

# History of the 503d Parachute Regimental Combat Team

	1938	1940	1942	1944	1946	1948	1950	1952	
		<div>5 Oct 1939 ● 503d Parachute Battalion constituted.</div> <div>5 Oct 1939 ● BEGIN TIMELINE</div> <div></div> <div>1 Jul 1940 ● BEGIN TIME LINE</div> <div>27 Jun 1940 ● Call for volunteers</div> <div></div> <div><p>The call for volunteers for a parachute test platoon was issued at the reveille formation of the 29th Infantry Regiment on 26 June 1940. Firstly, the men were warned of the high risk they would be taking. This risk was so high that married men would not be accepted. Undaunted, over 200 men had volunteered by 0830 hours. At officers call that morning volunteers were asked for to fill the position of platoon leader. Seventeen lieutenants volunteered. The situation was settled by accepting four men from each company, each with a written recommendation from his company commander. This provided forty eight men as compared to the usual thirty nine man rifle platoon. The nine extra men were considered as reserves to allow for injured men. 1st Lt. William T. Ryder was selected as the platoon leader because he scored the highest score on a written test. Ryder, having studied whatever he could obtain on the German and Russian experience with</p></div>							

the use of paratroops, had finished the two hour test in forty five minutes. 2nd Lt. James A. Basset, who had scored second to Ryder, was added as assistant platoon leader on 11 July, lest Lt. Ryder be incapacitated.

8 Nov 1940 ● **"B" Co., 501st Parachute Infantry Battalion organized.**

2nd Lt. B. M. Vandervoort designated as Company Commander.  
The company strength at that time was one officer and one-hundred and eleven enlisted men.  
Their purpose in training was to pick up where the test platoon left off.  
2nd Lt. Vandervoort will be replaced later by Capt. B. F. Sink.  
Capt. Sink will be replaced by Capt. Cotts (4 Jan, 1941)  
S/Sgt. Lloyd McCullough is 1st Sgt., until transferred to 502nd Parachute Battalion. He is replaced by S/Sgt. Mike A. Hotinski

13 Mar 1941 ● **503d Infantry reconstituted**

1st Battalion, 503d Infantry constituted in the Army of the United States as Company A, 503d Parachute Infantry Battalion  
2nd Battalion, 503d Infantry constituted in the Army of the United States as Company B, 503d Parachute Infantry Battalion.  
3rd Battalion, 503d Infantry constituted in the Army of the United States as Company C, 503d Parachute Infantry Battalion.

13 Mar 1941 ● **503d Parachute Battalion constituted.**

13 Mar 1941 ● **504th Parachute Battalion constituted.**

1 Apr 1941 ● **Training accident "B" Co., 501st PIB**

Sgt. Finley hung on the tail of the aircraft.

30 Apr 1941 ● **Image**



21 Jul 1941 ● **503d PIB activated**

503d Parachute Infantry Battalion is activated with Maj. Robert F. Sink commanding.

Major Sink was a member of the 501st Parachute Bn., and is West Point Class of 1927.

31 Jul 1941 - 30 Aug 1941

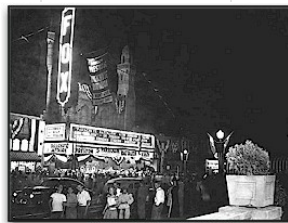
### First U.S. Airborne training exercises

In August 1941, the 550th Infantry Airborne Bn together with Company "C", 501st Parachute Bn conduct training exercises in Panama. It is the first airborne training exercise in US Army history.

The aircraft used are C-39 troop transport planes with B-18 bombers. Critiques following the exercises underline the need for coordination between the Air Corps and airborne paratroopers.

14 Aug 1941

### Premiere of "Parachute Battalion" Atlanta.



Public Library, Georgia State University

On August 14th, 1941, the company went to Atlanta, Georgia, for a world's premier of RKO motion picture "Parachute Battalion". Buffet suppers, dances, and the key to the city was enjoyed by all.

21 Aug 1941

### 1st, 2d, 3d Bn 503 Infantry activated

It is possible to distinguish 'constituted' and 'activated' as the difference between conception and birth.

5 Sep 1941

### 501st PIB entrains to Port of Embarcation

Departure Ft. Benning, SC.

Arrival Pt. Moutrie, SC.

7 Sep 1941

### 501st PIB embarks for Panama

501st PIB having departed from Ft. Benning by train on 5 September, 1941 to join Company "C" in the Panama Canal Zone.

