

Chicago Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association Newsletter

April 2020



Chicago Chapter Officers:

- Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary: Mark Mueller
- Vice Chairman, Sergeant at Arms, Historian: Glenn T. Granat
- Service Officers: Mark Mueller and Glenn T. Granat

Upcoming Events:

- **5 April 2020:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting at the Ram Restaurant in Rosemont IL, 14:00-16:00. Moved up one week to avoid a conflict with the Easter Holiday.
- **25 April 2020:** Chapter 37 Special Forces Association annual Military Ball at the Fountain Blue in Des Plaines, IL. 17:30-close.
- **3 May 2020:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting at the Prairie Bluff Country Club in Lockport, IL. Moved back one week to avoid a conflict with Mother's Day.
- **18-21 May 2020:** All American Week at Ft. Bragg N.C.
- **22 May 2020:** Chicago Veteran's 20 Mile Ruck March; Glencoe to Lincoln Park. See Chicago Chapter Vice Chairman Glenn T. Granat for additional information. glenngranat@yahoo.com.
- **25 May 2020:** Naperville Memorial Day Parade.
- **13 June 2020:** Second annual Airborne Fishing day at Tampier Lake in Orland Park, IL, hosted by Chicago Chapter Vice-Chairman Glenn T. Granat. 08:00-14:00. See Chicago Chapter Vice Chairman Glenn T. Granat for additional information. glenngranat@yahoo.com.
- **14 June 2020:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting at the Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery in Warrenville, IL. 14:00-16:00.
- Please check the Chapter Web Site at www.chicagoairborne.com for the complete calendar of events and meetings.

In addition to Chapter and Association updates, there is a monthly history report, static display of very cool Airborne item and quarterly Airborne trivia event. There is also plenty of social time to meet and connect with other Airborne Troopers!

Important AIRBORNE days in April

- April 2, 1967: Operation Phouc Long South Vietnam.



- April 15, 1943: 17th Airborne Division formed.
- April 30, 1965: 82nd Airborne Deploys to the Dominican Republic, Operation Power Pack.
- April 1975: Vietnam War Ends.

April, 2020 History Report: Helmets!

The Brodie Helmet was the first metal helmet used by the US Military and it was introduced during WW1. It offered some protection with no real face and side-skull coverage, it left troops wide open to facial and cranial injury, and lasting disfigurement from shell fragmentation was an enormous problem in World War I. The Brodie Helmet also had other inherent dangers. The chinstrap, which once tightened down, was hard to release, so if a Doughboy's helmet got trapped or lodged between objects the situation could prove fatal, as the soldier would have a difficult time getting the helmet off and would therefore be trapped and immobile on the field of battle.

The M1 helmet was adopted in 1941 to replace the outdated M1917A1 Brodie helmet. It has an outer metal shell called a steel pot and a liner that sits inside the shell. It was used by the United States military from World War II until 1985, when it was replaced by the PASGT helmet. The M1 helmet is an icon of the American military that became a symbol of the American military World War II, Korea War, Vietnam War and the Cold War.

During WW2, the M1 helmet shells were manufactured at the Carnegie Steel Company and the Sharon Steel Company of Pennsylvania. The liners were made by the Inland Division of General Motors, St. Clair Manufacturing, Hood Rubber Company, Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.

The shell has some novel uses: entrenching tool, hammer, washbasin, bucket, a seat, a cooking pot, and a weapon.

The M1 helmet is popular with collectors. World War II and Vietnam era helmets are becoming hard to find especially those with original or unusual markings or documented history. This is particularly true of paratroopers' helmets, which are variants known as the M1C helmet and M2 Helmets, which used special liners with multi-point retention straps to prevent undesired movement of the helmet during Airborne operations.

Helmet covers in the woodland camouflage pattern, were designed for fighting for the European Theater of Operations (NATO), the Vietnam era (jungle pattern) camouflage cover was used by the U.S. military from the late 1970s onward.

In 1985, the M1 helmet was replaced with a new technology/helmet known as PASGT (Personal Armor System Ground Troops). It was employed in limited numbers in Grenada and Haiti in the 1980s. It was in wide use by the time Operation Desert Storm was initiated in 1991.

In 2003, the PASGT was replaced by the Advanced Combat Helmet (ACH). The ACH lighter and has a narrower silhouette, better coverage of the ears, and the back of the neck. It has an sophisticated shock-absorbing liner, which better protects against traumatic brain injury, especially from improvised explosive devices. It has a front opening that can accommodate either sunglasses or goggles.



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WWII M1 Helmet & Liner Interior



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