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# The 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment

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## ZACHARY EDWARDS

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### Three American Regiments on D-Day

Penguin

The never-before-told story of one of the most decorated units in the war in Afghanistan and its fifteen-month ordeal that culminated in the 2008 Battle of Wanat, the war's deadliest. A single company of US paratroopers—calling themselves the "Chosen Few"—arrived in eastern Afghanistan in late 2007 hoping to win the hearts and minds of the remote mountain people and extend the Afghan government's reach into this wilderness. Instead, they spent the next fifteen months in a desperate struggle, living

under almost continuous attack, forced into a slow and grinding withdrawal, and always outnumbered by Taliban fighters descending on them from all sides. Month after month, rocket-propelled grenades, rockets, and machine-gun fire poured down on the isolated and exposed paratroopers as America's focus and military resources shifted to Iraq. Just weeks before the paratroopers were to go home, they faced their last—and toughest—fight. Near the village of Wanat in Nuristan province, an estimated three hundred enemy fighters surrounded about fifty of the Chosen Few and others defending a partially finished combat base. Nine died and more than two dozen were wounded that day in July 2008, making it arguably

the bloodiest battle of the war in Afghanistan. The Chosen Few would return home tempered by war. Two among them would receive the Medal of Honor. All of them would be forever changed. [The Odyssey of Echo Company](#) Casemate The #1 internationally bestselling history of D-Day—now enhanced with rare video footage from the NBC News Archives for the ultimate narrative of the battle for Normandy Chosen by Time as one of the top 10 nonfiction books of the year Antony Beevor—the man who “single-handedly transformed the reputation of military history” (The Guardian, U.K.)—presents the first major account of the Normandy invasion and the liberation of Paris in more than twenty years.

D-Day: The Battle for Normandy is the first book to describe not only the experiences of the American, British, Canadian, and German soldiers but also the terrible suffering of the French civilians caught up in the fighting. Beevor draws upon research from more than thirty archives in six countries, going back to original accounts and interviews conducted by combat historians just after the action. The result is the consummate account of the invasion and the ferocious offensive that led to Paris's liberation. Enhanced with rare film and newsreel footage from the NBC News Archive the D-Day: The Battle for Normandy Deluxe eBook will put you on the beach for the Normandy landings, in the air for Allied bombing runs and will give you a front-row seat for the liberation of Paris. D-Day: The Battle for Normandy Deluxe includes the following features: · 26 film clips embedded into the text, giving the reader a seamless reading and viewing experience · Video of the Allied commanders, paratroopers suiting up and jumping into action, Allied troops landing on

the Normandy beaches, firefights in the deadly bocage hedgerows and through bombed-out towns, Allied bombing runs, the liberation of Paris, the German fortifications on the Normandy coast and much more · Rarely seen video from the NBC News Archive, including original NBC and Universal newsreels · The original NBC Radio broadcasts announcing the D-Day invasion · Rare color footage shot by journalist Jack Lieb, who worked for newsreel company News of the Day and shot from the D-Day landings to the liberation of Paris · Detailed maps and photographs included in the original book · An easy-to-read table of equivalent military ranks across the American, British, Canadian, and German armies  
Battle of the Bulge: The First Eight days Coda Books Ltd  
 The Michael Finn papers consist of a memoir, 1942-1946 : our country at war, and a binder about Company I, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, United States (U.S.) Army during World War II (WWII). The binder, produced circa 1994, contains around seventy

letters, mostly between veterans; articles, including some on D-Day; maps; KIA honor list; memoirs, including one of D-Day; and a newsletter. Most of the items in the binder are photocopies.  
*Fighting Fox Company* Penguin  
 Interview with James H. Patton, Army veteran (501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division), concerning his experiences as a paratrooper in the European Theater during World War II. His youth in Du Bois, Pennsylvania; attendance at Lock Haven State Teachers College, Pennsylvania; enlistment in the Army, February, 1942; basic training, Camp Croft, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 1942; Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning, Georgia, 1942; volunteering for the Airborne and parachute training, Fort Benning, 1942; demolition school, 1943; assignment to the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 1942; his marriage, December 22, 1942; attachment of the 501st Regiment to the 101st Airborne Division; shipment to England, January, 1943; training for the Normandy invasion; the night jump into Normandy, June 6, 1944; securing the La Barquette

lock; the capture of Carentan and its road network; Operation MARKET-GARDEN, September, 1944; comments about the commanding officer of the 501st, Colonel Howard Johnson; the Battle of the Bulge, December, 1944-January, 1945; miscellaneous recollections about other combat experiences; postwar occupation duty in the Bavarian Alps near Berchtesgaden; comments about the esprit de corps of airborne troops.

