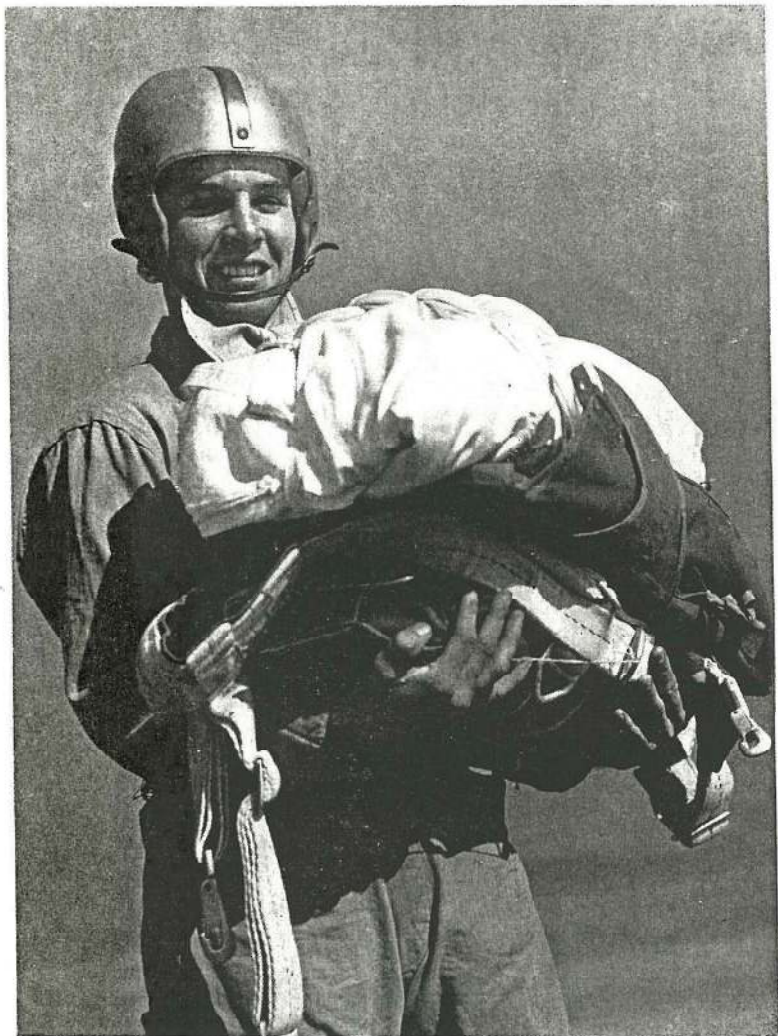




503RD PARACHUTE BATTALION



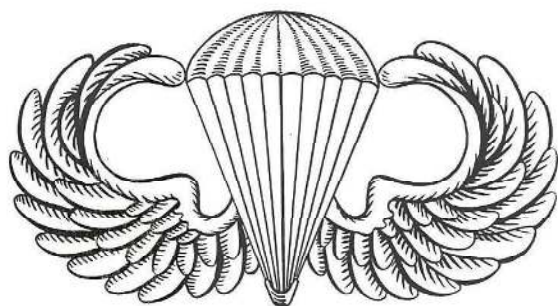


121

121

121

A HISTORICAL *and* PICTORIAL REVIEW
of the
PARACHUTE BATTALIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY



FORT BENNING, GEORGIA
1942

HEADQUARTERS
PROVISIONAL PARACHUTE GROUP
Fort Benning, Georgia

February 28, 1942

TO: The Officers and Enlisted Men
Provisional Parachute Group

We are now at war. Today we are faced with the task of building up a well trained parachute force which, when called upon for the inevitable test of its ability as a fighting unit in combat with the enemy, will efficiently and relentlessly carry out its mission to its complete success.

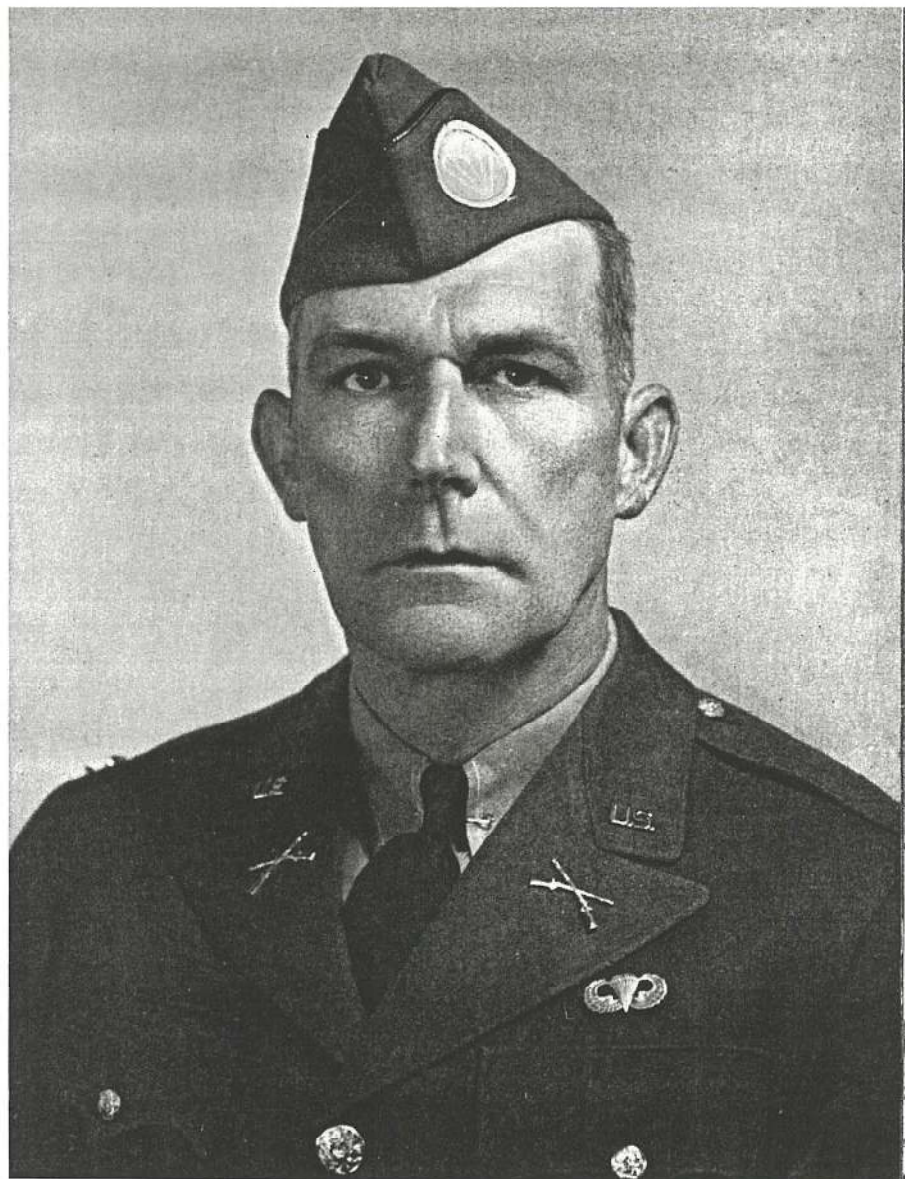
To this end we must devote all our time and energy. This will demand of each officer and enlisted man now members of the Parachute Group, and those to come to us in the future, hard work, long hours, initiative, and attention to duty never before required. The dividends will be paid on the battlefield.

I know, and you know, that we have the courage. Loyalty, character, high morale, spirit of comradeship, enthusiasm, and the will to win has always been evident in this, the finest command in the United States Army. However, that is not quite enough to win. When the crucial moment comes and the commands "Hook Up" and "Stand to Door" are given, let us be completely trained for the task to be performed. Victory then will be inevitable.

W.C. Lee
W. C. LEE,
Colonel, Prov Pchut Group,
Commanding.

WILLIAM C. LEE

COLONEL
U. S. ARMY
COMMANDING



Colonel William C. Lee, Commanding Officer of the Provisional Parachute Group at Fort Benning, Georgia, was born in Dunn, North Carolina, March 12, 1895.

He attended Wake Forest College and North Carolina State University, where he won letters in football and baseball.

Colonel Lee first entered the service on August 15, 1917, when he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Reserve, of Infantry. In 1920 he received a Regular Army commission.

He saw active duty in France during World War I, as platoon and company commander. After the war, he remained in Germany through part of 1919 with the American Army of Occupation.

In 1922, he graduated from the Company Officer's Course at The Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, following which, he served in Panama for three years. In 1930 he graduated from the Tank School and, three years later, from the Infantry School Advanced Course.

In 1933, Colonel Lee was sent to France and England as a military observer. While in France, he attended and graduated from the French Tank School. He returned to the United States in 1935.

For four years, he was an instructor in the United States Army Tank School, and The Infantry School, at the end of which period he was ordered to the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, graduating in 1938.

After receiving his diploma from the Command and General Staff School, Colonel Lee was Executive Officer of the Second Infantry Brigade, First Division, and then was ordered to duty in the Office of the Chief of Infantry in Washington, D. C.

On October 1, 1940, Lieutenant Colonel W. M. Miley was picked to take command of the 501st Parachute Battalion, which was activated on that date. Colonel Lee remained in Washington, from where he directed and facilitated the organization and equipping of the battalion.

Colonel Lee was assigned to the command of the Provisional Parachute Group on March 31, 1941.

HEADQUARTERS PROVISIONAL



PARACHUT GROUP



WILLIAM M. MILEY
Lieutenant Colonel
Acting Commanding Officer



GEORGE P. HOWELL
Lieutenant Colonel
Executive



THEODORE L. DUNN
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer
Recruiting Detachment



ROY E. LINDQUIST
Captain
S-1



WILLIAM P. YARBOROUGH
Captain
S-2



JAMES M. GAYIN
Major
S-2



GEORGE V. MILLET, JR.
Major
S-4



HENRY S. BEELER
Captain
Engineer Officer



WILLIAM E. EKMAN
Captain
Assistant Adjutant



JULIAN J. EWELL
First Lieutenant
Assistant S-3

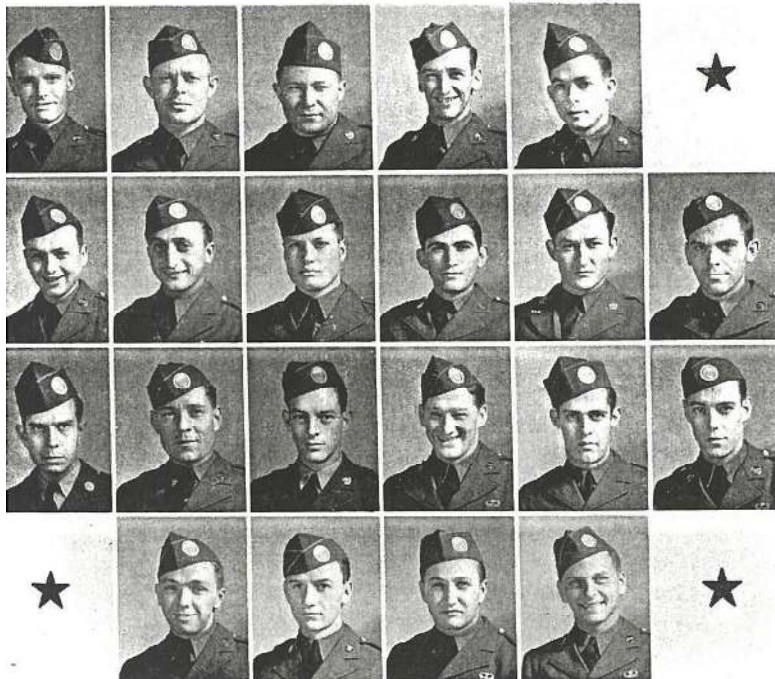


BELA A. HARCOS
First Lieutenant
Air Officer



DAVID E. THOMAS
Captain
Group Surgeon

HEADQUARTERS *and* HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT



(Reading from Left to Right)

First Row: Master Sergeant Lewis, S. A.; Technical Sergeant Haynes, A. L.; Staff Sergeant Davis, J. H.; Corporal Allgeier, M. J.; Private First Class Bevan, W. E.

Second Row: Privates First Class Deletiner, S. M.; Ferenconitz, J.; Har-ley, Clinton J.; McCullar, N. H.; Smith, G. B.; Stein, R. F.

Third Row: Privates Cox, R. Z.; VanGelder, R.; Garner, R. L.; Gordon, P. H.; Hanna, R. F.; Hartsough, J. E.

Fourth Row: Privates Johnson, D. A.; Shutak, J. M.; Soronen, E. W.; Tibbetts, J. D.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF

PARACHUTING

AS A PART OF MODERN WARFARE

If Sebastian Lenormand, who, in 1783, successfully demonstrated the practicability of the parachute by descending safely from the tower of Montpelier Observatory, could be alive today he would be amazed to see his device being utilized by the United States Army as an instrument for increasing the striking power of the infantry.

Lenormand was not the first to visualize the parachute, but his jump was the first one upon which there is authentic data as to its success. As far back as 875 an Andalusian by the name of Casim performed jumps from a hill and in 1060 the monk Olivier is credited with making a successful jump from a monastery tower. Among the writings of Roger Bacon in the 13th century is the observation that, "a concave surface has the best air resistance qualities," indicating that Bacon had given the matter some thought, and in the 15th century the sketches of Leonardo Da Vinci show a parachute, but there is no record that the da Vinci device was ever given a practical test. Again in 1617 an Italian, one Vernachio, is credited with inventing a 'chute, but again there is no authentic information as to its success.

It is a far cry from the first descent in a parachute from a balloon, made by Jacques Garnerin in Paris on

October 22, 1797, to the mass jumps now being made almost every day as a part of training by men of the Parachute Troops, but the development has been a logical one in the light of the modern theories of warfare that place great emphasis upon mobility, surprise and individual initiative.

It soon became apparent to aeronauts that the old type of balloon parachute, seen so often at county fairs, was of little value for use in heavier than air machines, and it remained for an American, Captain Berry of the United States Army, to demonstrate the practicability of the parachute when used from a modern plane. In 1912 Berry made the first such jump at St. Louis. He used a medium sized parachute, folded and stuffed in a cylinder tied under the front skid of the plane.

During the last month of World War I many German aviators used the parachute successfully, but after the war little was done to complete their use until about 1921. At this time American and British aviators began working on a parachute that could be carried conveniently by the pilot.

In 1918 the United States Army Air Service experimented with a "seat pack" parachute and in 1919 the type was generally recognized as standard and extremely efficient. More than 1,500 experimental jumps were made in achieving perfection, and it can truthfully be said that the United States Army was the pioneer in perfecting this safety device.

The seat pack parachute is a standard part of every Air Corps pilot's equipment, and is still used as a safety device. The seat pack chute is either 22, 24 or 28 feet in diameter, the 24-foot type being standard. The suspension lines are made of high-grade thrown silk and consist of not less than 32 threads of three ply each with a breaking strength of not less than 400 pounds.