The troopers embark upon "SS Siboney" at Pt. Moutrie, Charleston, SC.

At the time of departure, the destination is unknown to the EM.

8 Sep 1941 - 13 Sep 1941

#### Transit of the USAT SIBONEY

Hoisted anchor at Charleston and sailed for destination unknown at 0702 pm on the 8th of September 1941.

The boat voyage was uneventful and Cristopal, Canal Zone was sighted on the 12th of September, and anchor dropped at night. The ship left Cristopal early the next morning and docked at Balboa, Canal Zone. The troops arrived at Fort Kobbe 0630 pm. They occupied new concrete barracks. Shore leave was granted and our men made the most of it.

22 Sep 1941

#### 501st PIB -1st Lt. McRoberts assumes command

First Lt. McRoberts assumed command of Company "B" on the 22nd of September, 1941,

4 Oct 1941

#### 504th PIB activated.

The significance is that the the 504th will later become the 3rd Bn of the 503d PIR.

21 Nov 1941

#### 501st PIB Practice Jump, Rio Hato, Canal Zone

29 Nov 1941

#### "B" Co. detailed to Orlando, FL.

To test the coordination of parachute troops with the airborne infantry.

30 Nov 1941

#### "B" Co., 501st PIB - Capt. Michaelis assumes command.

24 Dec 1941

#### Christmas Day 1941

The 501st Parachute Bn are in Panama;  
502d, 503d & 504th Parachute Battalions are in F. Benning, GA.  
Because f crowded conditions at Ft. Benning, the 503d and 504th Parachute Battalions will move to Ft. Bragg, NC.

13 Jan 1942

#### "B" Co. dispatched to Salt Lake City, UT.

for infantry paratroop ski training.  
Much derision has been made of this, that the Army would train paratroopers for snow warfare and then transfer the unit to the Pacific. however the publicity given to the ski training actually suggests that it was part of a deliberate ruse, intended to mislead Hitler that the United States may become involved in Norway.

14 Feb 1942 ● **Singapore Falls**

23 Feb 1942 ● **"A" Co, 503d Parachute Infantry**

1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry consolidated with Company A, 503rd Parachute Infantry (concurrently constituted) and consolidated unit designated as Company A, 503rd Parachute Infantry.

2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry consolidated with Company B, 503rd Parachute Infantry (concurrently constituted) and consolidated unit designated as Company A, 503rd Parachute Infantry.

3d Battalion, 503rd Infantry consolidated with Company C, 503rd Parachute Infantry (concurrently constituted) and consolidated unit designated as Company A, 503rd Parachute Infantry.

503rd Infantry (The Rock Regiment) constituted in the Army of the United States as the 503rd Parachute Infantry (1st Battalion concurrently consolidated with the 503rd Parachute Battalion, and the 2nd Battalion consolidated with the 504th Parachute Battalion) and consolidated units designated as the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 503rd Parachute Infantry.

Comment - The above reference to the 503rd Infantry (The Rock Regiment), of course, refers to the present 1996 designation. "The Rock," was to become associated with the 503rd much later in its history and comes from the airborne assault on the island fortress, of Corregidor.

1 Mar 1942 ● **503d PIR activated at Ft. Benning, GA.**

The 503d PIR began as a two battalion regiment formed by uniting the 503d and 504th Battalions.

The 503d Parachute Battalion became the 1st Bn 503d PIR and the 504th Bn becomes the 2d Bn 503d PIR.

Before they could be welded into a solid unit the Second Battalion, commanded Lt. Col. Edison D. Raff, departed for Europe on 2 May 1942, where it eventually became the 509th Parachute Battalion.

2 Mar 1942 ● **504th Parachute Battalion redesignated**

504th Parachute Battalion is redesignated as 2nd Btn., 503d Parachute Infantry Regiment

101 Officers, 4 Warrant Officers, 1205 Enlisted

Lt. Colonel William M. Miley assumes command.

19 Mar 1942 ● **Reg't moves to Ft. Bragg, NC.**

Regiment moves to Fort Bragg, NC.

30 Mar 1942



1 Apr 1942 ● **501st PIB Training fatality**

Private Delia was killed when the parachute failed to open at Pacora R. De, P.