Hell's Highway Da Capo Press

The parachute infantry regiments were among the most highly decorated US Army units of World War II, and between them they saw action right across the world. The elite nature of these units led to them being committed to action not only in the way that had been intended; their quality tempted commanders to keep them in the line longer than their light armament justified, and they were tested to the limit. This engaging study traces the story of each of the 17 regiments, from their creation and training in the USA, through their deployments overseas, to their combat jumps and

all their battles. The book is illustrated with wartime photographs, many previously unpublished, and eight full-colour plates detailing the specifics of their uniforms, insignia, and equipment practices, which often differed from unit to unit.

*infantry* Penguin

This unique account of D-Day history provides an unusual look into the US Army's preparation of a new type of World War II warfare, that of airborne operations. The book describes, using personal interviews with the veterans involved, how young men who had never even flown in an airplane before the war were trained to fly into combat, or to parachute into the dark of night. The narrative personalizes the events of D-Day for a small group of men of the 77th Troop Carrier Squadron and G Company of the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment. Most, including the author's uncle, did not survive to see the dawn on D-Day morning. The story then moves forward more than half a century, when research to find out what happened to his uncle led the author to meet some of the survivors of that night, resulting in what is believed to be the first

reunion of a D-Day pilot with the men he dropped on that fateful morning, 56 years earlier. Many children of the "next generation" are making efforts to find out what happened to their fathers and uncles in World War II. This story is a classic example of the joy and heartbreak that can result from the success of such a search.

**George E. Koskimaki**

**Collection** Jos Groen

Includes six maps. This is actual story of parent regiment of the famous "Band of Brothers" Easy company. As the tens of thousands of American troops began their approach toward the forbidding German-defended Normandy coast, their comrades in the 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions had already flown over the Channel and began dropping and gliding into enemy territory. The Airborne Divisions had a role critical to the success of the entire Normandy Landings; beyond the initial beach landing areas were miles of flooded defended ditches and waterways. If the German troops managed to defend these bottlenecks the Americans on Utah Beach, at the extreme right of the operation, would be

unable to move forward and might have foundered on the beach. The capture and retention of the two southernmost exits were assigned to the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment; the plan was well thought-out and would have in all likelihood have succeeded handsomely. However the drop of the 506th like many of their comrades on D-Day was wide and scattered all across the Normandy landscape. As groups of paratroops nervously grouped together in the darkness they started small actions against whatever German positions that they came across; as officers and NCOs struggled to gain some control over the chaos the most organized moved toward their objectives. They bravely pushed forward toward their targets and held them against the rising numbers of German reinforcements; before the major link-up with the beach landings they fought and won the engagement at St-Mairie-Du-Comt against their toughest enemies, the German paratroops. S L A Marshall, the Official Historian for the European Theatre of Operations, interviewed the men of the 506th on their return

to the U.K. and from this collected material set about recording this story of their courage, dedication and fighting skill.

**The Memoir of John Cipolla, 101st Airborne Division, 1942-1945**

Pickle Partners Publishing  
The Center of Military History is pleased to present the second volume in the U.S. Army in Action series, a facsimile reprint of Brigadier General S.L.A. Marshall's *Bastogne: The First Eight Days*. Originally published in 1946, this brief study provides a combat history of a critical battle during the Allied liberation of Europe in World War II. Outnumbered and surrounded for five days, a U.S. Army combined arms force of airborne infantry, armor, engineers, tank destroyers, and artillery conducted a successful defense of the Belgian crossroads town of Bastogne in late December 1944. They separated the German combined arms formations and destroyed the pieces, halting the offensive. The outcome of this battle was critical to the successful Allied defense against the German Ardennes

offensive. Bastogne offers unique insights, capturing the immediate impressions of the soldiers who fought in this harsh winter engagement. The author penetrates the "fog of war" with a coherent narrative that clearly captures the strategy, tactics, and leadership of the battle. This action strangled the German logistical flow to their forward assault divisions, disrupting their offensive tempo and slowing their advance. What emerges is a vivid case study of how decisive leadership and incidents of individual heroism can contribute to overcoming enemy forces and weather.

[Oral History Interview with James Patton](#)

Bloomsbury Publishing  
A cross-section of the American experience on D-Day Unique perspective from the regimental level that also integrates strategic and tactical considerations Stories of largely forgotten acts of valor G. H. Bennett collects oral histories from the soldiers of three American regiments and weaves them into an intimate account of the D-Day invasion of June 6, 1944. Widely scattered during its drop into Normandy, the 507th

Parachute Infantry Regiment (82nd Airborne Division) stopped the advance of an SS division. The untested 116th Infantry Regiment (29th Infantry Division) landed on bloody Omaha Beach, where it suffered more casualties than any other regiment that day. Meanwhile, the 22nd Infantry Regiment (4th Infantry Division) easily waded ashore on Utah Beach but faced savage fighting as it moved inland.