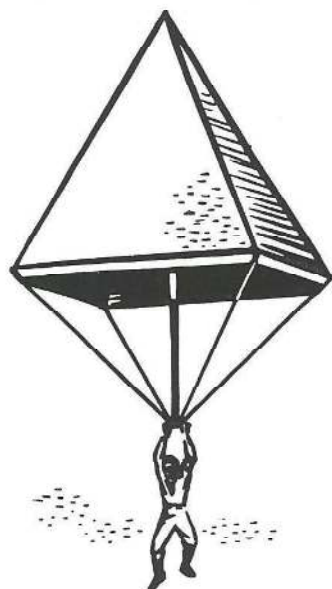
The main chute is pulled from the pack by a smaller "pilot" chute, about three feet in diameter, which operates by spring when the pilot pulls the "rip-cord" which holds the pack closed.

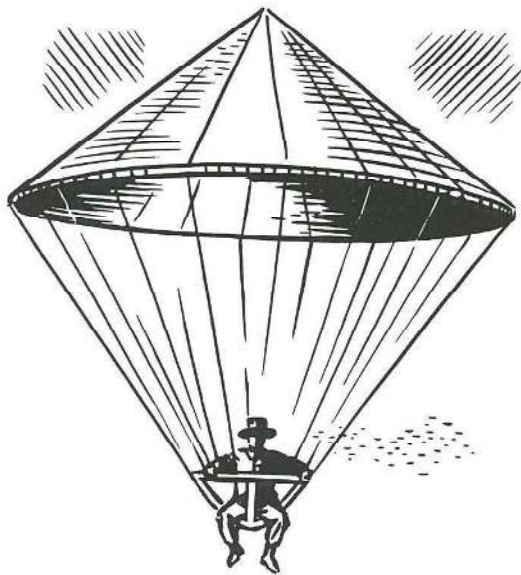
When opened the parachute descends at the rate of 16 to 24 feet per second depending upon the weight of the wearer and the density of the air.

Nearly all early jumps with parachutes were made by the "lift off" method, whereby the wearer got out on one of the wings of the plane where there were no obstructions, pulled the rip cord and allowed the chute to pull him from the plane. This method was greatly favored by early jumpers as it eliminated the danger of the chute failing to open.

However, the lift-off method was virtually discarded as

Leonardo da Vinci's Parachute, 15th Century.





Lenormand's Parachute, 1783.

more was learned of the construction and packing of parachutes. The "free fall" method has many advantages. In making a free fall the pilot merely leaps from the plane at any point free of obstructions, and, after falling clear of the plane, pulls the rip cord and allows the chute to open.

THE PARACHUTE IN OFFENSIVE WARFARE

All these early experiments with the parachute were premised upon the use of the device as a safety measure, which it still is to a considerable degree. However, it soon became apparent to many military strategists that the parachute offered an excellent means of penetrating enemy positions and striking from the rear by merely jumping over the fixed fortification lines.

Early experiments of this nature were carried on by nearly all of the larger armies of the world, with the efforts of the Russian Army receiving the most publicity. These experiments envisioned the parachutist in the role of a spy and saboteur, principally because the early transport planes were not large enough to carry any considerable number of troops.

The first military parachutists used the free fall method, and the Japanese and Russian parachutists still use this method. The German, American and some other military parachutists, however, use a combination of the lift-off and free-fall method whereby the chute of the jumper is opened by a cord which pulls the chute pack apart a second or so after he leaps from the plane. This method allows the chute to open immediately and makes possible jumps from very low altitudes. Low-altitude jumping gives the parachutist a better chance to land unobserved by the enemy and also prevents him from being a target

any longer than absolutely necessary. Today parachutists reach the ground in eleven seconds from heights as low as 350 feet.

The Germans gave the most spectacular demonstration of the use of parachute troops in their campaigns in Holland, Belgium and Northern France in 1940. The Germans enlarged upon the earlier concept of the parachutist as a spy and saboteur and made of him a combat team capable of concentrated and highly efficient combat action.

A system of colored chutes enabled the groups to be dropped together with all the necessary equipment for infantry action. Each man was heavily armed as an individual, and machine guns, tommy guns, food, radio transmitters and other equipment was dropped along with the attacking troops. They were dropped, not by isolated groups, but in great masses from fleets of transports protected by fighter craft. The success of such tactics is evident when it is recalled that the reduction of the great Belgium fortress of Eben Emael is supposed to have been accomplished in this manner.

The success of parachute troops acting in cooperation with air-bourne infantry was again demonstrated by the German campaign in Crete in which the capture of the island was effected almost entirely by the use of such methods.

The parachute troops, working in combat teams, were dropped near airdromes and other strategic places and cleared out areas in which troop transports could land and unload all their men and heavier equipment.

Guernain's Parachute, 1795.



The United States Army had been continuing its own experiments with parachute troops during this period and from an experimental platoon of six officers and 47 men has developed many battalions with more being added very rapidly.

Without copying any of the practices of other nations the United States Army has developed its own techniques of parachute troop operations which naturally cannot be revealed here. It is the consensus of American military opinion, however, that United States troops of this nature are as well trained as any in the world. The basis for this opinion lies in the methods of training employed in readying American 'chutists for the field.

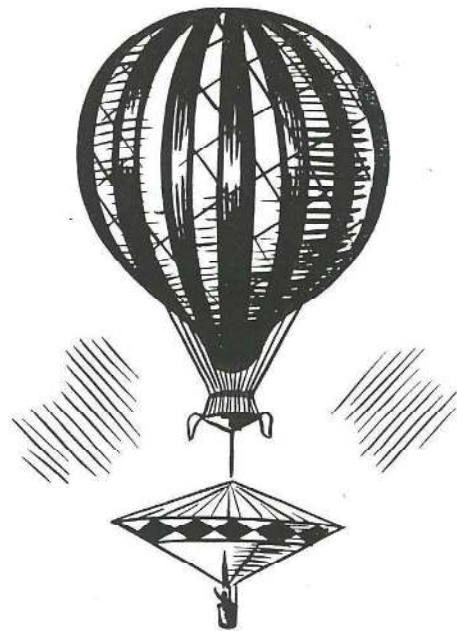
The American parachutist goes through a five- to six-weeks course which is divided into four phases, taught concurrently. They are: 1. Parachute Packing. 2. Jump Training. 3. Tower Training, and 4. Qualification Jumping.

In the Parachute Packing phase of the trainee's work he is required to learn how to pack and inspect his own parachute; how to fold the chute so that it will open evenly and surely; and how to adjust the parachute so that a snug fit is obtained so that the opening shock will not cause injury. Qualified rigger instructors give him daily instruction and at the end of the course he is given both a written and a practical examination.

In the Jump Training phase of his training career the student parachutist is physically conditioned for jumping. He is taught the mechanics of parachute manipulation and landing by means of various apparatus. He is given a half hour of "double time" daily. He is taught how to tumble so as to absorb the landing shock, and jumps from a seven-foot platform to develop his ankle and leg muscles. He is taught balance and climbing by the use of the Trainaisium. The Trainaisium is a device invented by Dr. George Stafford, director of physical education of the University of Illinois, and is the result of reports collated by the American Military Intelligence of training methods employed by various warring powers. The device is believed to reduce appreciably the time needed to train troops by solving the problem of rapid conditioning.

The Stafford Trainaisium is the only one of its kind in the Army and cost \$4,000. It is a metal structure thirty feet high and nearly fifty feet square and is a maze of catwalks, ladders built at all angles, horizontal bars and gymnasium ropes, all of which are designed to strengthen and develop the muscles most apt to be used in full scale jumping. In all, the men execute 20 separate movements and 140 trainees can be in operation at one time.

The Tower Training part of the student parachutist's life probably gives him his first big thrill as a parachutist as here he gets his first sensation of jumping as from a plane. The tower training consists of two parts: jumps from the controlled tower and from the free tower. The beginner is first taken up on the controlled tower in a seat, exactly like those seen at the World's Fair, and is allowed to "ride" until he gets used to the sensation of descent. He is then placed in a harness and makes de-



Cocking's inverted cone parachute, 1834.

scent after descent until his instructors are satisfied that he has mastered the techniques of landing. He is then hauled up 150 feet in a plain harness attached to a bar. At a command he pulls the rip cord and falls straight down for 20 feet until the harness stops the fall and straightens him up. This will accustom him to the sensation of the free fall. Upon satisfying his instructors as to this phase of his Tower Training he is permitted to go to the free tower. The free tower is so called because the parachutes released from it are not controlled by guide wires but are free to drift with the wind, so the student actually descends 250 feet in a free parachute. After he has satisfied his instructors that he has mastered this phase of his training, he is ready for the final stage, the qualifying jumps.

In qualifying the student makes five jumps from a plane in flight and participates in at least two mass jumps of twelve men each. During these jumps the student is graded both in the plane and from the ground, and if both ratings are satisfactory he is rated as a qualified parachutist. At no time is any attempt made to push, cajole or talk a student out of a plane, and if the student feels that he is incapable of making the jump he is allowed to transfer to some other branch of the service.

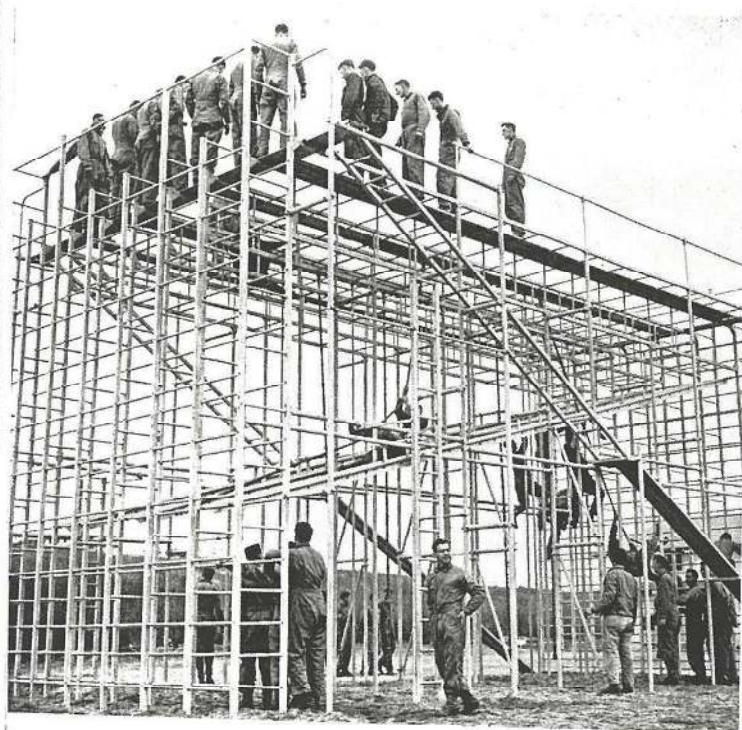
The role of the parachutist in the war is expected to grow in importance with the passage of time. The possibilities of troops of this nature have by no means been exhausted, and it is the confident opinion of the officers and men of the Parachute Troops that they will be able to contribute notably to their country's defense.

action!

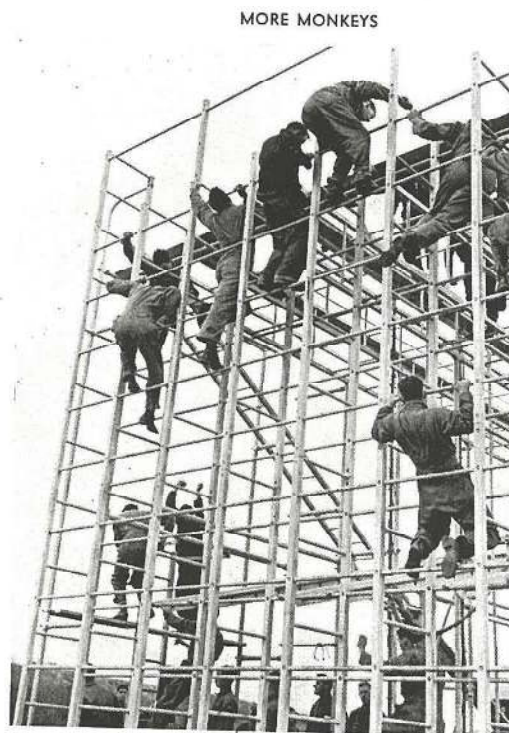




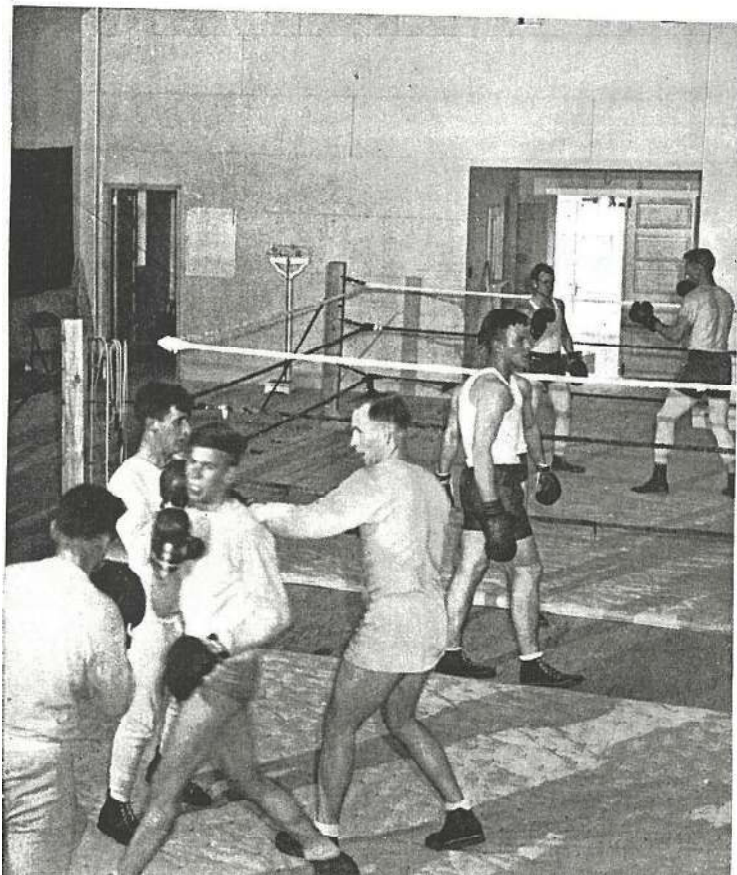
GETTING TOUGH



SWARMING THROUGH THE MONKEY CAGE



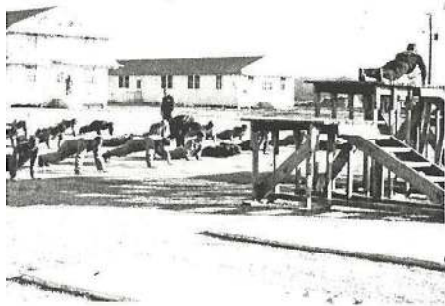
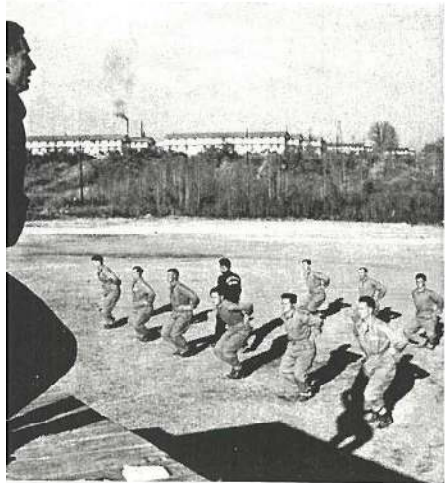
MORE MONKEYS



