

Chicago Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association

December 2018 Newsletter



Chicago Chapter 2018 Officers:

- Chairman and Treasurer: Larry Slavicek
- Vice Chairman, Sergeant at Arms and Historian: Glenn T. Granat
- Secretary: Mark Mueller
- Service Officer: Cal Roesner

Upcoming Events:

- **9 December 2018:** Chicago Chapter 2018 Holiday Party and 2019 Officer Installation. 14:00-16:00 at the Ram Restaurant in Rosemont, IL.
- **13 January 2019:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting at the Ram Restaurant and Brewery in Rosemont, IL, 14:00-16:00. Meet in the private room.
- **10 February 2019:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting at the Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery in Warrenville, IL, 14:00-16:00. Meet in the loft.
- **Outings and Events:** 2019 outings are being planned. Please share your ideas and suggestions with us. Currently, Vice Chairman Granat is planning some fishing outings for the spring and summer of 2019.
- 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 and static display of very cool Airborne item. There is also social time to meet and connect with other Airborne Troopers!

2019 Airborne Calendars:

Our completely unique and professional-produced 2019 Airborne wall calendars are available for sale! Visit our website at www.chicagoairborne.com to order yours today!

The Battle of the Bulge

16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945



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



PFC Martin 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.

Monthly Trooper Profile

Colin Gray



I was born in Aberdeen, Scotland. We moved to Toronto, Ontario, Canada at age 1 1/2 and immigrated to the U.S. in 1959. I joined the U.S. Army about seven months after graduating from Willowbrook High School. I reported to the Chicago recruiting office, hopped a bus to Fort Campbell, KY, and started Basic Training on 20 Feb 1967. Most of our drill instructors were returning Vietnam vets from the 101st Airborne. In true "Airborne" tradition, we ran everywhere!

AIT was next at Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN, and then on to Leadership Prep at Fort Knox, KY. I was assigned to the 82nd Airborne, Co. A, 82nd Spt Bn at Fort Bragg. My orders to Fort Benning jump school were rescinded when on Valentine's Day (14 Feb 1969) we were loaded on C-141's at Pope AFB and headed in a Westerly direction arriving in Vietnam. I spent one year, seven months, and 10 Days with the Golden Brigade in Vietnam.

Upon returning, and with the help of Congressman John Erlenborn, I was honored to have my paperwork ready to become a US citizen.

An early out and the GI Bill allowed me to attend college, majoring in Accounting and Criminal Justice. I joined the Lombard Police Department in 1972 and lasted until seven knee surgeries forced my retirement. I then went back to school and earned a Masters in Elementary Education. I taught 3rd and 4th grade over the next 22 years and subbed K-8 after "retirement".

I have enjoyed meeting and working with the 82nd Airborne Association Chicago Chapter even though they have threatened to help this "leg" jump out of a plane.