(Source - A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE "F" COMPANY - Don Abbott)

8 Apr 1942 ● **Bataan Surrenders - Death March begins**

30 Apr 1942 ● **504th PIR activated**



Lt. Col Reubin H. Tucker (West Point Class of 1935) CO.

Some of the men of this regiment will become integral to the future structure of the 503d PIR.

1 May 1942 ● **2d Bn, 503d PIR departs for ETO**

Before the two battalion regiment formed two months earlier could be welded into a solid unit the Second Battalion, commanded Lt. Col. Edison D. Raff, departs for Europe on 2 May 1942, where it eventually became the 509th Parachute Battalion.

3 May 1942 - 7 May 1942 | **Battle of The Coral Sea**

5 May 1942 ● **Corregidor Falls**  
30 May 1942 ● **2d Bn 503d PIR embarks for ETO**

2nd Battalion under Major Edison P. Raff moved to New York Port of Embarkation for transfer to England.  
Departure date was 4 June 1942.  
In the meantime, the parent unit remained at Ft. Bragg awaiting additional men to bring the numbers up to the authorized strength.

3 Jun 1942 - 6 Jun 1942 | **Battle of Midway**

4 Jun 1942 ● **3d Bn, 503d PIR activated**

The Third Battalion, 503d Parachute Infantry Regiment was activated 4 June 1942 under the command of Major John J. Tolson III. This battalion was formed by 502nd troops: Headquarters Company, 502nd became Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Third battalion, 503d; "A" Company became "G" Company; "B" Company became "H" Company; and "C" Company became "I" Company.

6 Jun 1942 ● **1st Bn 502nd PIR redesignated**

On 6 June 1942 the 1st Battalion, 502nd PIR was redesignated 3rd Battalion, 503rd PIR.  
At this time they expected to embark for England as soon as transportation was available.

6 Jun 1942 ● **3d Bn 503d PIR designated**

On 6 June 1942 the 1st Battalion, 502nd PIR was redesignated 3rd Battalion, 503rd PIR.  
At this time they expected to embark for England as soon as transportation was available.

7 Jun 1942 ● **3d Bn 503d PIR formed**

3d Bn is formed by a 'lateral transfer' of the 3d Bn 502d Bn

8 Jun 1942 ● **502nd Parachute Infantry redesignated**

Regiment receives 3rd Battalion with redesignation of 1st. Battalion of the 502nd Parachute Infantry under Major John J. Tolson III.  
Lt. Colonel Robert F. Sink assumes command ex. Lt. Col. Miley

29 Jun 1942 ● **Lt. Col Kinsler, CO.**

Lt. Colonel Kenneth H. Kinsler assumed command ex. Lt. Colonel Sink.

1 Jul 1942 ● **Heraldry - 503d PIR**



"The 503d never had an official shoulder patch, and they still do not for that matter."

John Lindgren

12 Sep 1942 ● **Co. "C" 161st Engineer Bn constituted**

Constituted in the Army of the United States as Company C, 161st Engineer Battalion.

12 Sep 1942 ● **Heraldry of the 161st Prcht Eng.**



As far as can be determined, even by its own members, there was no contemporary individual WWII insignia for the 161st Parachute Engineer Battalion.

This design was composed by Bob Flynn, a 161st veteran and the Official 503d PRCT Historian, and has been used unofficially.

9 Oct 1942 ● **"A" Co. 504th PI attached**

"A" Company of the 504th Parachute Infantry (82nd Airborne Division) is attached to the Regiment on the night of departure and is loaded on train with the 503rd PIR, but retains its original designation.

9 Oct 1942 - 15 Oct 1942 | **503d PIR entrain**

503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, less 2d Bn which had gone to England, moves from Fort Bragg to San Francisco Port of Embarkation.

"A" Company of the 504th Parachute Infantry (82nd Airborne Division) attached Regiment on the night of departure and loaded on train with the 503rd but retained its original designation.

17 Oct 1942 ● **501st PIB - Capt. Greco assumes command**

On the 17th of October, 1942, Captain Greco assumed command and preparations were made for a change of station.

20 Oct 1942 ● **Reg't departs US**

At this time it appeared the 503d PIR had two second Battalions, one headed towards Australia and one in Africa.  
For detail, refer to "Bless 'em All"

20 Oct 1942 - 2 Dec 1942 | **Transit of the "MS Poelau Laut"**

Units sails from San Francisco on MS Poleau Laut.

Ship proceeds to Balboa, Panama Canal Zone, where the 501st Parachute Battalion, less "C" Company is boarded 1 November, 1942.