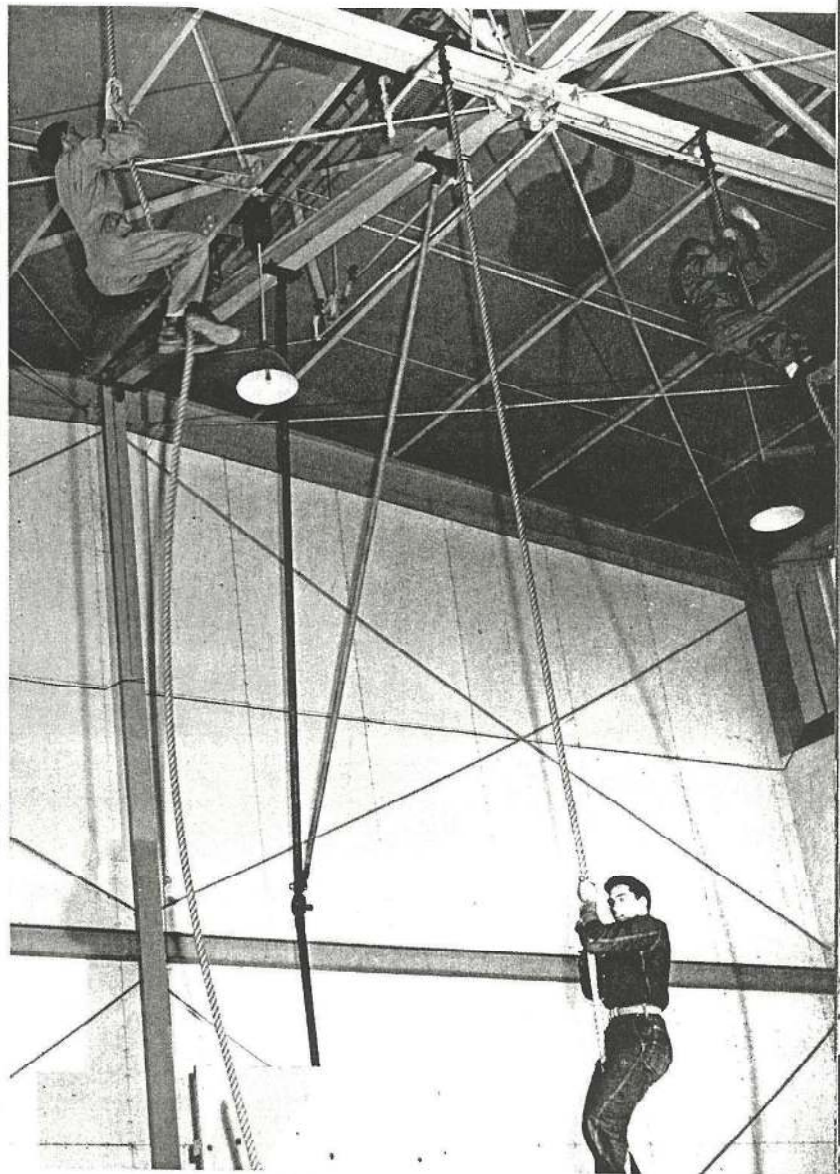
JUST A GENTLE WORK-OUT

DON'T FORGET TO DUCK, SOLDIER

FOR A TOUGH JOB

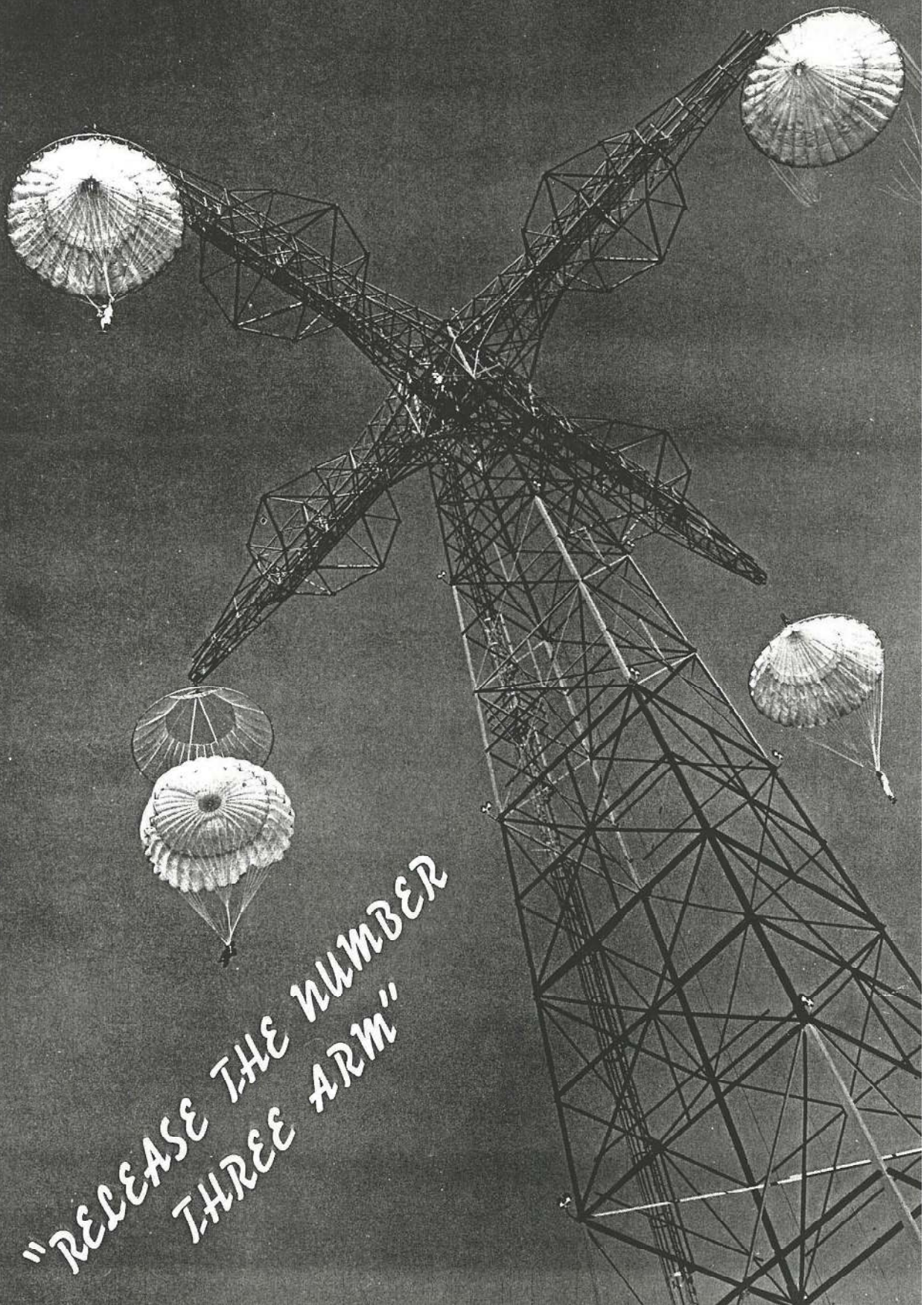


Top: TILL YOUR TONGUE HANGS OUT . . .
 Right: LIKE A MONKEY ON A STRING THIS TIME
 Above: TOUGHENING UP



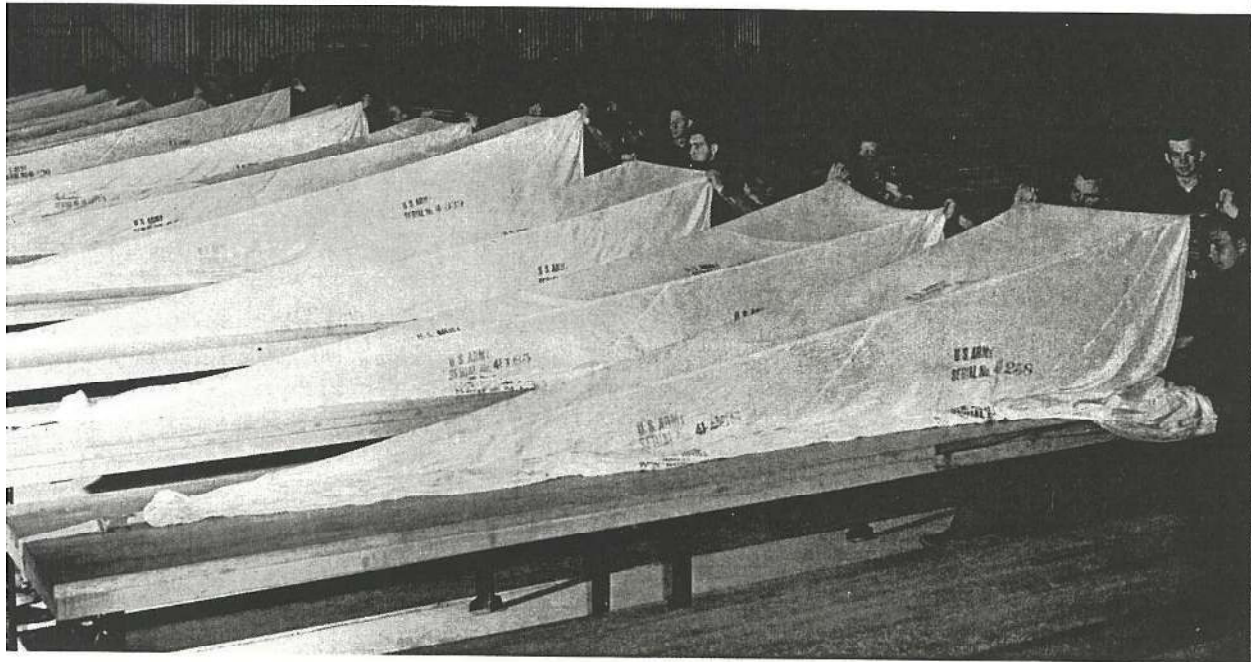
ALL IN THE DAY'S EXERCISE

TUMBLING LOOSENS THE MUSCLES



"RELEASE THE NUMBER
THREE ARM"

LEARNING *to* PACK *their* 'CHUTES



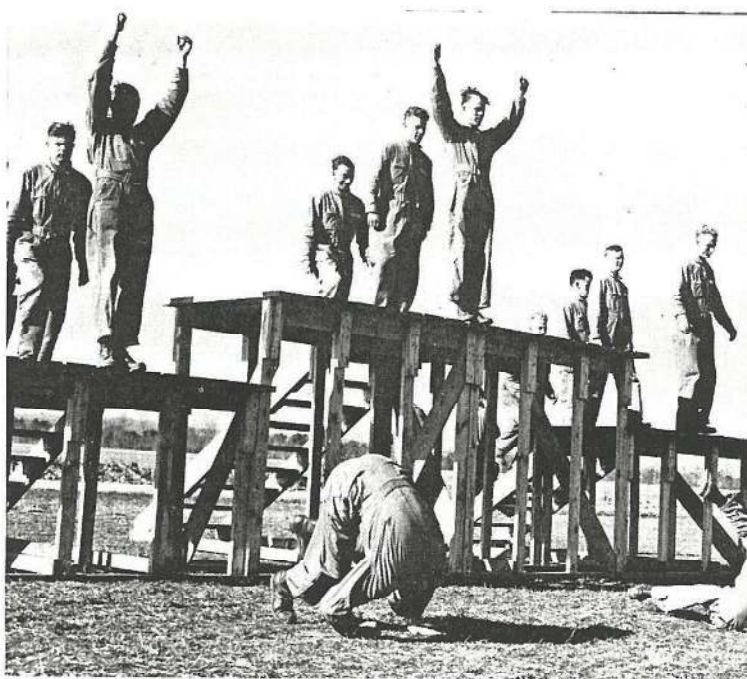
IT MUST BE FOLDED RIGHT!

HOW YOU PACK YOUR CHUTE MAY MEAN YOUR LIFE SOMEDAY





GETTING THE SWING OF THINGS



HIT AND ROLL

Practice

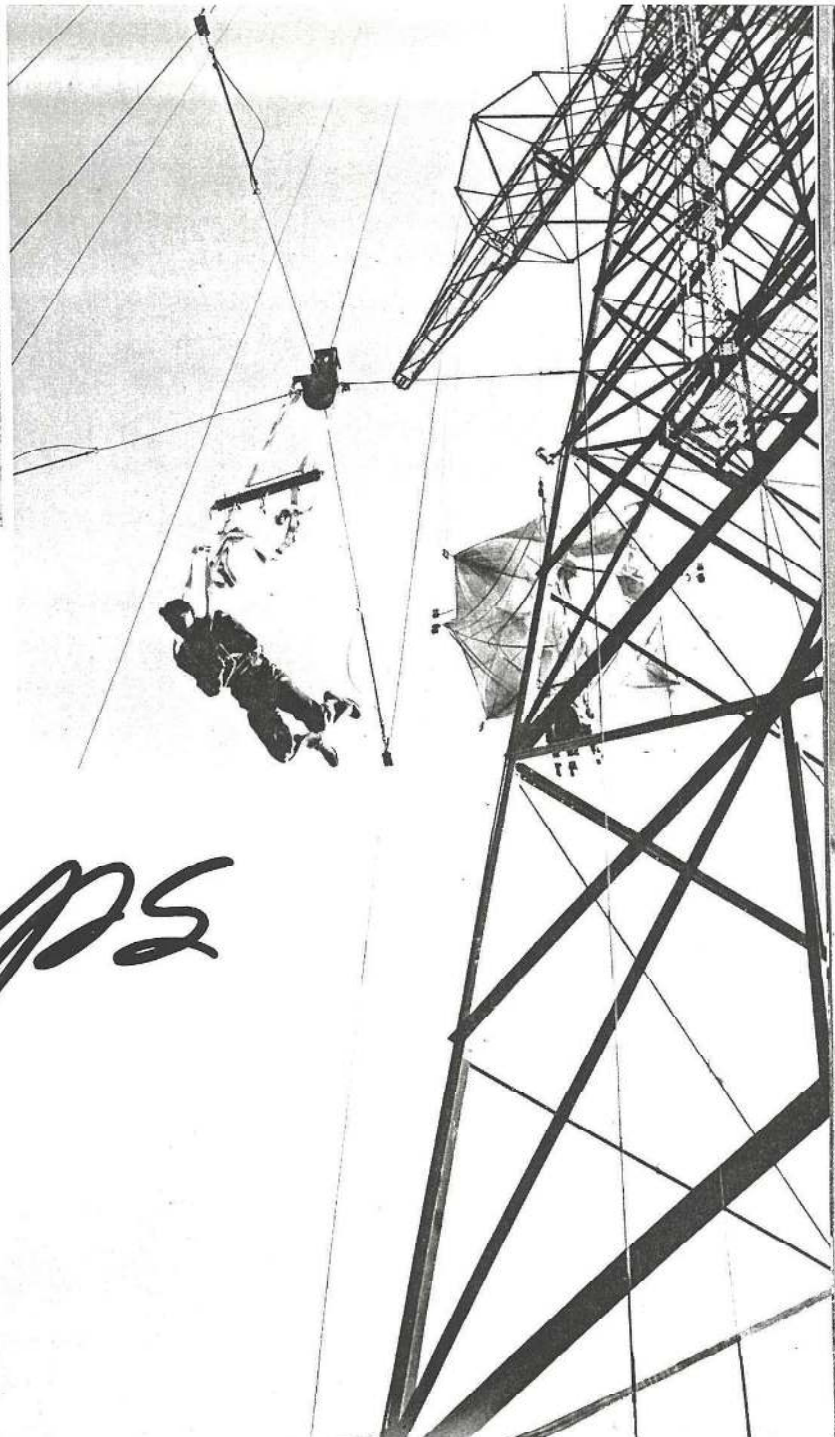


THIS WILL BE A REAL PLANE SOON

TUMBLE, TUMBLE AND TUMBLE AGAIN, MAKES A PARATROOPER



ROUGH RIDING IN A HIGH WIND



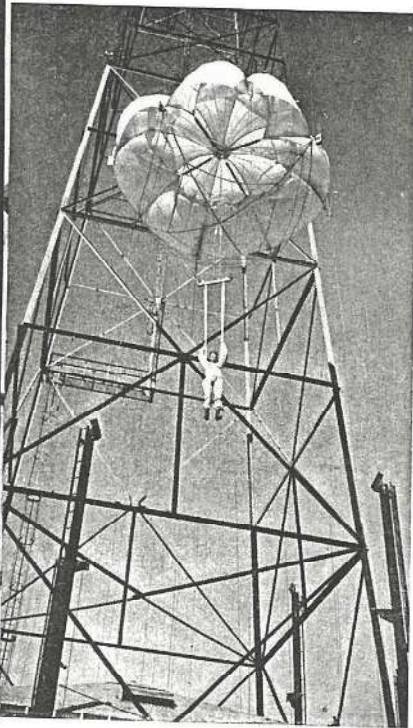
"ONE THOUSAND, TWO THOUSAND, THREE THO—"