*Destination Normandy*  
Bloomsbury Publishing  
A history of the 501st Parachute Regiment part of the 101st Airborne Division.

*Rock Force* CreateSpace  
From the #1 New York Times bestselling coauthor of *No Easy Day* comes a thrilling World War II story of the American airborne soldiers who captured a Japanese-held island fortress “Rock Force is a beautifully told story of war: the friendships, the courage and despair, and the terror... One of the most exciting books ever written about the Pacific War.”—Mitch Weiss, New York Times bestselling coauthor of *Countdown 1945*  
In late December 1941, General Douglas MacArthur, caught off

guard by the Japanese invasion of the Philippines, is forced to retreat to Corregidor, a jagged, rocky island fortress at the mouth of Manila Bay. Months later, under orders from the president, the general is whisked away in the dark of night, leaving his troops to their fate. It is a bitter pill for a fiercely proud warrior who has always protected his men. He famously declares “I shall return,” but the humiliation of Corregidor haunts him, even earning him the derisive nickname “Dugout Doug.” In early 1945, MacArthur returns to the Philippines, his eyes firmly fixed on Corregidor. To take back the island, he calls on the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, a highly trained veteran airborne unit. Their mission is to jump onto the island—hemmed in by sheer cliffs, pockmarked by bomb craters, bristling with deadly spiky broken tree trunks—and wrest it from some 6,700 Japanese defenders who await, fully armed and ready to fight to the death. Drawn from firsthand accounts and personal interviews with the battle’s surviving veterans, acclaimed war correspondent and bestselling author Kevin

Maurer delves into this extraordinary tale, uncovering astonishing accounts of bravery and heroism during an epic, yet largely forgotten, clash of the Pacific War. Here is an intimate story of uncommon soldiers showing uncommon courage and winning, through blood and sacrifice, the redemption of General MacArthur. [Tonight We Die As Men](#)  
*Pen and Sword*  
A portrait of the American recon platoon of the 101st Airborne Division describes their sixty-day fight for survival during the 1968 Tet Offensive, tracing their postwar difficulties with acclimating into a peacetime America that did not want to hear their story.

**501st Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division** Pickle Partners Publishing  
*THE GUNS ARE SILENT NOW*. Nature is slowly healing the brutal scars that marred Normandy, Holland, and Bastogne. The men who struggled in many of the greatest battles in human history are dwindling in number. One day perhaps all traces of the epic tragedy of World War II will be gone. And that is why this personal account by

Donald Deam, who fought in all three battles, is so precious. As he wrote shortly before his death: "This is the story of a one hundred and twelve pound nineteen year old who became a First Sergeant in the 501st Infantry Regiment, part of the 101st Airborne Division. Many years have now passed. My memory often fades and then resurfaces in vivid fashion. I still relive many episodes of the war. I miss the comradeship that existed, something I have never experienced in peacetime. I don't recall many of their faces. Now these memories often bring back a few smiles, but also bring many tears. Too many of these men did not come back." All proceeds from this book will be donated to the 101st Airborne Division in honor of First Sgt. Donald L. Deam.

### **D-Day +60 Years**

CreateSpace

Three of the Last WWII Screaming Eagles describes the personal stories of three U.S. paratroopers of the renowned 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagles. The book depicts their exploits and acts of valor during the harsh battles across the European continent in an

in-depth and fascinating way. Proceeds benefiting US veterans and their families.

### **The Story of the First Eight Days**

Vincent J. Speranza

[This edition benefits from numerous maps of the battlefields that the actions were fought over]

"NUTS!" - Among the many military legends that abound from the fighting of the Second World War, the one word reply to a German summons to surrender must rank highly in terms of its resonance, importance and sheer grit. General McAuliffe decided that despite the odds and the lack of supplies and ammunition his troops would continue to hold the important communication hub of Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. This dramatic, yet authoritative account brings all of the action to the fore as the Battered Bastards of Bastogne wrote their names into legend. "THIS STORY OF BASTOGNE was written from interviews with nearly all the commanders and staff officers and many of the men who participated in the defense of Bastogne during the first phase of that now celebrated

operation—the days during which the American forces were surrounded by forces of the enemy... Thus it is essentially the account of how a single strong defensive force was built from separate commands of armor, airborne infantry and tank destroyers—a force convinced that it could not be beaten."- Introduction.

### US World War II Parachute Infantry Regiments

AuthorHouse

"Intense . . . anyone familiar with the Band of Brothers story will want to read this book" (Military Review). Easy Company of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division has become one of the most famous small units in US history. But fewer people are aware of Fox Company of that same regiment—the men who fought alongside Easy Company through every step of the war in Europe, and who had their own stories to tell. WWII vet Bill Brown decided to research the fate of a childhood friend who had served in Fox Company. Along the way, he met Terry Poyser, who was on a similar mission to research the combat death of a Fox Company man from his hometown.



