

# ~~ SEQUENCE OF EVENTS ~~



## Operation "MARKET GARDEN"

Operation "Market Garden" was the code name assigned to a plan designed by British General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, General Officer Commanding, 21st Army Group, SHAEF, to take and hold the important Rhine River port of Arnhem, the Netherlands (Holland), to provide a much-needed supply base for the Allied forces fighting in Europe and to interdict the German supply routes leading to the V-2 sites. Operation "Market" would be executed by U.S., British and Polish airborne units, and operation "Garden" would be carried out by combined-arms elements of the British Second Army's XXX Corps under LG Brian Horrocks. The XII British Corps was on the XXX Corps' left and the VIII Corps was on their right. The Dutch government in exile in London called for a rail strike to begin on the evening of the 16th, in anticipation of the assault.

The 101st initiated a daylight air insertion into the assigned DZs. The pilots of the troop carrier aircraft, unlike the events of the Normandy invasion, maintained their course and formation, despite heavy Flak (antiaircraft artillery) fire encountered at the coast. The jump was a success and the paratroopers made good progress in forming up and securing their objectives. The glider-borne troops, however, did not enjoy the same success: of the seventy gliders towed from England, only fifty three came in without incident.

The 1-502 PIR was assigned the task of taking St. Oedenrode and Best. The former fell immediately, but the Germans defended Best with the same ruthless tenacity that characterized their earlier defense at Carentan, Normandy. On D + 2, the 506 PIR had the job of taking Son with its important highway bridges. Although the Regiment completed its mission, the Germans were able to blow the bridges. That act delayed the capture of Eindhoven. The 501 PIR secured Veghel on D-Day, meeting only moderate resistance.

The 506's sector in front of Eindhoven on D + 1 was characterized by the Germans' use of their deadly 88mm guns in both direct and indirect roles, but Eindhoven fell. That marked the first Dutch city to be liberated by the Allies. The fall of Eindhoven and Best completed the Division's mission. The 101st now had the difficult task of holding its segment of the corridor until the advancing British armored forces could link up with them.

On D + 2, the 327 GIR consolidated and joined the Division to reinforce its defense. That Regiment was immediately committed near Best with orders to stop the German's attempt at cutting the Allies' access to the road leading toward Arnhem. On D + 4 the first element of the British ground forces crossed the Waal River - days behind schedule, which offered the Germans enough time to set up defensive positions on the road north of the 101st Division's sector. As a result of this delay, movement by Allied forces was costly in terms of time, supply and human lives.

In an attempt to compensate for the German's large force, the Division conducted extensive active patrolling in hopes of eliminating surprise and gaining intelligence. By spreading its forces thinly the Division limited the amount of time it could mass its units. Using this weakness the Germans concentrated their efforts to cut the access road at Son and Veghel; they were successful twice in cutting this line of communications, but the "Screaming Eagles" defense was obdurate, characterized by small unit actions, i.e., platoon and company.

By 27 September, the role of the "Screaming Eagles" in "Market Garden" was essentially complete. There would be many days of fighting yet to come for the Division in Holland, but by that time General Montgomery had advanced far enough to encompass the 101st Airborne Division's area of responsibility and send forces north toward Arnhem.

The two-lane road between the jumpoff point and the north side of the bridge across the Rhine at Arnhem ("A Bridge Too Far") would be dubbed "Hell's Highway."

## GENERAL J.H. BINFORD PEAY III

General Peay was born in Richmond, Virginia, on 10 May 1940. Upon graduation from the Virginia Military Institute in 1962, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. His military education includes completion of the Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the United States Army Command and General Staff College and the United States War College.