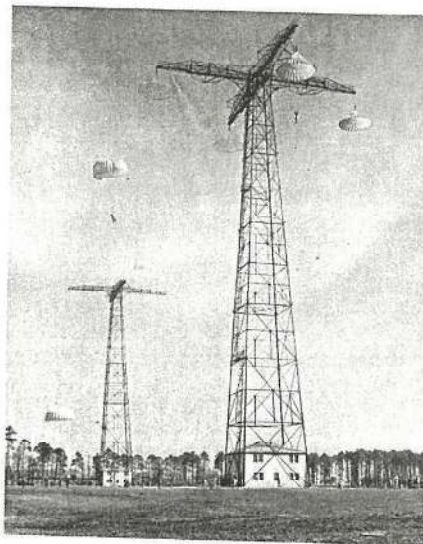
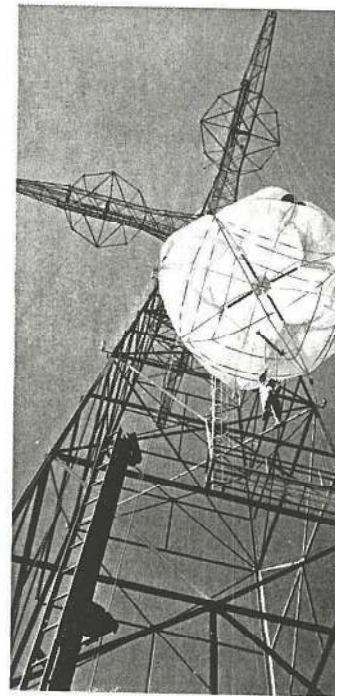
LIKE LEARNING TO SWIM
ON DRY LAND



FALLING HARD FOR THE SERVICE



UP YOU GO
THE THRILL OF THE FIRST FREE JUMP
LOOK OUT BELOW, HERE COMES THE
LEXINGTON AVENUE EXPRESS

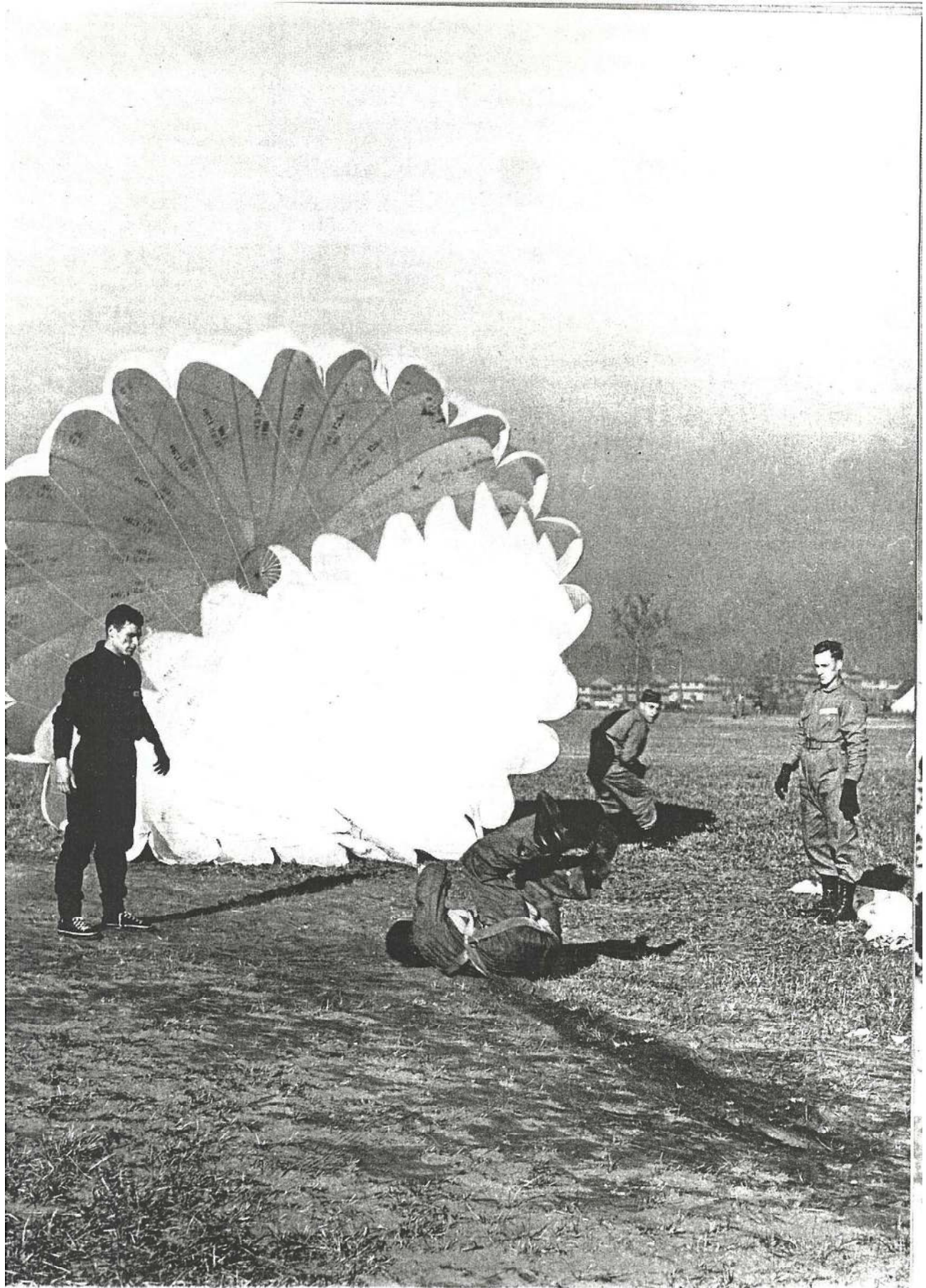


"DRAG IT DOWN"

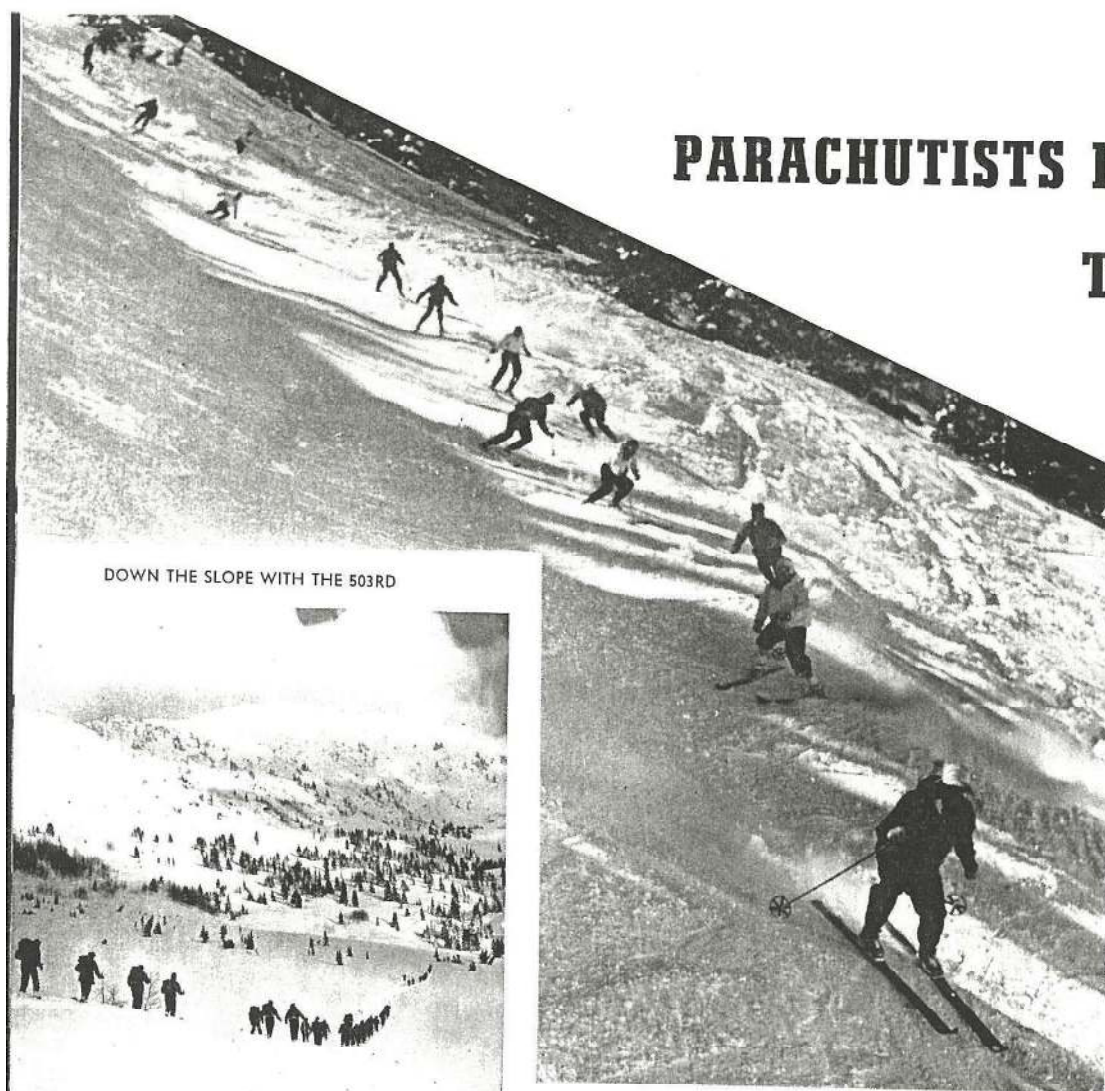


"HOLD IT, BUDDY"

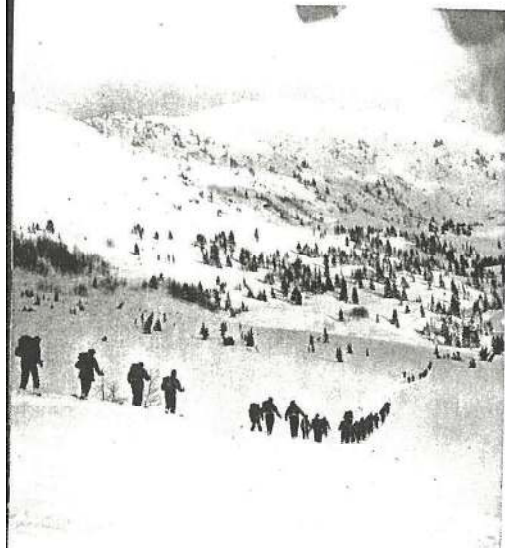
ARTIFICIAL WIND



PARACHUTISTS LEARN TO SKI



DOWN THE SLOPE WITH THE 503RD



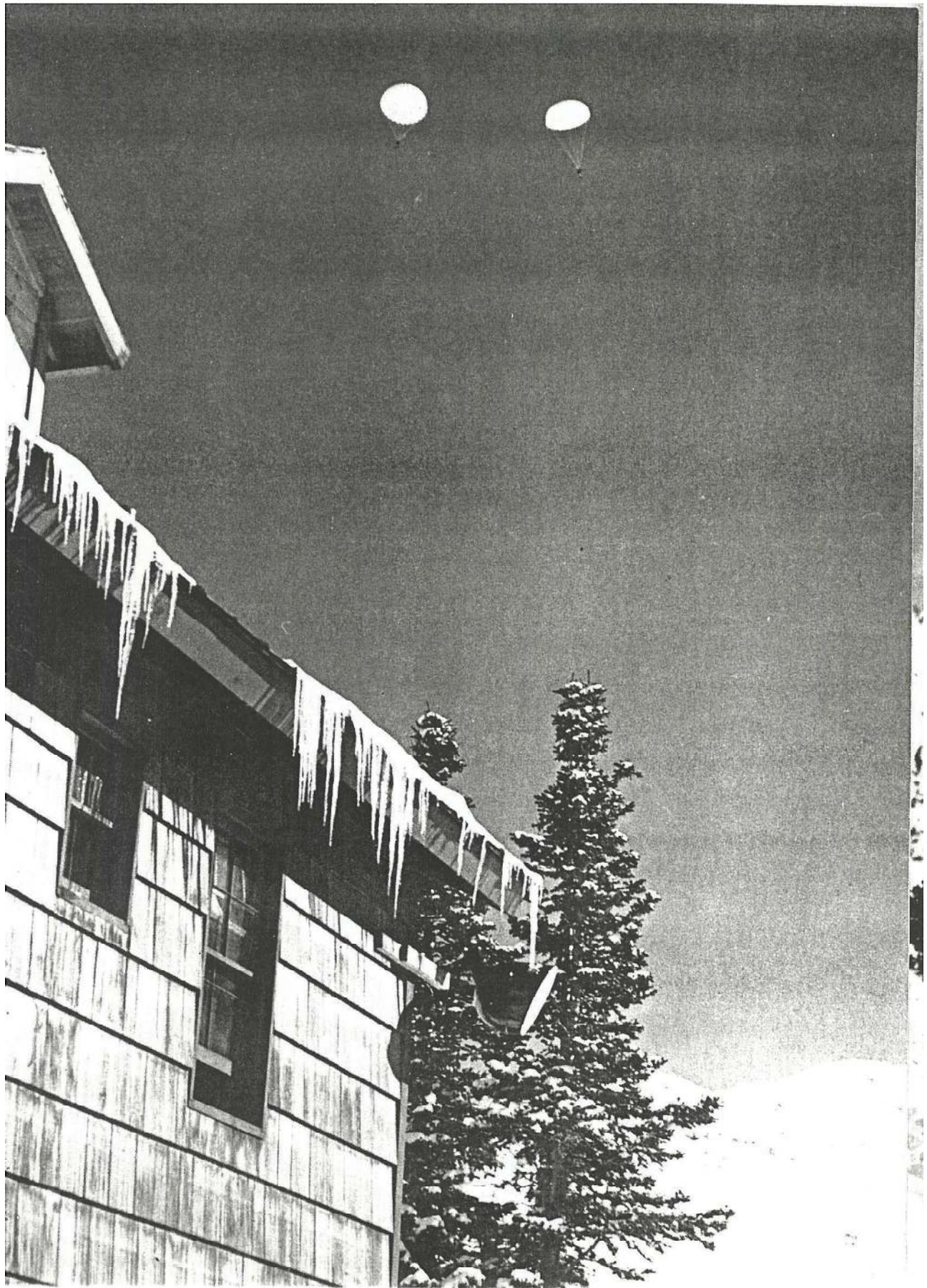
Left: Off for overnight trip
to the mountains.