Together, the two authors proceeded to locate and interview every surviving Fox Company vet they could find. The ultimate result was this book, a decade in the making, offering a wealth of fascinating firsthand accounts of WWII combat as well as new perspectives on Dick Winters and others of the "Band." Told primarily through the words of participants, Fighting Fox Company takes us through some of the most horrific close-in fighting of the war, beginning with the chaotic nocturnal paratrooper drop on D-Day. After fighting through Normandy, the drop into Holland saw prolonged, ferocious combat and even more casualties; and then during the Battle of the Bulge, Fox Company took its place in line at Bastogne during one of the most heroic against-all-odds stands in US history. As always in combat, each man's experience is different, and the nature of the German enemy is seen here in its equally various aspects. From ruthless SS fighters to meek Volkssturm to simply expert modern fighters, the Screaming Eagles encountered the full

gamut of the Wehrmacht. The work is also accompanied by rare photos and useful appendices, including rosters and lists of casualties, to give the full look at Fox Company that has long been overdue. [General Toothpick... WW II Memiors of 1st Sgt Donald L. Deam](#) Pickle Partners Publishing First published in 1958, this book tells the spellbinding story of "one of the remarkable priests of God who leaped behind enemy lines and into the midst of combat with no weapon other than the sword of the spirit, no protection other than the shield of faith. "Here is the story of the airborne troopers told by the one who knew them best and with insights only a priest could possess. "It is sometimes humorous, sometimes tragic, often heroic, but always honest and inspiring as seen through the understanding and sympathetic eyes of the paratrooper padre." (Lt.-Gen. Thomas F. Hickey) Richly illustrated throughout with photos. **Medical Company, 501st Airborne Infantry Regiment** Turner Publishing Company On 22 December 1944, during the Battle of the

Bulge, with the Germans surrounding the Belgian town of Bastogne, a German messenger brought a message from his commander to Brigadier General Anthony McAuliffe, acting commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division, demanding his surrender. McAuliffe's response was simply, "Nuts!"Manning a foxhole on the perimeter around Bastogne was nineteen-year-old Army private Vince Speranza, a machine gunner with the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment. This is Vince's story of the Battle of the Bulge and his life before and after the battle.Vince shares his memories from early childhood through his service in World War II and his life up until now as he stands on the verge of turning 90--a story you will long remember. Vince will be in Bastogne, at his original foxhole, on the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, drinking Airborne Beer, which his actions many years ago inspired. **Infantry: Regular Army** Pickle Partners Publishing Includes 6 maps As the tens of thousands of American troops began their approach toward the forbidding German-defended Normandy

coast, their comrades in the 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions had already flown over the Channel and began dropping and gliding into enemy territory. The Airborne Divisions had a role critical to the success of the entire Normandy Landings; beyond the initial beach landing areas were miles of flooded defended ditches and waterways. If the German troops managed to defend these bottlenecks the Americans on Utah Beach, at the extreme right of the operation, would be unable to move forward and might have foundered on the beach... "According to plan, the D Day objectives of the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment were well concentrated. After dropping into Normandy a little to the north and east of the city of Carentan, the regiment was to press south and westward and establish the defensive position in this direction. In detail, it was to secure the line of the lower Douve River, first by seizing the strategic lock on the Canal De Vire Et Taute at Le Barquette and then by blowing the river

bridges... "From the beginning, American attention was directed at the Le Barquette lock. This unique objective and its possible military application appears to have fascinated the imaginations not only of those who planned Operation Neptune but of the commanders who were to execute it. To get to the lock first and to make certain that the enemy would have no use of it became an overriding consideration with the planning and tactical forces. American apprehensions as to what might happen if the Germans gained control of the lock superinduced one of the boldest strokes of the Normandy campaign, a stroke boldly made and tactically productive. Yet whether the emphasis placed on the position by the Allied planners was justifiable was never confirmed by the attitude of the enemy."

*U.S. Army Airborne Coloring Book* Stackpole Books

[Includes 53 photos/illustrations and 11 maps] The defense of Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge in

World War II is one of the supreme achievements of American arms. Bastogne is deservedly identified with the finest characteristics of the American soldier, and the name Bastogne symbolizes a heroic battle. Bastogne has long held the attention of students of war, yet the battle offers new insights for soldiers with modern concerns. Colonel Ralph M. Mitchell's study, *The 101st Airborne Division's Defense of Bastogne*, reveals how a light infantry division, complemented by key attachments, stopped an armor-heavy German corps. Using original documents and reports, Colonel Mitchell traces the fight at Bastogne with emphasis on the organization, movement and, employment of the 101st Airborne Division. Although a variety of factors influenced the outcome at Bastogne, the flexibility of the 101st to reconfigure for sustained operations and to defeat strong opposition forces even when surrounded shows how properly augmented light infantry can fight and win.