At Balboa, six officers and one-hundred enlisted men from "B" Co.

501st PIB are embarked on the U.S.A.T. "POELAU LAUT" on November 1, 1942, for destination unknown.

Thereafter the Reg'd is confined on the Poelau Laut until arrival in Cairns, at 0845 hrs 2 December 1942

3 Nov 1942 ● **"F" Co., 503d PIR created from "B" Co., 501st PIB.**

On the 31st of December, 1941, secret letter, WDAGO, file number AG 320-2-11-3-42 OB-1-E-M-1 dated November 8, 1941, Subject: Transfer of Certain Parachute Infantry Units, as amended by secret letter WDAGO file number AG 570-5 (11-16-42) OB-1-G-N-M, dated November 17, 1942, Subject; Transfer of Certain Parachute Infantry Units, designated Company "B", 501st Parachute Battalion as Company "F", 503rd Parachute Infantry, effective November 3, 1942.

7 Nov 1942 ● **"D" Co., 503d PI activated**

4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry activated in the Army of the United States in Australia as Company D, 503d Parachute Infantry.

Comment - To make this chronology more complete it is noted that the unit which was to become Company D, 503d Parachute Infantry was originally "A" Company of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, later became part of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and was reassigned to the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment

just prior to their departure from Fort Bragg, North Carolina in October 1942.

On their way to Australia, the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment stopped in Panama to pick up three companies from the 501st Parachute Battalion. The companies were Headquarters and Headquarters Company, A Company and B Company. They were picked up to complete the 2nd Battalion of the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 501 became Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion of the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, A Company of the 501 became E Company of the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment and B Company of the 501 became F Company of the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment. Former 2nd Battalion of the 503rd Parachute Infantry reorganized and redesignated as the 2nd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry and thereafter followed into a separate lineage; new 2nd Battalion 503rd Parachute Infantry concurrently activated in Australia.

15 Nov 1942 ● **Co. "C" 161st Engineer Squadron activated**

Activated at Fort Bliss, Texas as Company C, 161st Engineer Squadron.

2 Dec 1942 ● **Reg't Reorganized**

Regiment Officially reorganized to include HQ, HQ Co., 1st Battalion and 3rd Battalion as it had left Ft. Bragg. "A" Co. 504th redesignated as "D" Co and 501st Prcht Bn was redesignated as "E" and "F" Cos of the 503rd Prcht Infantry Regiment.

2 Dec 1942 ● **Reg't deploys in Australia**

Regiment Officially reorganized to include HQ, HQ Co., 1st Battalion and 3rd Battalion as it had left Ft. Bragg. "A" Co. 504th redesignated as "D" Co and 501st Prcht Bn was redesignated as "E" and "F" Cos of the 503rd Prcht Infantry Regiment.

2 Dec 1942 ● **Regiment arrives Cairns, Australia**

Departure from Pittsburg, CA is 42 days ago;  
Departure from Panama is one month ago  
The Regiment goes into camp at Gordonvale, near Cairns in the State of Queensland, Australia.

Though often referred to as North Queensland or NQ, there is no

separate state or province by that name. Queensland is approx. 2500 km from S to N, and is more than twice the size of Texas.

25 Dec 1942 ● **Christmas Day**

Pfc Henry J. Blalock drowns in the Little Mulgrave River, Gordonvale. The accident occurs in a deep pool of the river near the base of Welches Pyramid, a dominating mountain peak of the area. Men of the 503d frequented this spot to wash their clothes and to cool off after a hard day's activities. (Guthrie, p.33)

25 Dec 1942 ● **Training fatality**

Pfc Henry J. Blalock drowns in the Little Mulgrave River, Gordonvale. The accident occurs in a deep pool of the river near the base of Welches Pyramid, a dominating mountain peak of the area. Men of the 503d frequented this spot to wash their clothes and to cool off after a hard day's activities. (Guthrie, p.33)

5 Feb 1943 ● **The Cat Patch**



25 Feb 1943 ● **462nd FABn constituted**

Constituted in the Army of the United States as the 462nd Field Artillery Battalion.

Note: the absence of the 'Parachute' designation.