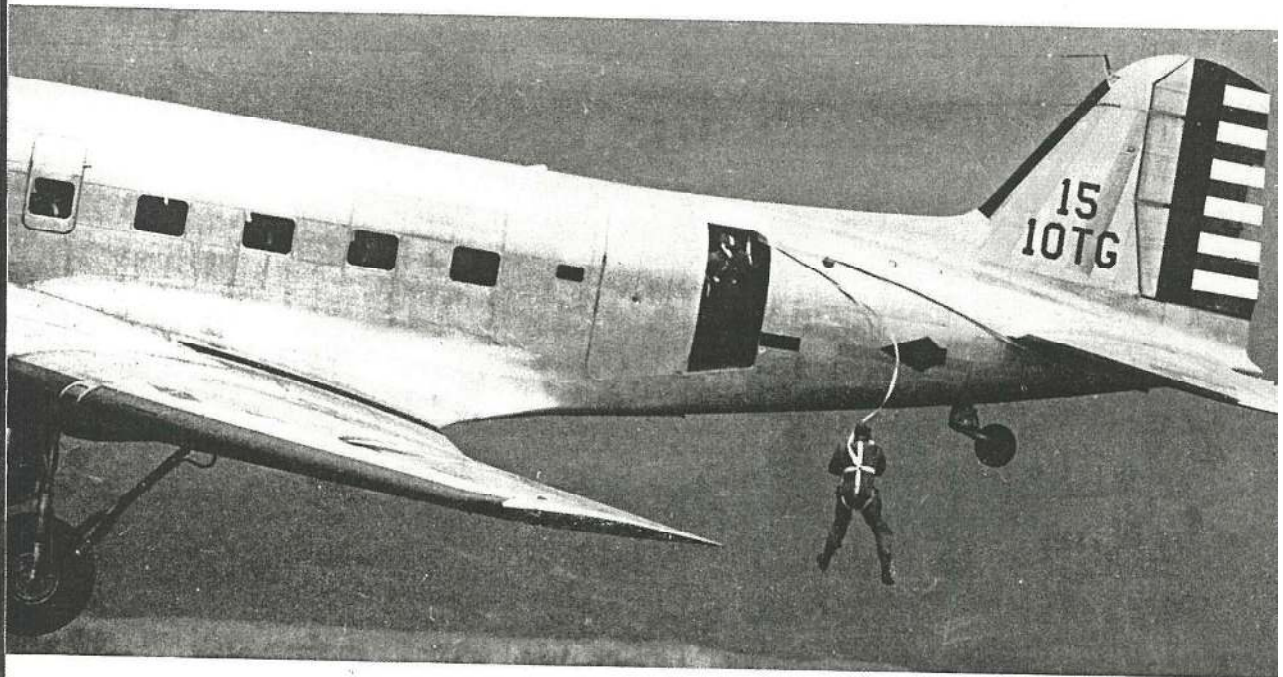
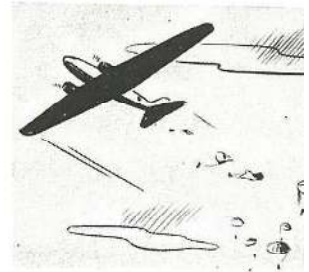
Winter zip makes the chow line especially welcome to these men of
Company B, 503rd.



The Medics stay with the ski troops of the 503rd.



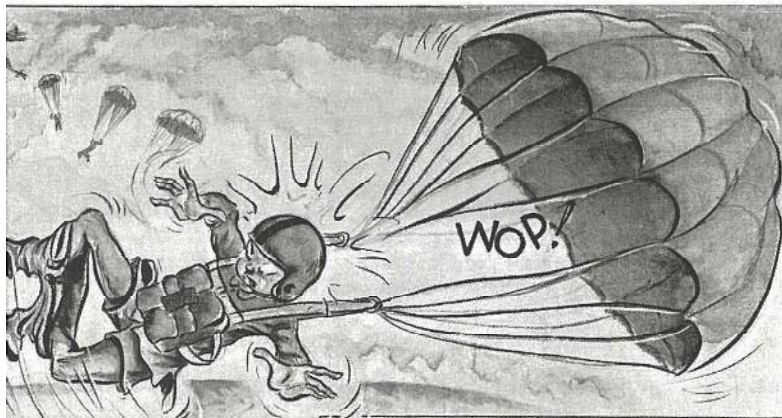
ATTACKING THE ENEMY



"HEY, JOE, YOUR SUSPENDER'S LOOSE"

"ALL RIGHT, YOU GUYS, GRAB A RIFLE AND LET'S GO"





GEE, THE SARGE WARNED ME ABOUT THAT OPENING SHOCK.



OK AHMBRUSTEH, I'M A BOID!



STOR JUST AIN'T WORTH AS A PARACHUTIST HAY FEVER SEASON!



SO, YOU WOULD PLAY HOOKEY FROM PARACHUTE FOLDING SCHOOL!







503rd PARACHUTE BATTALION



HEADQUARTERS
503rd PARACHUTE BATTALION
OFFICE OF THE BATTALION COMMANDER

To the Officers and Men of the 503rd Parachute Battalion:

In its brief but inspiring record of service since its activation on August 22, 1941, the 503rd Parachute Battalion has added another chapter to the history of progress of our modern United States Army. The establishment of the high state of morale and training as it is today is a tribute to the courageous efforts and to the infectious enthusiasm of the small determined group which was the nucleus of this organization.

I am well aware of the numerous obstacles which have been overcome. We have been privileged to witness the transformation of untried theory into a fact that has forever fixed the vertical envelopment among the facets of the art of war.

It is my sincere belief that the attainment of an honorable victory by our United States will have been due in no small degree to the expert and willing part played by the Officers and Men of what is now the 503rd Parachute Battalion.

I am grateful to you for your earnest and loyal cooperation in working toward our common goal--the fulfillment of a soldier's mission.

R. F. Sink
R. F. SINK,
Major, 503rd Parachute Bn.,
Commanding.

ROBERT F. SINK

MAJOR
COMMANDING



Born, North Carolina, April 3, 1905. Appointed to United States Military Academy and entered as Cadet July 2, 1923. Graduated, B.S., USMA, 1927; appointed Second Lieutenant, Infantry, June 14, 1927. Graduated Infantry School, Fort Benning, regular course, 1935; promoted First Lieutenant, August 31, 1933; promoted Captain, January 14, 1937; Major, January 31, 1941.

Served 1927-28 at Fort Screven, Georgia; 1929-1931, San Juan, Porto Rico; 1932-34, Fort Meade, Maryland; 1935-37, Fort McKinley, Philippine Islands; 1937-40, Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

On November 13, 1940, assigned to 503rd Parachute Battalion as Commanding Officer of Company B, later Executive Officer of the Battalion; assumed command of the 503rd Battalion August 22, 1941.



GERALD J. HIGGINS
Captain
Executive Officer



JAMES C. HITE
First Lieutenant
S-1 and S-2



JOE S. LAWRIE
Captain
S-3



BATTALION STAFF



JOHN B. PRATT
Second Lieutenant
S-4
ARTHUR D. MERRYMAN
First Lieutenant
Assistant S-1



FRANCIS X. DONOVAN
Second Lieutenant
Assistant Adjutant
RAYMOND I. SHELBY
First Lieutenant
Assistant S-3



LOUIS A. WALSH, JR.
Captain
Assistant Executive Officer
THOMAS G. PEARSON, JR.
Second Lieutenant
Mess Officer



ROBERT C. CARROLL
First Lieutenant
Provost Officer
MONROE B. GALL
First Lieutenant, M. C.
Battalion Surgeon



LAWSON B. CASKEY
First Lieutenant
Communications Officer
JOHN C. IVINS
First Lieutenant, M. C.
Surgeon



Monroe B. Gall (Gall)

John B. Pratt

HISTORY OF THE 503RD PARACHUTE BATTALION

"Through the curtain of the future shall we strike,
And valiant true shall be the blows from our arms."

—Anon.

This quotation might well serve to bespeak the history of the 503rd Parachute Battalion, for our victories lie before us, and it is in the arena of this most modern of wars that we shall have to make our marks upon the battle shield of our nation.

As a fighting organization our history has been brief; but brief as it has been, it has been filled with action, training and experiment. Particularly has it been filled with experiment as the modern concept of war has made, and will continue to make, our role of increasing importance.

The history of the 503rd Battalion dates from August 22, 1941, when we were activated by order of the Chief of Infantry, and from that day we have existed as a fighting unit of the United States Army. We began with 37 officers and 341 men, commanded by Major Robert F. Sink, who is still our Commanding Officer.

From its inception the 503rd has been perhaps the most cosmopolitan of all the organizations of the United States Army. Its personnel of officers and men came from every one of the 48 states. Men in every branch of the Infantry all over the country were allowed to volunteer and our roll today reads like an honor roll of all the outfits from Maine to California.

Out of the thousands of men who offered their services for this new type of organization the men who composed the original 341 men and 37 officers were selected on merit and merit alone.

It can be truthfully stated that the men of the 503rd make up the elite of the service, for in addition to being carefully selected volunteers, the number was graded out by the rigorous tests that were given before the battalion was ready for combat.

The original quota of men came from the Regular Army, but, beginning three months after the activation of the troop, carefully selected volunteers from the incoming Selectees were allowed to become a part of the battalion and today the strength is about evenly divided between Regular Army men and men who have come in via the Selective Service route.

The majority of the officers of the original Battalion were already trained jumpers and training of the men began immediately and by the first week in September the men had completed their fundamental courses and were ready for the five jumps necessary to qualify them as parachutists.

It was a proud day for the 503rd when these men floated down through the cloud-dotted sky of Fort Benning on the third of October, 1941, to become the first qualified parachute troops of the new Battalion. The original training period of six weeks has since been reduced to four, the last week of which is devoted to the five jumps which every prospective member of the Parachutists must make, but into those four weeks are crammed perhaps the most intensive and hardest training given any troops in our entire Army.

After becoming qualified the Battalion engaged in advanced infantry tactics and studied special parachute tactics such as demolition, sabotage and other activities in which special troops of our nature engage.

The authorized strength of our Battalion is 456 men and 36 officers and this number is kept fairly constant by replacements.

In our short history the men of our Battalion have figured prominently in two maneuvers of an important experimental nature. One company, Company B, made a trip to Orlando, Florida, on November 30, and while there engaged in experiments to test the coordination of parachute troops and air-borne infantry. The second experiment is being conducted at Salt Lake City, Utah, at the present time. Company B is again engaged in the experiment, leaving here on January 14.

The modern parachute soldier must combine the skill and craft of the Indian fighter of our frontier days with the specialized scientific knowledge indispensable in modern warfare. He must possess a trained body and an alert and disciplined mind. To attain these ends constant and rigorous training and high morale are essential. Every man in the 503rd Battalion feels himself to be the custodian of deeds of valor and enterprise as yet unmade, but deeds which, every man feels confident, will soon serve to inscribe our name upon the roll of the famous battalions of our nation's arms.

Insignia



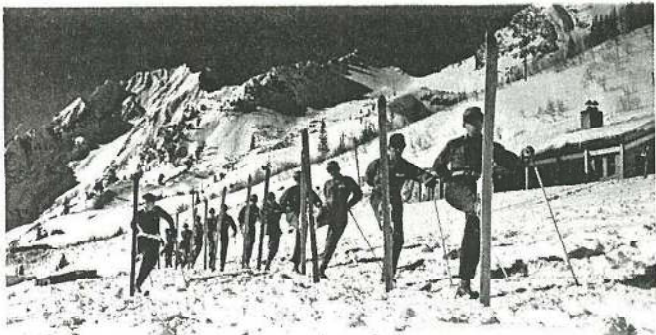
THE 503RD PARACHUTE



BATTALION

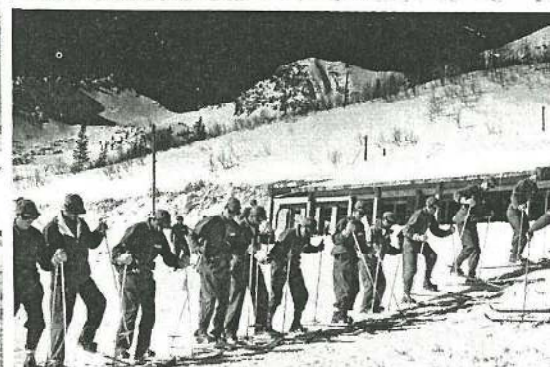
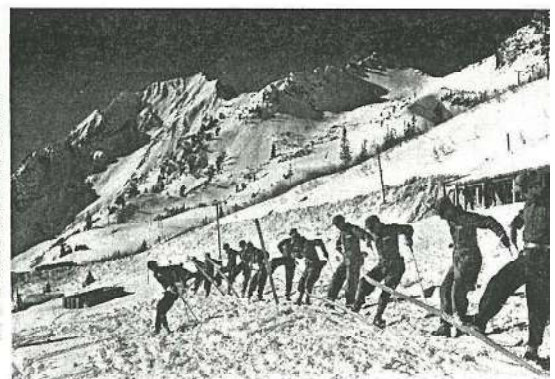
IN ACTION . . .