General Peay's initial troop assignments were in Germany and Fort Carson, Colorado. During two tours in the Republic of Vietnam, he performed duty as Firing Battery Commander in the 4th Infantry Division in the central highlands of Vietnam and later as a Field Artillery Battalion Operations Officer with the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). Returning to the United States, he served as a Field Artillery Branch Assignments Officer with the Army Military Personnel Center in Washington, D.C. Assigned to Hawaii in 1975, General Peay commanded the 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery, 25th Infantry Division. Following attendance at the United States Army War College, he served as Senior Aide to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D.C. While in Washington, he was also Chief of the Army Initiatives Group. Then he served as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3/Director of Plans and Training, I Corps and Commander, 9th Infantry Division Artillery at Fort Lewis, Washington. In 1985, he was reassigned to the Army Staff as Executive to the Chief of Staff, United States Army. From 1987-1988, he served with the Screaming Eagles as the Assistant Division Commander (Operations), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky, followed by an assignment in July 1988 as the Deputy Commandant, Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He assumed command of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) on 3 August 1989 and led the Division throughout Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM in the Persian Gulf. Promoted to Lieutenant General, he was assigned as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, Department of the Army and Senior Army Member, United Nations Military Committee. From June 1991 until March 1993. On 26 March 1993 he was promoted to the rank of General and appointed the 24th Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army. He was Commander in Chief, United States Central Command from 5 August 1994 to 13 August 1997.

Awards and decorations which General Peay has received include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Army Distinguished Service Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Silver Star, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, several Air Medals, and the Army Commendation Medal. Additionally, he wears the Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, the Air Assault Badge, the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, and the Army General Staff Identification Badge.

General Peay is married to the former Pamela Jane Pritchett, and they have two sons, James and Ryan.

THE 101<sup>st</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIR ASSAULT)  
PROUDLY PRESENTS THE

# *NORMANDY DINING OUT*

HOSTED BY MG ROBERT T. CLARK  
FRIDAY, 10 JULY 1998

MG CLARK INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE THE HISTORY OF THE 101<sup>st</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIR ASSAULT) AND PAY SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE WORLD WAR II SCREAMING EAGLE VETERANS OF OPERATION MARKET GARDEN. THIS PROMISES TO BE A MEMORABLE NIGHT, BEGINNING WITH DISPLAYS AND MEMORABILIA DEPICTING THE EVOLUTION OF THE 101<sup>st</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION, FOLLOWED BY A PRIME-RIB DINNER WITH "BIG BAND" 1940s ERA MUSIC FROM OUR VERY OWN 101<sup>st</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIR ASSAULT) BAND. ENTERTAINMENT CONTINUES WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY AUDIO-VISUAL SHOW, AND THEN THE EVENING IS CAPPED OFF WITH DANCING AT THE NCO CLUB.

LOCATION Dreyer Field House  
DRESS Military: Army Blue Uniform; Army Blue  
Mess Uniform; Army White Mess Uniform; or  
Army Green Uniform (all with white shirt and  
bow tie); low quarters; and appropriate awards  
and decorations (hats will not be worn)  
Civilian: Appropriate formal dress.

CASH BAR AVAILABLE

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS  
1730 Indoor/Outdoor Displays  
1800 Social Hour  
1850 Mess Call  
1900 Dining Out  
2200 Dancing -NCO Club

PRICE \$25.00 per ticket  
Cash, check, or Esprit Card



*Normandy Dining Out  
in honor of  
Operation Market Garden*

Menu

*Tossed Salad*

*Filet Mignon*

*Roasted Potatoes*

*Baby Carrots Bourbonnaise*

*Cheesecake with Strawberry Topping*

*Dreyer Field House*

*July 10, 1998*



*Mr. Detra*

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## **“Operation Market Garden Hero”**

T/5 Robert Duran, radio operator for LTC Cole (commander, 3-502 PIR) repeatedly exposed himself to hostile fire in order to maintain communications. He died in the middle of sending a message.