24 Mar 1943 ● **Gen Kreuger inspects**

Lt. Gen. Walter Kreuger is U.S. Sixth Army commander of the Southwest Pacific Area

2 Apr 1943 ● **Training fatality - Bernard**

S/Sgt Bernard drowns while on maneuvers

9 Apr 1943 ● **Sir Leslie Wilson inspects**

Sir Leslie Wilson is the Governor of Queensland.

1 May 1943 ● **161st AEBn designated.**

Company C, 161st Engineer Squadron redesignated as the 161st Airborne Engineer Battalion.

1 May 1943 ● **General Downing inspects**

General Downing - British liaison officer attached to the Australian Army

5 May 1943 ● **General Lavarack inspects**

General Lavarack - First Australian Army

6 May 1943 ● **Training fatality - White**

Pvt. Robert H. White becomes entangled in electrical transmission lines near Cairns. The proximity of the line to the intended jump field was known beforehand, and orders had been made, but not complied with, to disconnect it for the jump.

Subsequently, the regiment clears a jump field out of bush and lantana closer to Gordonvale, naming it "White Field."

16 May 1943 ● **462d PFABn Patch**

31 May 1943 - 24 Jul 1943 ● **503d PIR Jumpmaster Training, Gordonvale**

15 Jun 1943 ● **462nd FABn activated**



At Camp Mackall, June 21, 1943  
Front Row: S-1 Lt. Zussowick, Lt. Thompson, Capt. Eadsom,  
Capt. Eadsom, Lt. Eadsom  
Back: Lt. Buehler, Lt. Vindigovora, WO Pope, Maj. Hedges

The Battalion was activated on 15 June 1943 by G.O. #44 Hq. Airborne Command at Camp Mackall, NC, still without the parachute designation but under TO&E was essentially the same as the one developed by experimentation in the Parachute Test Battery under the Airborne Command and remained with one small change in 1945, the same for all PFA battalions throughout WWII.

The 462nd was the fifth unit formed under this TO&E. (The others were

456th-82 ABN Div, 457th-11th ABN Div and 460th-17th ABN Div.) It was the first non-divisional Parachute Field Artillery Battalion and although seven additional units were activated it was the only one that was not assigned to an airborne division during the war.

#### 16 Jun 1943 ● Assignment of personnel to 462 Prcht FA Bn

The cadre for the 462nd, including the original Commander, LT Col Forrest R. Armstrong, came from the 458th PFA which had been activated at Fort Bragg only four months previously. Special Orders No. 143, Hq Airborne Command, 16 June 1943, assigned 55 officers (only 35 were required for the new battalion) and 285 enlisted men to the 462 Prcht FA Bn. The same date 24 officers and all of the EM were assigned to individual batteries. The surplus officers were formed into a "pool" of parachute qualified Artillery officers who subsequently were used in the activation of several new Battalions. The pool (and later an enlisted counterpart) was attached to the 462nd for administration purposes.

So for a period of over 4 months, Armstrong and his personnel officers (a bright, conniving, (bless him) warrant officer named Pape) screened the records and chose those Armstrong wanted from over 200 officers and several hundred enlisted men.

Armstrong placed heavy emphasis on experience and attitude and, as a result, we went overseas with a disproportionate number of "old soldiers", regular army enlisted men, not only as the top level NCO's but professional privates as well-not so hot in garrison but top-notch field soldiers. He also snagged over 30 of the original test battery who in the context of the time were old paratroopers with a year and a half of jump and heavy drop experience.

#### 22 Jun 1943 ● 462d Officers

Image taken at Camp Mackall, 23 June 1943

#### 25 Jun 1943 ● Gens. MacArthur & Blamey inspect

Gen. Sir Thomas Blamey is in command of all Australian troops.

#### 25 Jun 1943 ● Training fatality - Wilson

During the course of a demonstration jump for Generals Blamey and MacArthur, Pvt. Donald "Shanghai" Wilson falls to his death when his canopy fails to open.

There were questionable circumstances leading to the late opening of Wilson's canopy which did not involve an equipment failure or failed

equipment check.

Gen. MacArthur witnesses the death and notwithstanding that the Regiment is not in the face of the enemy, orders that Wilson be awarded the order of the Purple Heart.