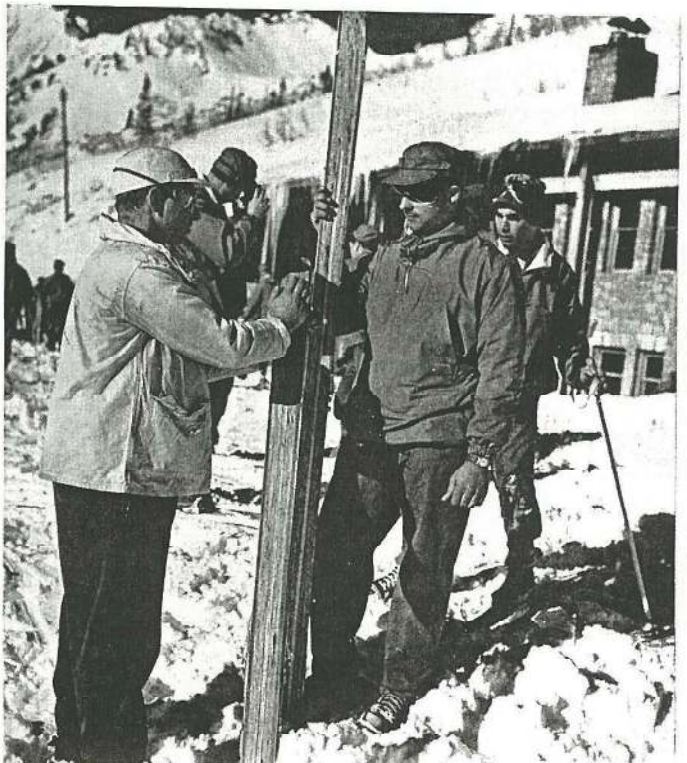


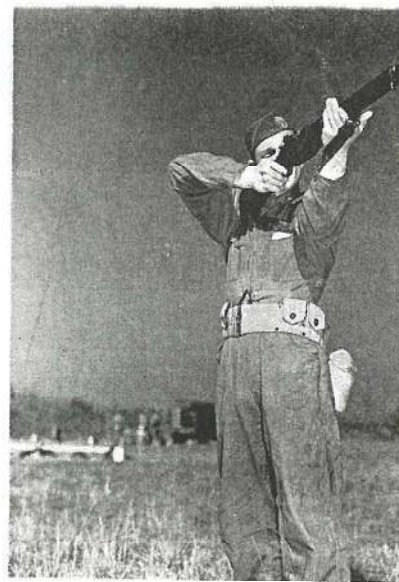
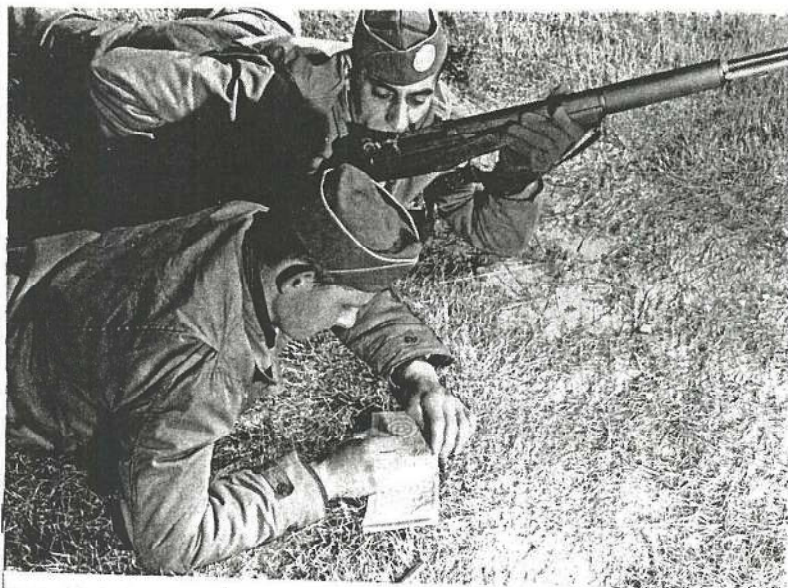


Company B of the 503rd Parachute Battalion demonstrates on these pages the various phases of their training as skiers. Many of the men had never seen snow before they came to the snow-covered mountains of Utah for their training. Here we see them getting their primary training in downhill skiing, turns, hill climbing, caring for their skis and adjusting themselves generally to the conditions of high-altitude warfare. These novel experiments are designed to test the value of parachute troops in winter warfare, and from this study to develop many battalions of these white-clad warriors from the skies.

PARA-SKI TROOPERS







"Aim."



• • RIFLE



Left, Top to Bottom: "Let's see—better shift clicks left." "Center Bull." Sweating out the sc

"Drill her again, Sarge."





"Gimme five rounds."



PRACTICE

Parachute troopers must be skilled in the best of Infantry tactics as well as expert jumpers; hence the emphasis shown on rifle practice.

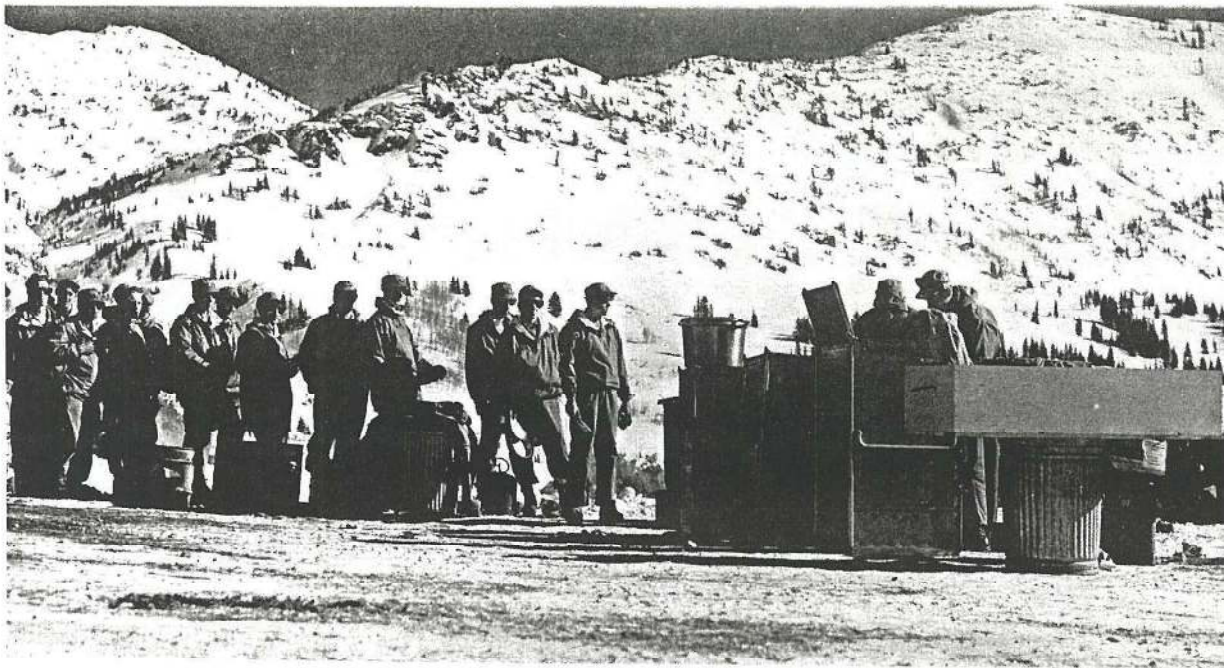


Right, Top to Bottom: Don't flinch. "Whatcha mean, red flag?" Just like squeezing a lemon.



Aiming true.





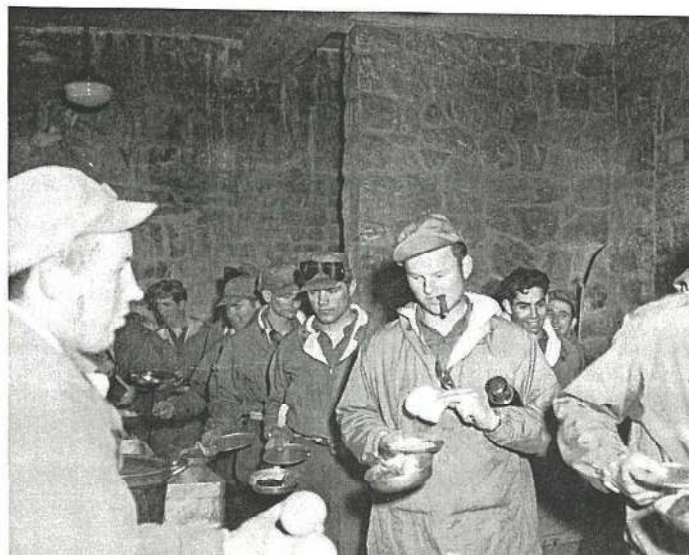
Food takes a terrible licking when these boys line up for chow after a healthy and invigorating day in the open.

CHOW AT 11,000 FEET UP

Cooks working up more pressure.



"Come and get it."





CAMERON KNOX
First Lieutenant
Commanding



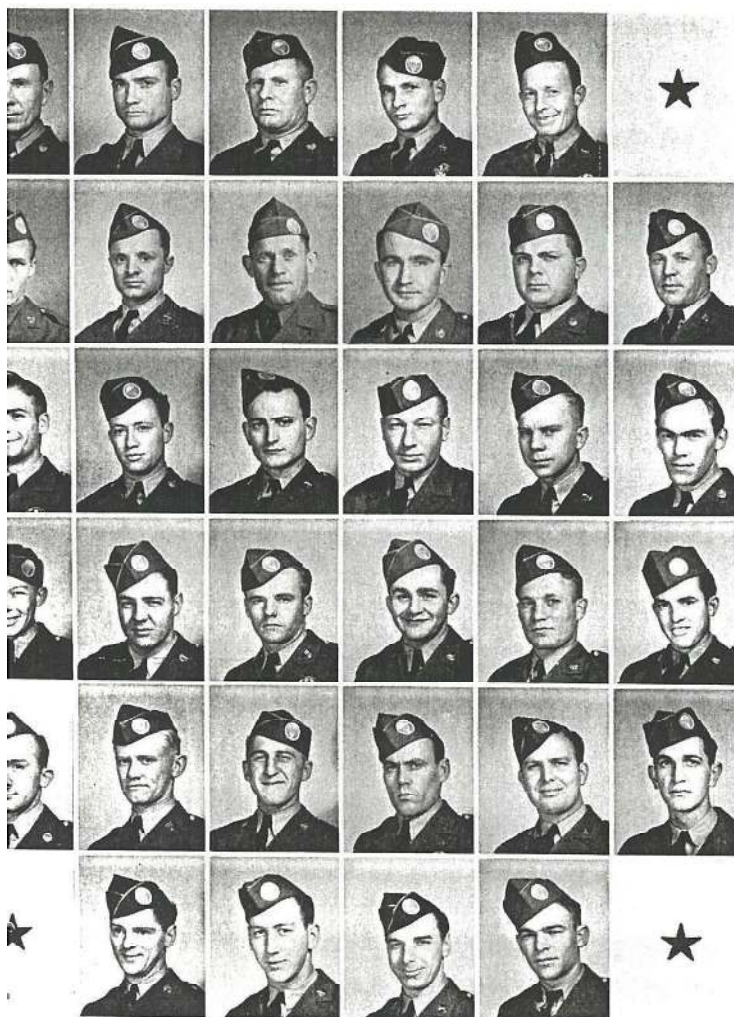
JACK G. CORNETT
First Lieutenant



WALTER E. LEHMANN
First Lieutenant

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

503RD PARACHUTE BATTALION



(Reading from Left to Right)

First Row: Master Sergeants Humphrey, Herman G.; McCullough, Loyd; First Sergeant Sweatmon, Lonzie; Technical Sergeants Crawford, Donald A.; Honea, Woodrow.

Second Row: Technical Sergeants Skaret, Monnie O.; Wood, Horace; Staff Sergeants Harrison, Doctor T.; Johnson, Emmett N.; Peavy, Hamilton; Szoke, Charles V.

Third Row: Sergeants Adams, Charles A.; Blair, Arthur F.; Litwin, Donald J.; Miller, Monroe M.; Rarick, Norman V.; Rathbum, Roland A.

Fourth Row: Sergeant Williams, Frank E.; Corporals Barkhurst, Charles M.; Booth, Jesse C.; Cohen, Milton; Dickerson, Arthur E.; Efferson, Hamilton F.

Fifth Row: Corporals Furiga, Steve J.; Goertz, Wayne H.; Gustavson, Robert E.; Haynes, William H.; Ortaqus, Alvin J.; Pittman, Leon.

Sixth Row: Corporals Ryle, William P.; Slaughter, Charles C.; Turner, Thomas E.; Wills, Monroe E.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

503RD PARACHUTE BATTALION



(Reading from Left to Right)

First Row: Privates First Class Beasley, Brodus E.; Brownstein, George J.; Bryant, John L.; Campbell, James R.; Early, Walter S.

Second Row: Privates First Class Fairbanks, Weston E.; Fox, John F.; Gilmer, Vernon L.; Glenn, Mifflin; Hansen, Claire J.

Third Row: Privates First Class Hogan, Hugh G.; Houck, Robert J.; Hoyt, George C.; Hudyma, Walter J.; Karabinos, Stephen J.

Fourth Row: Privates First Class Latham, William; Locklear, Russell B.; Margaritis, Nicholas J.; McClue, Sidney G.; McCullough, David W.

Fifth Row: Privates First Class Mosey, James; Phibbs, Henry E. O.; Phillips, Lyman B.; Putman, Raymond C.; Quattlebaum, Carthell.

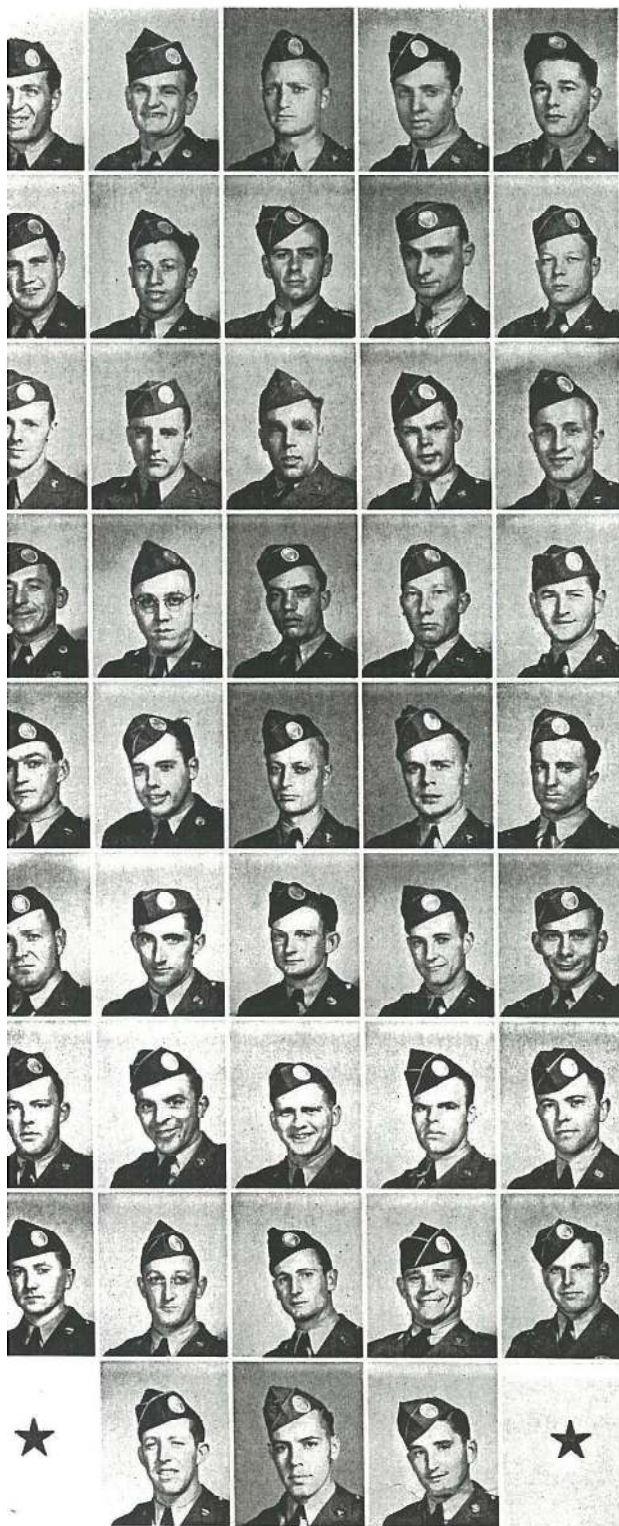
Sixth Row: Privates First Class Ritchie, Hal W.; Rook, Milburn; Rupright, Paul E.; Sewell, Van D.; Smith, Clyde A.

