the rotational direction indicated in the arbitrary window – clockwise or counter-clockwise.

Leveling the image concludes the panorama creation from multiple images. Let's recap.

Final Thoughts

The **panoramic technique** consists of several steps that can reduce the work by remembering the **SSOFAS**. Without **SSOFAS**, a panorama can still be created:

1. Bring the images together in a single multi-layer image.
2. Adjust each layer for color, contrast, and orientation.
3. Erase portions on each layer that don't blend well with the others.
4. Flatten all the layers into a single layer and make a final adjustment for plumb (vertical) or level (horizontal).

Recommendations from this project might include:

Shoot the central focus of attention as an image of its own. Center it in the veiwfinder.

Overlap one-third of the central focus to the left to include as much of the scenery to the left.

Overlap the final shot one-third of the central focus to the right. Once again, include as much scenery as possible on the right.

Using this overlapping technique, it is possible to gather enough images to build a complete 360 degree view from the same vantage point.

Find some stable spot for the camera which permits the rotation of the camera to obtain good overlapping shots.

Now, take advantage of those wide angle views by zooming in a bit and take several shots to preserve the detail and clarity through a panorama instead of one long-range shot.

Earl J. Moniz has been a digital information specialist with the USASOC History Office since 2001. After retiring from Special Forces as a non-commissioned officer, he earned his undergraduate degree from Fayetteville State University and his Master of Library Science (MLS) from North Carolina Central University. Current projects include the initial preparation of scanned imagery for USASOC History Office publications; the organization and cataloging of History Office digital imagery; and the organization and cataloging of the growing History Office reference and special collections.

Endnotes

1 Weinmann, Elaine, and Peter Lourekas, *Photoshop for Windows and Macintosh* (Berkeley: Peachpit Press, 2004), 153-154.

2 Weinmann, Elaine, and Peter Lourekas, *Photoshop for Windows and Macintosh* (Berkeley: Peachpit Press, 2004), 252-255.

3 Weinmann, Elaine, and Peter Lourekas, *Photoshop for Windows and Macintosh* (Berkeley: Peachpit Press, 2004), 157.

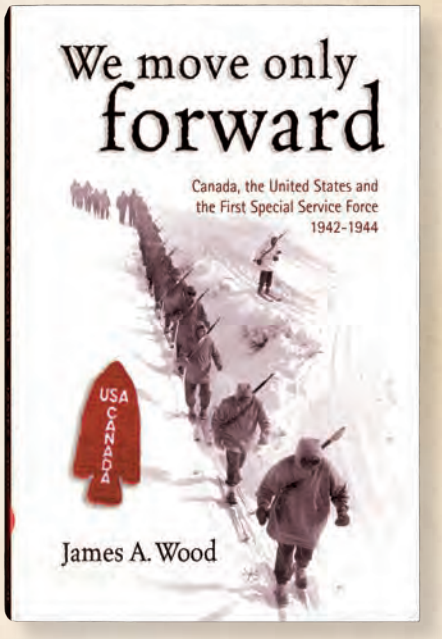
4 Weinmann, Elaine, and Peter Lourekas, *Photoshop for Windows and Macintosh* (Berkeley: Peachpit Press, 2004), 206-207.

Using the techniques described in this article, the History Office was able to scan individual sections of this North Vietnamese propaganda poster and digitally reconstitute it to its full size. The original poster was donated to the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, North Carolina by COL Park Shaw (Retired).

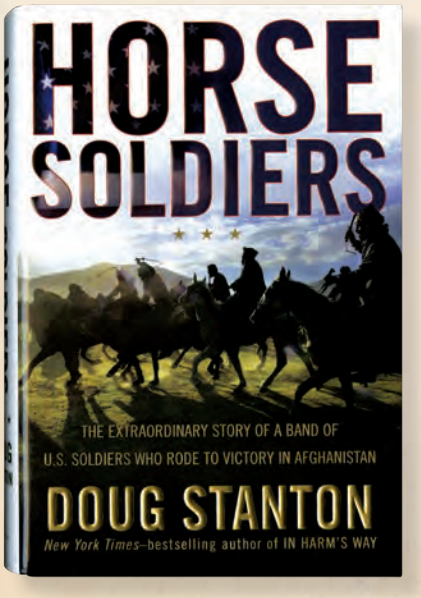
Books in the Field

"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.