12 Jul 1943 ● "G" Co prior to Nadzab Jump



Project ID link:

[http://corregidor.org/503rd\\_Association/ID\\_project/ID\\_001.htm](http://corregidor.org/503rd_Association/ID_project/ID_001.htm)

Members of "G" Company at Port Moresby prior to the Markham Valley Mission

1: Avelino Fernandez

2: Charlie McLemore

3: Karsten Hall

4: Bert Coder

5: Dragone

6: Stempemski

7:

8: Sleepy Linton

9:

10:

11:

12:

13:

14:

15:

16:

17: Lemuel T. Pitts

18: Buford Adams

19: 20: 21: 22: 23: 24:

25: 26: 27: 28: 29: 30:

7 Aug 1943 - 22 Aug 1943 | Reg't moves to Pt. Moresby

19 Aug 1943 ● "F" Co., 503d PIR transfer by air to Pt. Moresby

On the 19th of August the Company traveled by air from Cairns to

(Wards Landing Strip), Port Moresby, New Guinea.

2 Sep 1943 ● **Gen. Blamey inspects.**

The 503d Prcht Inf fell out on parade with full battle equipment, jump suits, jump boots, helmets, covered with camouflage nets, special ammunition pouches made especially for this outfit. We are inspected by Major General Blamey. Gen. Blamey is tall, lean, lined faced, and speaks more like an Englishman than an Australian. He said he was proud to have us with him. He paused and appeared to be reading. The 503d will jump, take an airfield, clean the field and hold it for the airborne landing of the 7th Australian Div. Then the general waxes bitter against the Jap.

I have never seen a man in so high a position so bitter. "Kill them all," he said. Received a warning order that Gen McArthur might possibly inspect tomorrow.

Gerry Riseley, from 'Bless 'em All' - See Link

3 Sep 1943 ● **Gen MacArthur inspects**

"At 1017 telephone call was received saying that General McArthur was in the regimental area and that all men would put on coveralls.

At 1019 General McArthur and party ambled alongside the CO S-3 tent wherein is the famous sand table. And within were the Bn Cmdr, the Ex, S-3 and 4 Co cmdrs. They smell him coming and came out as fast as possible for people pretending to accidentally come out. Lt Richmond, the combination actg S-4, asst S-3, and general duties officer had to edge all the way from the CP tent, about 30 yds, but he made an admirable edge and arrived in time to have his picture taken along with the aforementioned. General McArthur is very publicity minded and always is accompanied by a corps of photographers."

Gerry Riseley, quoted from "Bless 'em All"

5 Sep 1943 - 19 Sep 1943 | **NADZAB - Jump**

16 Sep 1943 ● **"F" Co., 503PIR return by air to Pt. Moresby from Nadzab**

Six officers and one hundred and ten enlisted men traveled by air from Nadzab, New Guinea to Port Moresby, New Guinea, on September 16, 1943.

19 Sep 1943 ● **"G" Co. await transport return to Pt. Moresby**

Members of "G" Company await transport from Nadzab Field to Jackson

Events

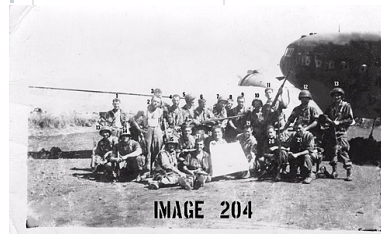
Strip, Port Moresby.  
2: Mike Levack  
3: Bill Malone  
7: Company Clerk  
15: Howard Hicks  
20: Lemuel T. Pitts  
22: Strebe

19 Sep 1943 ● 3d Bn return to Pt. Moresby



3d Bn return to Pt. Moresby, a dull muddy and generally unhealthy encampment.

13 Oct 1943 ● ID Project - Img 204



ID Project

22 Oct 1943 ● Col. Jones assumes command.

As senior to Col. Lawrie and Col. Tolson, Col. Jones assumes command.

22 Oct 1943 ● Kinsler suicide

Kinsler Suicide

Col. Jones, as senior Col., assumes command.