Seventh Row: Privates First Class Smith, Emery W.; Swann, Ray A.; Tekirian, Edward; Thompson, Oliver P.; Walter, Arthur B.

Eighth Row: Privates First Class White, George D.; Wilder, Sidney D.; Witcher, Robert H.; Privates Alexander, Lewis C.; Bassetti, Albin M.

Ninth Row: Privates Bonfield, Russell M.; Brandstetter; Brown, Arthur J.





HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

503RD PARACHUTE BATTALION



(Reading from Left to Right)

First Row: Privates Brown, William; Buick, Peter J.; Cathcart, John S.; D'Anna, Anthony; Dulin, F. J.

Second Row: Privates Ell, John W.; Ellis, Robert; Gavornik, Cyril J.; Gfelter, Joseph F.; Guenther, Lloyd W.

Third Row: Privates Hahn, Gordon R.; Hall, Everett J.; Hein, John J.; Hotalski, John; Hutchings, R. H.

Fourth Row: Privates Lassiter, Aubrey H.; Longwell, Darl F.; Lowhorn, James C.; Miller, Charles L.; Monreal, Jack E.

Fifth Row: Privates Morgan, H. O.; Morton, George; Nicholson, Charles M.; Petzold, Alfred C.; Privitera, James F.

Sixth Row: Privates Pulliam, T. C.; Radford, Thomas R.; Rambo, Charles R.; Reynolds, P. H.; Ruch, Frederick H.

Seventh Row: Privates Russell, Robert L.; Sarkady, Alex M.; Sedell, Thomas H.; Seibert, John G.; Semaska, Michael J.

Eighth Row: Privates Shepherd, Cecil O.; Smith, Ralph W.; Stevens, G. W.; Tallent, Howard E.; Waddle, Samuel F.

Ninth Row: Privates Ward, Elmer P.; Westerland, John; Wilbur, Myron A.



JOHN A. ALMEIDA
First Lieutenant



GERALD R. COX
First Lieutenant



ROBERT S. JONES
First Lieutenant



RICHARD J. SEITZ
First Lieutenant

*Bob Jones
to Seitz*



EMIL R. KELLY
Captain
Commanding

R. Kelly

COMPANY A

503RD PARACHUTE BATTALION

R. Kelly

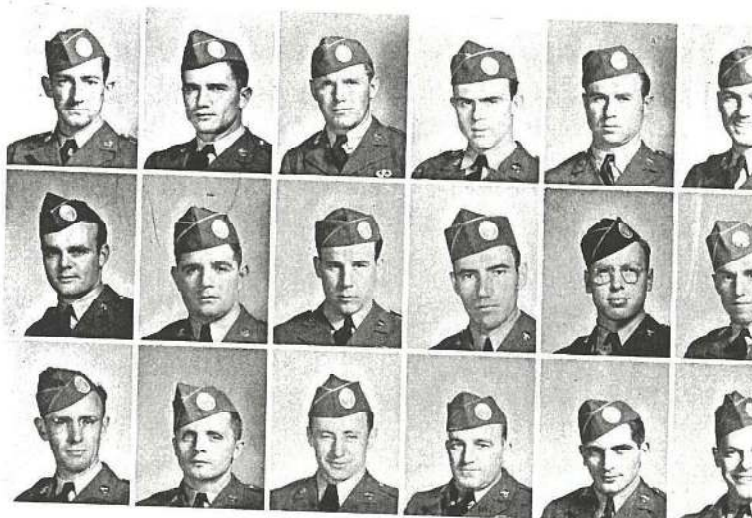


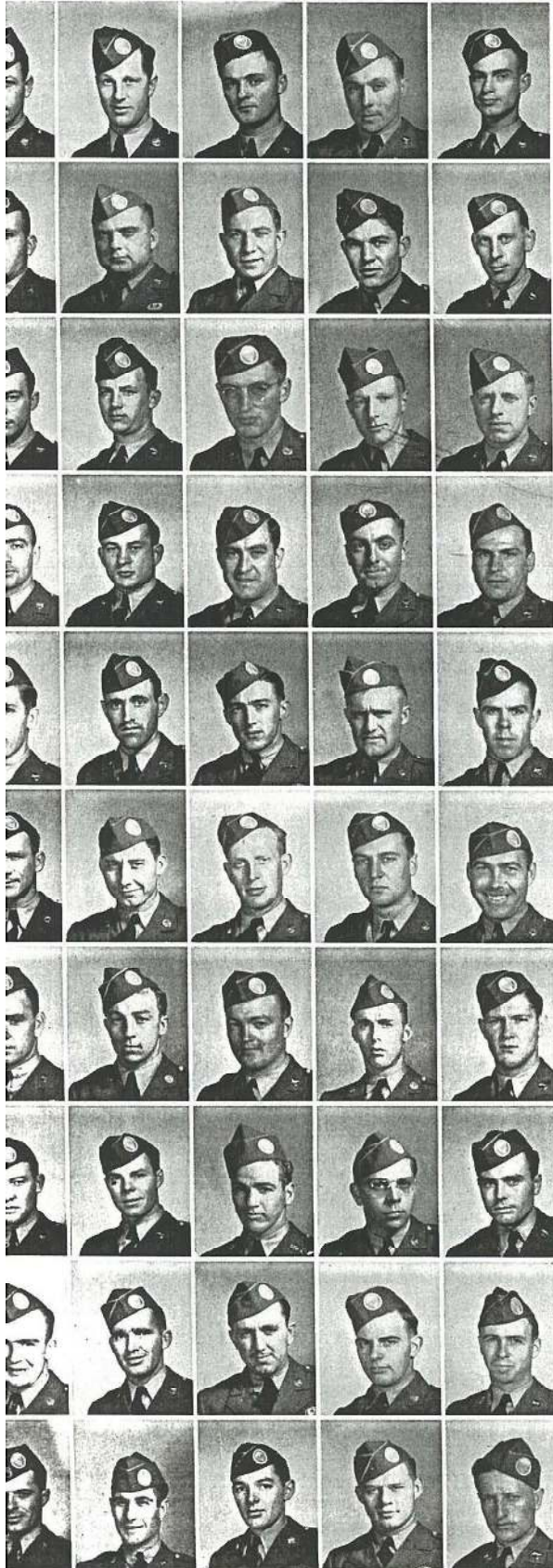
(Reading from Left to Right)

First Row: First Sergeant Deavours, Aubry; Staff Sergeants Griffin, Henry O.; Oden, Thomas V.; Sergeants Adkisson, Lawrence E.; Barnes, Walter; Billingsley, Augusta F.

Second Row: Sergeants Chalker, Brad; Goldman, Harry; Hyatt, Joseph; Przybylo, Joseph R.; Schoenborn, Robert J.; Topczewski, Albin S.

Third Row: Corporals Devaney, Martin J.; Herubin, Walter C.; Kemp, Russell W.; Peterson, Roland W.; Silverman, Philip; Vernor, John E.





COMPANY A

503RD PARACHUTE BATTALION



(Reading from Left to Right)

First Row: Privates First Class Cook, Henry H., Jr.; Domnick, William J.; Ettestad, Kenneth L.; Fritsche, Alfred W.; Haver, Ellis T.

Second Row: Privates First Class Hollekim, Norman J.; Housor, William Frank; Johnson, Edward; Kelley, Robert H.; Memmosar, La Verne J.

Third Row: Privates First Class Nelson, Everette R.; Nelson, Otto L.; Privates Abbott, Donald E.; Arbuckle, D.; Ault, Kenneth D.

Fourth Row: Privates Aycok, Rufus; Balliet, Alfred; Barborich, Frank A.; Barttram, Gene N.; Betz, Floyd E.

Fifth Row: Privates Bjornstad, Lawrence A.; Blakney, Herman O.; Bryan, Wilbert J.; Bryson, Carl.

Sixth Row: Privates Carpenter, John C.; Coleman, Fred; Davis, Robert C.; Deyak, Louis F.; Dixon, Robert A.

Seventh Row: Privates Doherty, Clayton W.; Donley, Richard J.; Doran, Charles M.; Dorminey, C. J.; Essig, Theodore F.

Eighth Row: Privates Evje, Leonard M.; Firebaugh, Joseph P., Jr.; Finkle, Neal; Flora, George M.; Folsom, Glenn R.

Ninth Row: Privates Flood, Edward L.; Fouts, Neil W.; Freed, Luther A.; Froehle, Bernard J.; Frybarger, Charles E.

Tenth Row: Privates Gordon, Dale J.; Grace, Patrick F.; Hart, H. B.; Hasbarger, G. J.; Hesterlee, David F.

COMPANY A

503RD PARACHUTE BATTALION



(Reading from Left to Right)

First Row: Privates Hicks, H. D.; Hilke, William P.; Hofland, Erick N.

Second Row: Privates Houk, George M., Jr.; Jetton, Willie G.; Johnson, Fred W.; Jordan, J. W.; Komer, Peter W.

Third Row: Privates Konrad, William G.; Kowalski, T.; Krambier, Howard L.; Mangen, Bernard J.; Marshall, Willis A.

Fourth Row: Privates Martin, Joseph; Matthews, Ralph C.; Mazur, Frank J.; McDonough, Thomas H.; Meinzer, D.

Fifth Row: Privates Merrill; Metea, Vasile; Morr, Clyde J.; Moseley, John L.; Mullaney, John W.

Sixth Row: Privates Nelson, Keith R.; O'Brien, Richard F., Jr.; Peterson, Elvin H.; Powell, Arthur M.; Richardson, Asa R.

Seventh Row: Privates Ridriquez, B.; Rogers, John C.; Ruel, Boris A.; Simon, Fred A.; Simpson, LeRoy F.

Eighth Row: Privates Sprecker, Clyde M.; Stansberry, Conrad L.; Stark, Elzie H.; Swelland, Orville R.; Takala, Edwin.

Ninth Row: Privates Taylor, C. G.; Terminch, J. E.; Thompson, Robert K.; Torzok; Tuominen, Urho P.

Tenth Row: Privates Unruh, Pete J.; Verch, Fred W.; White, James C.





ARTHUR F. GORHAM
Captain
Commanding



CLARENCE H. ALLEN
First Lieutenant

Tony



JOHN W. BRITTEN
First Lieutenant



LESTER E. BYRD
Second Lieutenant



EDWARD H. THOMAS
Second Lieutenant

Ed Thomas

C O M P A N Y B

503RD PARACHUTE BATTALION



(Reading from Left to Right)

First Row: Privates Drenocky, John; Love, Robert; Melander, Julian V.; Pearson, Leonard E.; Sampsell, Robert H.; Wolfe, Harold C.

(These pictures were taken of above men in infirmary at Alta, Utah)



Second Row: First Sergeant Taylor, Royal R.; Staff Sergeant Jacobs, Paul R.; Sergeants Belcher, Ray M.; Brastell, Ray O.; Campbell, Frank; Castillo, Tony.



Third Row: Sergeants Hollabaugh, Curtis L.; Jarvis, Harry L.; Corporals Mikell, Leon D.; Orr, Clyde; Siewert, Oscar A.; Starbuck, Lacy R.

COMPANY B

503RD PARACHUTE BATTALION



(Reading from Left to Right)

First Row: Privates First Class Baker, Odis T.; Owen, Elmer E.; Summer, Oval; Ward, Woodrow W.; Privates Anderson, Allen F.; Bartunek, Edward G.

Second Row: Privates Beasley, Major; Bergh, Louis H.; Berray, Clifford F.; Boyer, Roger R.; Browning, James L., Jr.; Butler, Raymond T., Jr.

Third Row: Privates Cano, Martin L.; Christie, George; Cichy, Raymond H.; Clarke, Luke; Collon, Joseph P.; Colville, Eugene W., Jr.

Fourth Row: Privates Cook, Samuel E.; Covington, Samuel R.; Privates Cunningham, Daniel J.; Czuchlewski, Valentine; Dowd, John E.; Driscoll, William E.

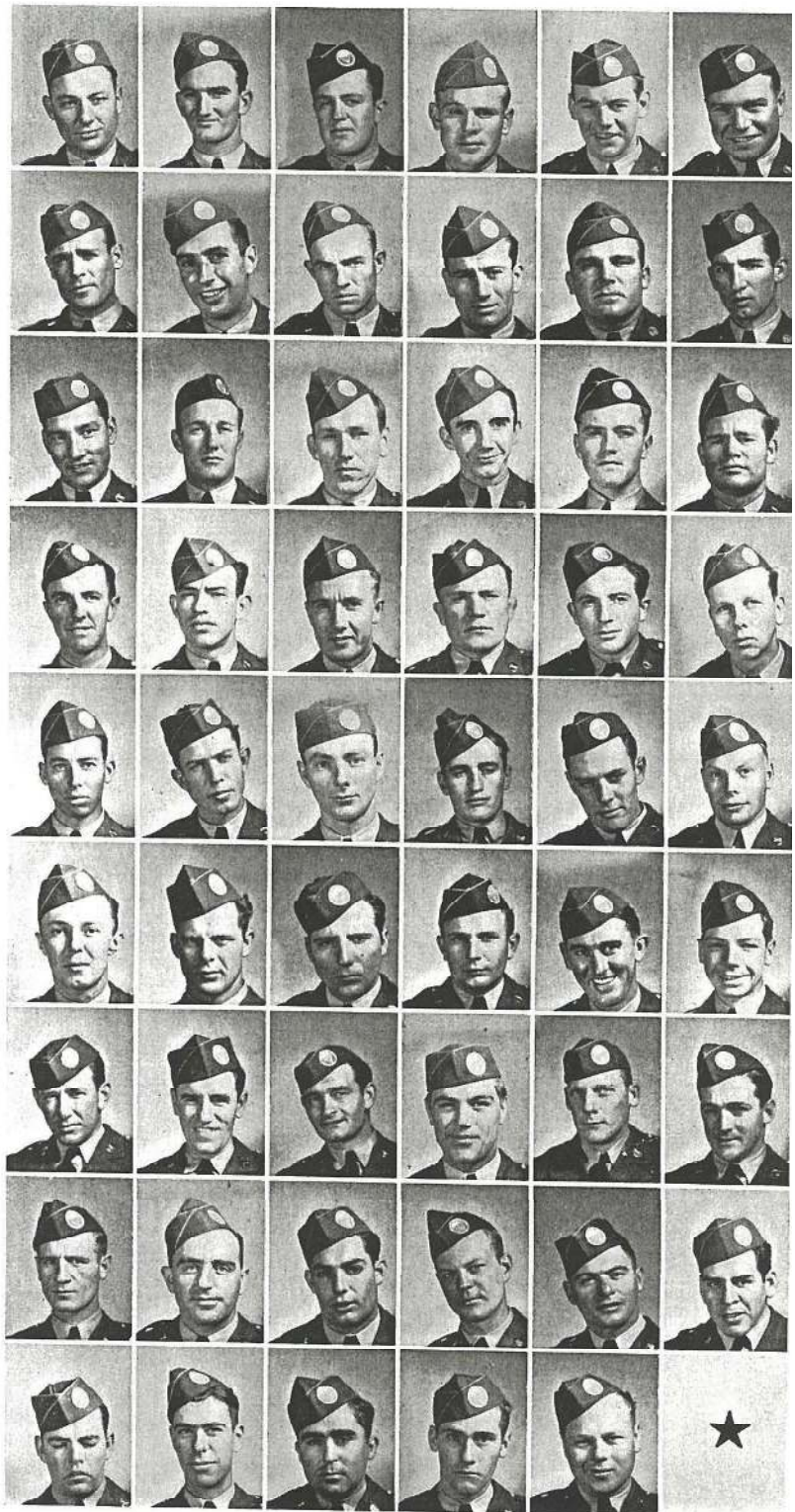
Fifth Row: Privates Epps, Alfred G.; Fain, Richard F.; Geurian, Lonnie O.; Ghering, Kenneth C.; Gore, John W.; Groom, Ernest J.