James A. Wood, *We Move Only Forward: Canada, the United States and the First Special Service Force, 1942-1944*
(St. Catherines, Ontario: Vanwell Publishing Limited, 2006).

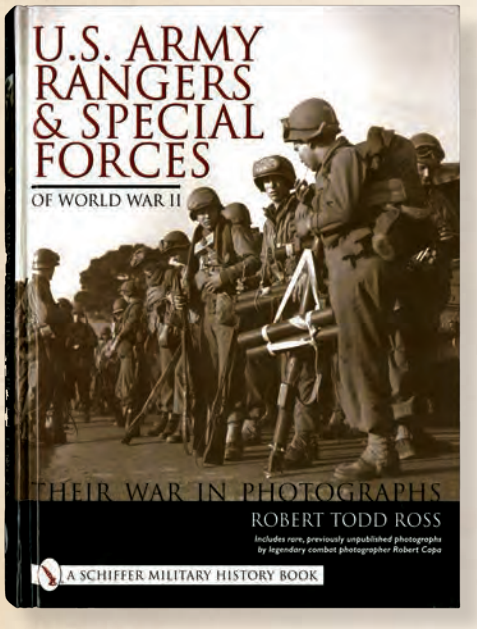


A unique example of international cooperation in wartime, the Canadian-American First Special Service Force was unlike any unit that served in the United States Army in World War II. James A. Wood's *We Move Only Forward: Canada, the United States and the First Special Service Force, 1942-1944*, is a worthy addition to the extensive literature of this unit. *We Move Only Forward* is a detailed account of the genesis of the Force and the difficulties that arose between the two nations until the disbanding of the Force in December 1944. The Force trained at Fort William Henry Harrison in Helena, Montana, which is ironically named, as Wood points out, for the President instrumental in the invasion of Canada in the War of 1812. Told from a Canadian perspective, *We Move Only Forward* is a well-researched account of this exceptional fighting unit. With photographs, maps, index, bibliography, and appendices.



Doug Stanton, *Horse Soldiers: The Extraordinary Story of a Band of U.S. Soldiers Who Rode to Victory in Afghanistan*
(New York: Scribner, 2009)

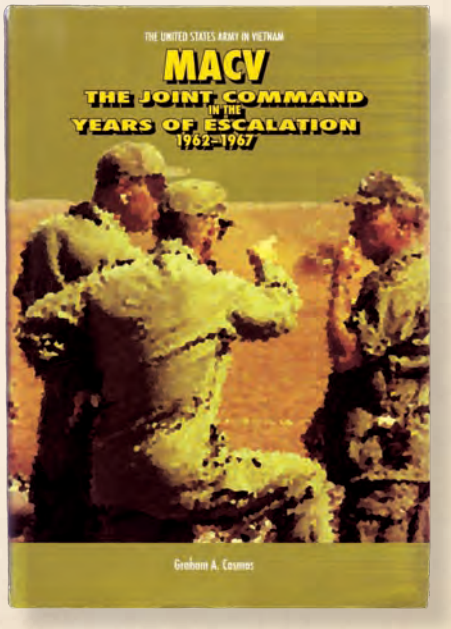
Horse Soldiers is the story of the 5th Special Forces Group in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan in 2001. Working with the indigenous Northern Alliance, 5th Group Operational Detachments were instrumental in overthrowing the Taliban and recapturing the capital city Kabul. Staging from a base in Uzbekistan, the 5th Group teams had to resort to riding small, tough Afghan horses in order to remain with their Northen alliance counterparts. The story is one of contrast, teams armed with the latest in military technology and employing the simplest of military methods. Author Doug Stanton has captured the inner workings of the Special Forces operations from the perspective of the participants. This five-year project is a thorough recounting of the events told from the soldiers' point of view. With photographs, maps and index.



Robert Todd Ross, *U.S. Army Rangers & Special Forces of World War II: Their War in Photographs* (Atglen, PA, Schiffer Publishing, 2002) 216 pages.