## 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

The 101st moved to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for training and successfully demonstrated its readiness during the Tennessee maneuvers of 1943. Embarking from New York City in September, the 101st continued training in England until D-Day, 6 June 1944, when its pathfinders became the first Americans to set foot in occupied France. The Screaming Eagles cleared the way for the 1st and 4th Infantry Divisions at Omaha and Utah beaches. After 33 days of continuous fighting, including the bitter battle for the town of Carentan, the 101st returned to England to prepare for the liberation of Holland. On 17 September 1944, the 101st seized and held the Eindhoven-Arnhem corridor for ten days against heavy odds and spent a total of 72 days in battle.

In November 1944, the 101st returned to France for a well-deserved rest, only to be called to action again in the Battle of the Bulge. While guarding the critical transportation hub of Bastogne, Belgium, the 101st was surrounded by advancing enemy forces who demanded immediate surrender. The acting Division Commander, Brigadier General Anthony C. McAuliffe, made history with his classic reply, "Nuts!" The siege was broken on 26 December 1944, but the fighting continued until 18 January 1945. After moving through Alsace and the Ruhr Valley, the 101st captured Hitler's retreat at Berchtesgaden. On 30 November 1945, the Screaming Eagles were deactivated.

In May 1954, the 101st reappeared as a training unit at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and in 1956 was transferred to Fort Campbell for reorganization as a combat division. Official reactivation ceremonies were held on 21 September 1956. Subsequent activities included major training exercises, duty in civil disturbances and maintenance of full readiness as part of the Strategic Army Corps (STRAC).

On 29 July 1965, the 1st Brigade was deployed to Vietnam, where the remainder of the Division joined it in December 1967. During the enemy's ill-fated Tet Offensive, which began on 31 January 1968, the Screaming Eagles were engaged in battle from Saigon to Quang Tri. From May 1968 through February 1969, the Division conducted operation "Nevada Eagle," successfully denying the rice crop of Thua Thien province to the enemy. The Division also tamed the infamous A Shau Valley, long used as a base area and infiltration route by the Vietcong. At the end of 1969, activities turned towards Civil Affairs and the pacification program. In the fall of 1971, the 101st began its return home which culminated in an official welcome ceremony at Fort Campbell on 6 April 1972.

In February 1974, Major General Sidney B. Berry, Commanding General, signed Division General Order 179, authorizing wear of the Airmobile Badge (later redesignated the Air Assault Badge and approved for wear Army-wide in January 1978). Finally on 4 October 1974, the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) became the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). In March 1982, elements of the 101st began a six month peacekeeping rotating tour of duty in the Sinai as part of the Multinational Force and Observers. Tragedy struck in December 1985, when 248 Screaming Eagles died in a plane Crash returning from the Middle East.

In August 1990, the 101st departed for Saudi Arabia to participate in Operations "Desert Shield" and "Desert Storm." The 101st fired the first shot of "Desert Storm" by taking out Iraqi radar sites in January 1991. During the ground war phase of "Desert Storm," the 101st made the longest and largest air assault in history securing Iraqi territory in the Euphrates River Valley and cutting Highway 8 to allow U.S. Armed Forces unrestricted access to Iraqi occupation forces in Kuwait. With the cease fire established on 28 February 1991, the 101st began preparations for redeployment. By 1 May 1991, the Screaming Eagles were home. The Air Assault Division serves in peace as it has in war, and when the country calls, the Screaming Eagles will respond with their next "Rendezvous with Destiny."

# TOASTS

*I propose a toast to the President of the United States.*

**To the President!**

*I propose a toast to the people of the Netherlands.*

**To the Netherlands!**

*I propose a toast to the United States Army.*

**To the United States Army!**

*I propose a toast to the Veterans of the United States Armed Forces.*

**To the Veterans!**

*I propose a toast to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell.*

**Air Assault!**

*I propose a toast to our neighbors in the surrounding communities that have provided so much support to our Ft. Campbell soldiers.*

**To our Neighbors!**

*I propose a toast to all the Screaming Eagles who have given their lives in defense of our country.*

**To our Fallen Comrades!**

*I propose a toast to the ladies.*

**To the Ladies!**

# NORMANDY DINING OUT

10 July 1998



**“Operation Market Garden”**  
**101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)**