

Chicago Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Assn. Newsletter

December 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:

- Chicago Chapter monthly membership meetings have been online during the pandemic.
- June 2021 (specific date TBD): Our 3rd annual ***Granat/Corcoran Annual Airborne Fishing Day***. We are planning a meeting at "Joe's Pond" which is located on Willow Springs Road between 95th Street and Rt. 83 in Willow Springs, IL. If anyone would like to suggest a different fishing destination, please contact Vice Chairman Glenn T. Granat: 630-209-2834 or glenngranat@yahoo.com. In addition to fishing, there will be volleyball, bags, whiffle ball, and other family fun activities. Soft drinks and snacks provided by the Chapter. This is an excellent opportunity to spend time with fellow Paratroopers and their families and share Airborne stories. Prizes for the largest and smallest fish caught.
- Please check the Chapter Web Site at www.chicagoairborne.com for the complete calendar of events and meetings.
- Remember Pearl Harbor: December 7, 1941.

<u>Important AIRBORNE days in December</u>	<u>Chapter's December Birthdays:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Dec 12, 1969: Golden Brigade redeploys to Ft Bragg from Vietnam➤ Dec 15, 1948: 325th AIR formed➤ Dec 16, 1944: Battle of the Bulge begins➤ Dec 19, 1943: 555th PIB formed➤ Dec 20, 1989: Operation Just Cause. 82nd Airborne jumps into Panama.➤ Dec 26, 1943: 513th PIR.	<p>4-Dec: Antonio Alfonso, 42, of Lindenhurst, IL 6-Dec: Peter Hammer, 43, of Chicago, IL 11-Dec: Richard Dean, 42 15-Dec: James Taylor, 59, of Markham, IL 18-Dec: David Hellrung, 47, of Highland Park, IL 20-Dec: Timothy Hodge, 64, of Effingham, IL 26-Dec: Laurie Emmer, 58, of Sycamore, IL</p>

The Battle of the Bulge

16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945



*504th Parachute Infantry Regiment
Regiment advancing during the
Battle of the Bulge*



*PFC Vernon Haught of the 325th Glider Infantry
Regiment: "I'm the 82nd Airborne and this is as
far as the Bastards are going."*

On 16 December 1944, the Germans launched a surprise offensive through the Ardennes Forest, which became known as the Battle of the Bulge.

On 20 December 1944, the 82nd Airborne Division was assigned to take Cheneux where they would force out a Waffen SS Division. On 21-22 December, the 82nd successfully faced counterattacks from three powerful Waffen SS divisions. On 23 December, the 2nd Panzer SS Division overran the 325th GIR endangering the entire 82nd Airborne division. The attack came too late and the 82nd prevailed.

On 24 December 1944, the 82nd with a strength of 8,520 men was facing a superior force of 43,000 men and over 1,200 armored fighting and artillery vehicles. The 2nd SS Panzer Division engaged the 82nd until 28 December when it was ordered to move south to meet General Patton's forces attacking in the area of Bastogne. The 9th SS Panzer tried to breakthrough by attacking the 508 and 504 PIR positions, but failed marking the end of the German offensive in the northern portion of the Bulge.

On 3 January 1945, the 82nd Airborne Division conducted a counterattack where it overran the 62nd Volksgrenadiers and the 9th SS Panzer's positions capturing 2,400 prisoners. The 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion was all but destroyed during these attacks. Of the 826 men that went into the Ardennes, only 110 came out. The few soldiers that remained were later absorbed into units of the 82nd Airborne.