Author Robert Todd Ross has amassed an impressive collection of photographs from public and private sources, including the National Archives and Imperial War Museum, for this "coffee table book" (i.e. large format, 8 ½ by 10 ½ inches). Each photo has an explanatory caption and, important for researchers, the National Archives photograph number. Especially noteworthy is a collection of 17 photographs of Darby's Rangers in Sicily and Italy taken by the famed photographer Robert Capa. The units covered in this work include all seven Ranger Battalions (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 29th), the First Special Service Force, the 5307th Composite Force (i.e. "Merrill's Marauders), the Office of Strategic Services, and the Alamo Scouts. While not special operations units, also included are the Norwegian-American 99th Infantry Battalion (Separate); the 83rd Chemical Mortar Battalion that used its 4.2-inch mortars to support the Rangers in Sicily and Italy; and the 158th Regimental Combat Team (The Bushmasters). Interspersed throughout the book are photos of artifacts, including a complete layout of Ranger equipment circa 1942 (page 97) and features Mr. Ross modeling a typical uniform (page 98). Contains a short bibliography and maps.

Graham A. Cosmas, *The United States Army In Vietnam; MACV: The Joint Command in the Years of Escalation 1962-1967* (Washington, DC: Center of Military History, 2006).



The Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was the joint unified command for all U.S. and Allied units in South Vietnam during the war. Author Dr. Graham Cosmas, an historian with the Joint Staff History Branch of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, explains how the overseas command operated in its first six years of operations. MACV grew from a temporary organization into a headquarters for more than 500,000 troops. This U.S. Army Center of Military History study documents the American role from 1962 until 1967; from providing advisory support to the South Vietnamese in the early years to directing conventional military operations in 1965 to escalation through 1967. This "big picture" view includes discussions on strategy, operations, logistics, diplomacy, civil relations, and the media. Sources include the National Archives, U.S. Army Military History Institute, and several Presidential Libraries. *MACV: the Joint Command in the Years of Withdrawal, 1968-1973*, is Cosmas' second of a two-volume set, and covers the command's later actions. Contains notes, maps, photographs, tables, charts, bibliographical note, glossary, and an index.

Upcoming Articles...

Down at the Yak and Yeti: Special Forces Train the Nepalese Gurkas

by Kenneth Finlayson

In late 1994, 1st Special Forces Group received the mission to train a battalion of Nepalese Army Gurkhas for deployment to Haiti in support of the United Nations Multinational Force in Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY. Arriving in Nepal in January 1995, Operational Detachment Alpha 155 trained the battalion in preparation for this major Nepalese Army deployment. Following their three weeks of training and a memorable flight from Kathmandu to Port-au-Prince, the Nepalese and their ODA advisors took on the mission of maintaining order amidst the civil unrest in the city. The Nepalese proved to be a reliable, versatile force, and remained on duty in Haiti until August 1995.

Battle Without Bullets: The 41st Civil Affairs Company in Vietnam — Part I

by Troy J. Sacquety

The first Civil Affairs (CA) unit to deploy to Vietnam, the 41st Civil Affairs Company was one of only three such units that served in country. The others were the 2nd and 29th CA Companies. When the 41st CA arrived in Vietnam in late 1965, it was dispersed across three of the country's four corps tactical zones. Individual Teams were attached to combat units to assist with refugee relocation and rural development. Part I will examine the 41st from 1965 through 1967. Part II will look at how 1968's Tet offensive altered the unit's mission and conclude with the 41st CA 's service in South Vietnam until early 1970.

Psychological Operations in Operation JUST CAUSE

by Robert W. Jones, Jr.

The media images of loudspeakers blaring heavy rock music to dislodge Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega from the Vatican Nunciatura (embassy) are often equated with Psychological Operations (PSYOP) in Operation JUST CAUSE. But the "Rock and Roll Show" was not PSYOP, but a means to stop eavesdropping by news media on the sensitive surrender negotiations. Beginning prior to the commencement of hostilities on 19 December 1989, the 4th PSYOP Group waged an active PSYOP campaign in support of U.S. Southern Command's efforts to rid Panama of its dictator.

Commander, USASOC
ATTN: AOHS (*Veritas*)
E-2929 Desert Storm Drive
Fort Bragg, NC 28310