

# "The Greatest of the Greatest Generation"

## Chapter VI Augmented Memoirs of Hq1 Men

The memoirs presented herein reflect the 60-year-old recollections of the veterans of Hq1 or their survivors and comrades. Many of these memoirs have been augmented with information from comrades, personal records, and information obtained from the 508<sup>th</sup> PIR records available in the National Archives at College Park, Maryland.

Much of the information contributed by the Hq1 widows and relatives was derived from their understanding of the veteran's stories, or of the information conveyed to them by his comrades, and in a few instances from their personal records.

A few of these recollections may contain what might appear to be exaggerations. These incidents, events or tales could be the products of 80-year-old minds. We have not contested them, and we hope you will not.

Many of the available Hq1 men eagerly contributed their memoirs for the album. However, some of the Hq1 men or their survivors prompted by privacy or modesty did not contribute information for the album.

A few survivors said that loved ones had seldom or ever talked about their wartime experience - priceless information has been lost forever.

Unfortunately, some Hq1 men or their survivors could not be located.

Nevertheless, we believe that we have assembled enough Information to provide a reasonably comprehensive profile of the type men that served as paratroopers in Hq1 during WW II.

The character of Hq1 changed several times during the short life of the company from 1942 to 1946. In early 1943, the company lost several good men when they were selected to cadre airborne units being activated. However, the saddest and largest Hq1 losses were combat losses - men killed or seriously disabled had to be replaced, and when the replacements became casualties, they had to be replaced. Accordingly, 5 groups of outstanding officers and men served in Hq1 as replacements for:

- ?? Cadre losses at Camp Mackall, NC
- ?? Casualties of the Normandy campaign
- ?? Casualties of the Holland campaign
- ?? Casualties of the Ardennes campaign
- ?? Replacements in 1945-1946 for the massive exodus of men returning to the United States for separation

Each successive group of replacements brought new skills, experience and dedication to Hq1. These attributes further enhanced Hq1's capabilities and reputation for excellence.

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Hq1 veterans are authorized a variety of United States and Foreign Government awards and decorations. These awards and decorations were associated with specific campaigns.

To minimize redundancy, not all of the defense medals awarded to Hq1 men are included in their memoirs' (i.e., WW II American Defense, American Campaign, Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, etc.).

Throughout the memoirs, the reader will encounter repetition – we beg your indulgence. This anomaly is inadvertent.

Almost without exception, these men have similar recollections and tales to tell; they traveled the same route, participated in identical actions, experienced the same fears and loneliness, and they earned similar awards.

Albeit, the Hq1 men's recollections of events or actions may vary according to differing perspectives, sufficient common descriptors are usually available to substantiate their credibility.

Please understand that each Hq1 member considers his story unique and important, and expects that it will be appreciated accordingly.

Albeit unintentional, all errors or omissions in the album or memoirs are the responsibility of the collator. He too has an 80+ year old mind! Now Meet the Men of Hq1.

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[Note – all memoirs for the men listed below are accessible through links on the web site]

- ?? Kenneth J. (Rock) Merritt – Private to Technical Sergeant
- ?? Lawrence (Larry) G. Fitzpatrick – Private to Staff Sergeant
- ?? Warren R. Brown - Private to Tech Sergeant
- ?? Clifton A. Lowder - Private to Staff Sergeant
- ?? Raymond J. (Ray) Hummel - Private to First Sergeant
- ?? Lawrence (Larry) E. Palmer - Private to Staff Sergeant
- ?? William B. Goudy - Private to Sergeant
- ?? James J. (Mac) McMahon – Private to Sergeant
- ?? David M. Jones - Private to Sergeant (Oops!) to Private
- ?? Arnold C. Foster - Private to Staff Sergeant
- ?? John D. Boone – Private to Staff Sergeant
- ?? Otis Eugene (Gene) Hull– Private to Private First Class
- ?? William (Bill) Frickel - Private to Staff Sergeant
- ?? Ralph V. Booth – Private to Sergeant
- ?? Oscar Fred Prasse - Private to Private First Class
- ?? Martin J, (Marty) Teahan – Private
- ?? Van R. Walker - Private to Private First Class
- ?? Raymond (Ray) Kennedy – Private

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- ?? Owen B. (O.B.) Hill – Private to Sergeant (Oops!) to Private
- ?? Charles D. Turley – Private First Class
- ?? James T. (Jim) Wynne – Private to Sergeant
- ?? Thomas (Tom) J. Broderick – Private
- ?? Joe Bressler- Private to Private First Class
- ?? Grady C. Murray, Private to Private First Class
- ?? Vernon A. (Vern) Tharaldson– Private to Staff Sergeant
- ?? Garfield R. Wilkinson – Private to Staff Sergeant
- ?? Michael (Mike) Wargo – Private to Private First Class
- ?? Robert (Bob) D. Shields - Private to Staff Sergeant to Second Lieutenant
- ?? Kenneth R. Cuddeback - Private to Private First Class
- ?? Keith H. Christen – Private to Technician Fifth Grade
- ?? Allyn D. Johnson – Private First Class to Technical Sergeant
- ?? Augustus (Gus) D. Labate – Private First Class
- ?? Steve Tetak – Private First Class
- ?? Arthur B. (Jake) Jacoby - Private to Private First Class

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## This Album is Not For Sale

**T**his excerpt from the "We Served Proudly, The Men of Hq1" album contains the recollections of men who in their youth risked their lives in furtherance of our national interests. These memoirs are sacred to them - especially those events alluding to activities in which comrades lost their lives on the battlefields of Europe.

This album was prepared for perpetual residence in the archives of the Camp Blanding Museum complex, operated by the Camp Blanding Museum and Historical Associates, Inc. Starke, Florida. We are grateful for the support and assistance of the Camp Blanding Museum and Historical Associates, and for their kindness in having the museum make our album available to historians, students, researchers and others interested in our background and brief history.

No reproduction or distribution restrictions are imposed or implied for the album or pages thereof – providing such actions are not undertaken for profit.

Copies of the album have been presented to the Hq1 veterans or their survivors that contributed information for the effort. To facilitate reproducing copies of individual memoirs for relatives or friends, the memoirs have been developed as separate entities.

**October 19, 2004**

**~~George L. Stock~~**

**Hq1 Album Collator**