2 Nov 1943 - 25 Dec 1943 | Training for Cape Gloucester mission.

	Preparing for Cape Gloucester operation	
26 Dec 1943	<b>Cape Gloucester</b> Planned jump date for jump on airfield at Cape Gloucester;	
8 Jan 1944	<b>Reg't alert</b> Regiment alerted for move to new station.	
25 Jan 1944	<b>Advance Party for return to Gordonvale</b> Selected details of an advance party fly to Cairns to prepare Gordonvale for return of remainder of the Reg't.	
25 Jan 1944	<b>Reg't embarks at Moersby to return to Cairns</b> Entire regiment board SS John Carroll and a British liner.	
1 Feb 1944 - 17 Feb 1944	<b>503d PIR transit of S.S. Robert J. Walker</b> On February 1st, 1944, camp at Gordonvale was broken at 1480 hours and the troops went aboard the S.S. ROBERT J. WALKER at 1605 hr, hoisted anchor at 1740 hr from Cairns and sailed for unknown destination. The ship arrived at Brisbane, Australia on the 17th of February, traveling a distance of 1256 miles.	
2 Feb 1944 - 8 Apr 1944	<b>Camp Cable</b> The last elements of Regiment arrive in Brisbane and are transported into camp at Camp Cable on 17 February 1944. During the period at Camp Cable, each Bn will rotate through jungle training at the Jungle Training area at Canungra.	
10 Feb 1944	<b>"D" Co leaves Pt. Moersby for new station</b>	
10 Feb 1944	<b>"E" Co leaves Pt. Moersby on USS Robert J. Waker for rest period in Australia</b>	
13 Feb 1944	<b>"F" Co. debarks at Dobodura, Oro Bay.</b> "Co left Camp Cable by truck and boarded Army Transport at Brisbane, Qld. Aust. Harbor for new station."	
16 Feb 1944	<b>"F" Co. arrives at Brisbane</b>	

On 17 February we arrived at Brisbane, Australia. The concrete arches of Grey Street Bridge were a beautiful sight to behold. We unloaded from the ship and onto rear wheel drive trucks operated by a colored transportation battalion. Passing through Brisbane we quickly noticed the large number of places advertising American hamburgers. We soon found out, to our chagrin, the Aussie idea of a hamburger bun was a tough English muffin.

Soon we were out in the country traveling on a two lane asphalt surface road. We would pass through an area of farms and then several miles of no habitation or land use. We were told there was still land here which was available for claim. We continued on to Camp Cable. This camp consisted of hastily thrown up kitchens, latrines, and a few other auxiliary buildings. The troops were quartered in pyramidal tents. It was a great place, though. We were just about thirty miles from the city of Brisbane.

28 Feb 1944 - 5 Apr 1944 **"F" Co., 503d PIR arrive Camp Cable**

28 Feb 1944 - 5 Mar 1944 **462d in transit, troop train Camp Mackall to Camp Stoneman**

On Monday, 28 February 1944 the battalion, with equipment, loaded aboard a troop train on the siding of Camp Mackall. After a long, circuitous but uneventful trip (Chicago, Denver etc.) it arrived at Camp Stoneman CA (outside San Francisco) on Sunday, 5 March, six days and nights even with troop train priority. PT, running and final paper work occupied the next few days and although we were restricted to camp, a number of individuals went over the fence and smuggled in cases of joy juice.

5 Mar 1944 - 11 Mar 1944 **462d Camp Stoneman**

Camp Stoneman is a Port of Embarkation holding camp near San Francisco

5 Mar 1944 - 11 Mar 1944 **462d Port of Embarkation, Camp Stoneman, SFO**

11 Mar 1944 - 2 Apr 1944 **462d in transit SFO-BNE, USAT SEA CAT**

On Saturday, 11 March, we boarded the ferry boat at Camp Stoneman and proceeded to the ferry building at the Port San Francisco. There we boarded the SEACAT, a fast (?) C-4 type, victory cargo ship just recently converted to a troop transport. Two other separate battalions were already aboard; an all black Motor Transport unit and a white Air Corps Engineer Construction battalion. We got underway in the late afternoon and sailed out of the Golden Gate into a setting sun. Most of us were started to find that we were to sail alone - no naval escort, no

convoy. Our apprehension was somewhat allayed by the "now hear this" we were too fast for an enemy submarine to catchâ€" "Good Show! But most of us had at least heard of radio and realized that if we were spotted we could be intercepted. Some of us (again I'll take the fifth) never did put all of our weight down.

We zig-zagged across the pacific, with the appropriate ceremonies at the International Date Line and the Equator, for 22 days with only life boat drills, two submarine scares and the detonation of a floating mine with the ship's 20 mm Bofors AA guns to break the monotony. Poker and crap games occupied the time between the daily calisthenics. The sighting of schools of flying fish and porpoises, with an occasional shark (all new to most of us) provided additional diversion.

The cessation of the ship's throbbing awakened almost everyone in the pre-dawn hours of Sunday, 2 April. We had arrived in the harbor of Brisbane, Australia. Land, any land would have been welcome but the sight of Brisbane in the early morning light was a sight never to be forgotten.