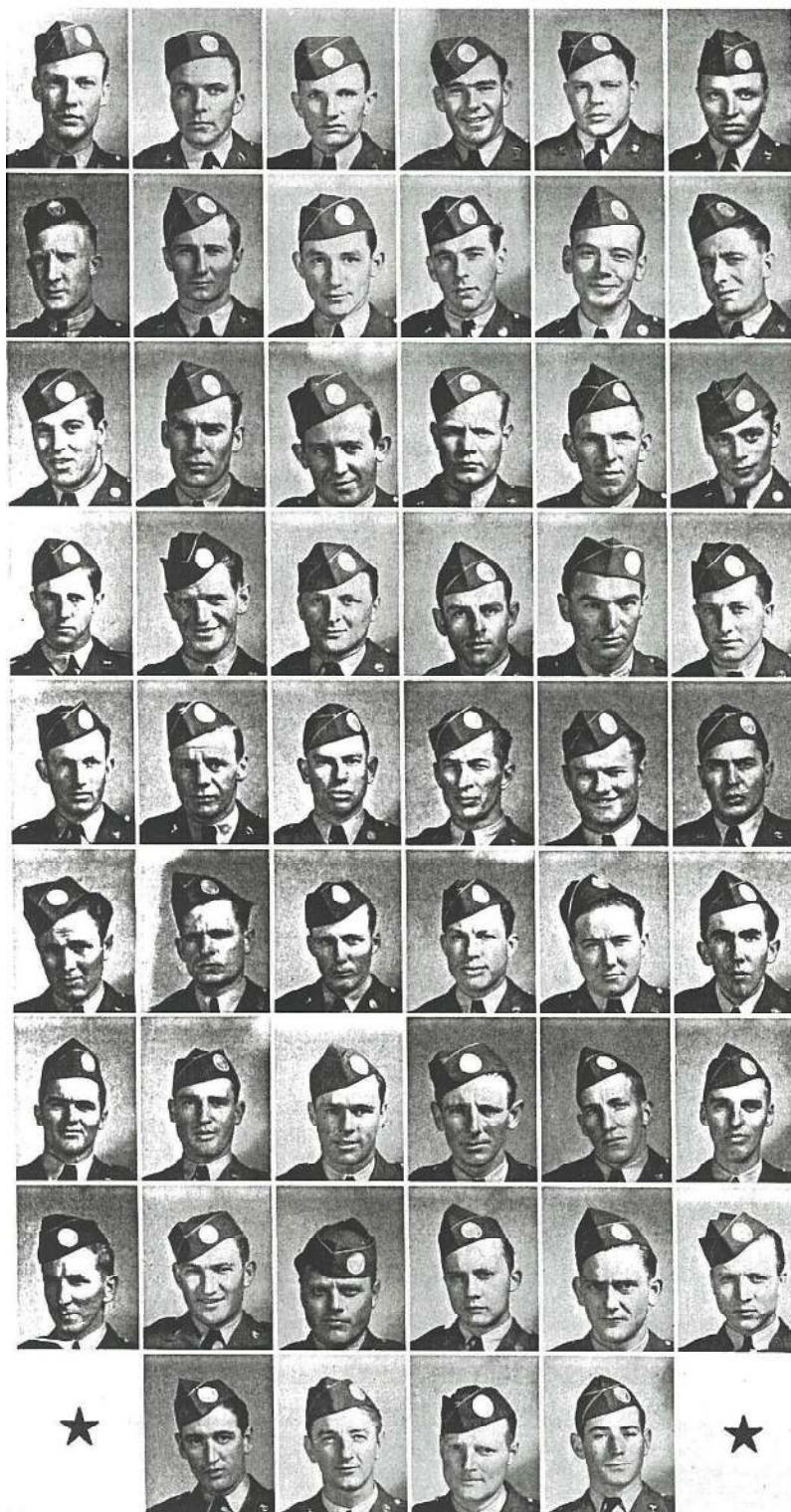
Sixth Row: Privates Hall, Thomas K.; Hammerstrom, Robert H.; Ham-montree, James P.; Hebert, Arthur L.; Heyer, Robert W.; Hinmon, Thomas.

Seventh Row: Privates Howard, Clyde W.; Infanger, Gerard J.; Jampa, John, Jr.; Jarven, Frank A.; Kennedy, Joseph B.; Konz, Roman H.

Eighth Row: Privates Kupcho, Joseph G.; Layden, Paul B.; Lipari, Salvatore C.; Maisner, Chester S.; Marr, John W.; Martinez, Donaciano.

Ninth Row: Privates Mathews, Otis R.; Matthews, Robert H.; McDermott, James W.; McIntosh, Irvin L.; Miller, Joseph M.





COMPANY B

503RD PARACHUTE BATTALION



(Reading from Left to Right)

First Row: Privates Minton, Lawrence R.; Mitchell, David H.; Mobley, Harold J.; Mohler, Leonard T.; Monteil, Charles A.; Motloch, Chester.

Second Row: Privates Myers, George L.; Otto, Gilbert J.; Parker, Russell E.; Peden, Alfred G.; Prewett, Norman E.; Primley, Vernon E.

Third Row: Privates Ranabauer, Howard B.; Randall, Fredrick W.; Reid, Frank B.; Rice, Charles W.; Rosenberger, Alwyn N.; Rouse, James W.

Fourth Row: Privates Rowland, Charles E.; Salmen, Robert J.; Sedlar, William M.; Serba, John J.; Shimek, John; Simpkins, Everett L.

Fifth Row: Privates Smith, Carroll; Smith, Gerald F.; Sneary, William D.; Sparks, Lloyd J.; Stallborries, Robert H.; Steffen, Lloyd H.

Sixth Row: Privates Taylor, Stanford B.; Tessler, Ernest J.; Thomas, Hershel P.; Tindall, Wayne H.; Troub, Earl M.; Van Sickle, Emmett E.

Seventh Row: Privates Wagner, Joseph A.; Wallace, Richard O.; Webb, George E.; Wharton, Joe; White, Dwight W.; Wilcox, Robert T.

Eighth Row: Privates Wojewodzic, Edward T.; Wooten, Chris C.

ATTACHED TO COMPANY B

Staff Sergeant McLaney, Lester C.; Sergeant Pierce, Harry L.; Corporals McCue, Tracy L.; Stephens, James R.

Ninth Row: Sergeant Walsh, William P.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT 503rd Parachute Battalion

Corporal Fostakowski, Theodore; Privates First Class Collins, John F.; Robinson, Douglas T.



ROBERT H. WOODS
First Lieutenant



WYLIE COOPER
Second Lieutenant



PATRICK J. GIBBONS, JR.
Second Lieutenant



FRANCIS E. WILSON
Second Lieutenant



Charles S. Galbreath
CHARLES S. GALBREATH
First Lieutenant
Commanding

COMPANY C

503RD PARACHUTE BATTALION



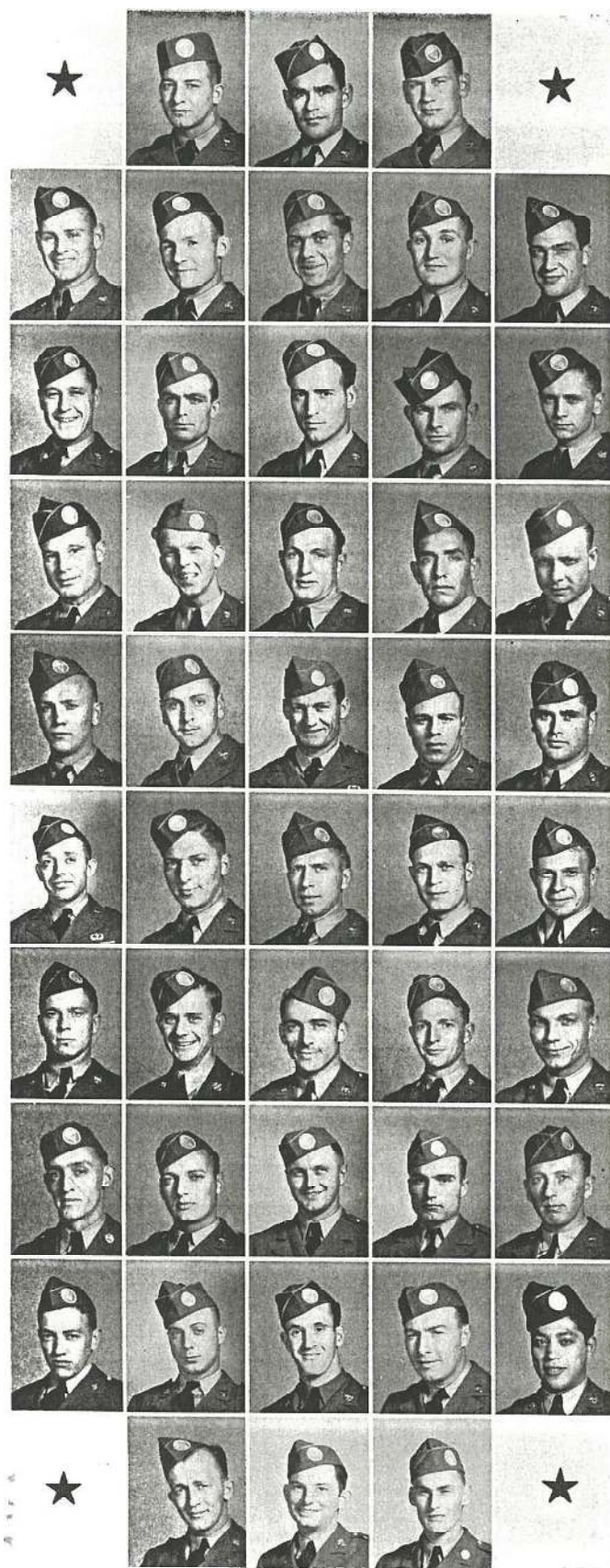
(Reading from Left to Right)

First Row: First Sergeant May, Robert L.; Staff Sergeants Fuller, Russell S.; Hale, Bartley E.; Sergeants Guy, Roy M.; Pogue, Jack; Shirley, J. P.

Second Row: Sergeant Taylor, Floyd E.; Corporals Berry, I. W.; Cole, Robert E. L.; D'Agostino, Anthony C.; Freeman, George D.; Haley, James S.

Third Row: Corporals Jones, Claude A.; Rank, Herbert A.; Walton, Jack V.; Wiedenman, Harold A.; Williams, Dennis C.





COMPANY C

503RD PARACHUTE BATTALION



(Reading from Left to Right).

First Row: Privates First Class Boyle, John J.; Branum, Ray; Campbell, George L.

Second Row: Privates First Class Erickson, Leonard E.; French, G. L.; Green, Lawrence N.; Harr, Charles F.; Howland, Wendell B., Jr.

Third Row: Privates First Class Hunter, Ralph N.; Kelley, Dempsey; Miller, Harold E.; Rountree, Walter D.; Sellner, George A.

Fourth Row: Private First Class Smith, Carl O.; Privates Atwood, U. M.; Bjelland, Lloyd K.; Blum, Donald N.; Butler, John.

Fifth Row: Privates Chmielak, Joseph J.; Connelly, Rufus L.; Cote, Paul E.; Cox, James M.; Dale, Arthur L.

Sixth Row: Privates Daniels, John T.; DeWitt, Joseph C.; Dull, Jefferson L.; Foiden, Peter F.; Freeman, Euel I.

Seventh Row: Privates Fuhrman, Orville J.; Golden, George J.; Gourley, Van K.; Greeno, Ward D.; Grossman, Edward W.

Eighth Row: Privates Guillemette, Arthur G.; Hagen, Clifford W.; Hamilton, W. L.; Hammitt, O. M.; Hankla, Walter L., Jr.

Ninth Row: Privates Harper, Bland S.; Harshman, K. J.; Hart, Richard G.; Hein, Richard P.; Hernandez, Mike.

Tenth Row: Privates Hilligoss, John N.; Holder, Kenneth M.; Holdford, Eugene M.

COMPANY C

503RD PARACHUTE BATTALION



(Reading from Left to Right)

First Row: Privates Huntone, William E.; Johns, R. G.; Jones, Lynn C.; Kelso, Robert E.; Kendall, Fritz G.

Second Row: Privates Kerr, Harold L.; Kiebel, Howard R.; Koupman, J. C.; Korb, Roland A.; Lawry, Thomas E.

Third Row: Privates Leathers, Charles A.; Leatherwood, William H.; Mason, Bruce T.; Mazzei, D. J.; McCory, A. J.

Fourth Row: Privates McCullough, W. T.; Miller, Louis F.; Moore, J. M.; Nowicki, Louis J.; O'Barr, George R.

Fifth Row: Privates O'Neill, F. J.; Powers, Richard W.; Prestidge, Hermon; Quigle, James F.; Rand, Walter R.

Sixth Row: Privates Rekow, Raymond O.; Richards, Jack C.; Roberts, Robert E.; Robertson, Irvin R.; Rodriguez, Albert.

Seventh Row: Privates Rounds, Charles T.; Sansenbaugher, D. F.; Shirley, Leo C.; Simek, Raymond A.; Stone, B. H.

Eighth Row: Privates Thomas, H. A.; Turk, Samuel J.; Tolson, Leroy F.; Vasquez, Guadalupe; Vetting, Gordon H.

Ninth Row: Privates Vickers, L. W.; Warda, Charles M.; Wilson, Arnold A.; Wilson, Robert W.; Yokley, Thomas L.