14 Mar 1944



503rd Parachute RCT Association  
World War II, Inc.

29 Mar 1944



**462d PFABn attached**

462nd Parachute Field Artillery Battalion attached to 503d PIR.

31 Mar 1944



**"E" Co - the regiment is alerted**

5 Apr 1944 - 13 Apr 1944



**"E" Co transit USAT SEA CAT Brisbane-Oro Bay**

5 Apr 1944



**Reg't departs Camp Cable**

Embarks "SS. Van Der Lijn".

13 Apr 1944



**Depart Milne Bay for Oro Bay**

Oro Bay serves the Dobodura area.

Camp will be at Cape Sudest for approx. 6 weeks. Hot, wet & Boring)

â€" GHQ plan for jump in the Hansa Bay Area, approx. halfway between Madang & Wewack. This will be discarded and a dual assault planned for area near Hollandia (200 m north of Jap bastion of

Wewack, w/ a simultaneous attack against Aitape (125mi SE of Hollandia between the Drinimor & Esim Rivers)

13 Apr 1944 ● **Reg't arrives Oro Bay**

Unit arrived Oro Bay, New Guinea 0730. Distance travelled 2000 miles. Debarked by DUKW'S and proceeded to new camp at Sudest Bay.

15 Apr 1944 ● **Arrive Milne Bay**

No debarcation

19 Apr 1944 ● **Training Accident**

Lt. Michael Brady accidentally shot in stomach.

30 Apr 1944 ● **Reg't strength**

Strength 188 Officers, 2400 EM's.

15 May 1944 ● **Reg't strength**

Strength 174 Officers, 2294 EM's.  
A number of Officers and Enlisted Men had been rotated to U.S

26 May 1944 ● **Reg't relocates**

Moved to new camp adjacent to Air Strip.

28 May 1944 ● **Reg't alert**

28 May 1944 - 30 May 1944 | **Reg't relocates**

Leave Dobodura for Cyclops Drome, Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea.

30 May 1944 ● **Eberley Plantation**

Temporary camp established in Eberley Plantation in Hollandia Drome area. Nearby are: Sentani Lake, Tami River and the Sangke River.

4 Jun 1944 ● **transit by air, Oro Bay-Cape Cassoe, Hollandia**

21 Jun 1944 ● **F.O.19 establishes Noemfoor Task Force as CYCLONE**

U.S. Sixth Army Field Order No. 19  
The taskforce consists of 8,069 combat personnel, of which 5,495

were service troops, and about 10,000 air corps personnel - a total invasion force of approx. 23,000 men.

158th IR - Col. Earl O. Sandlin, CO.

147th FABn

116th AAG

Plt. 603d Tank Co

641st Tank Destroyer Bn (4,2" Mortar Co.)

27th Engineers

593d Bn ES&B Regt.

2d Eng. Special Brigade

34th IR of 24th Div.

503d PIR (reserve)

#### 28 Jun 1944 ● Orders for Noemfoor Received

The 503d PIR received its orders regarding TABLE TENNIS and is assigned the U.S. Sixth Army reserve codename ESCALATOR

#### 30 Jun 1944 ● C-47's arrive Hollandia

38 C-47's of the 54th Troop Carrier Wing arrive, Hollandia.

#### 1 Jul 1944 ● 2200 parachutes arrive, Hollandia

#### 3 Jul 1944 ● Noemfoor Jump

1st Bn, elements of RHQ & Service Co of 503d arrive Cyclops Drome at 0505 hrs and emplaning is completed by 0615 hrs.

First plane departs 0630 hrs, with the remaining aircraft departing at 30 second intervals.

The intended jump field is Kornasoren airstrip, but at the last moment this is changed to Kamiri airstrip.

The first two aircraft erroneously set their altimeters and jumping occurs at less than 175 ft.

#### 4 Jul 1944 ● "F" Co., transit by air, Hollandia-Biak

#### 4 Jul 1944 ● 3d Bn., Regimental HQ & Service Co jump

#### 10 Jul 1944 - 11 Jul 1944 | "F" Co. transit by LCI, Biak-Noemfoor

#### 11 Jul 1944 ● 2d Bn arrive Noemfoor

The 2d Bn 503d PIR arrive across the beach at Romboi Bay, near Namber Drome and are ordered to proceed overland to Inasi and to

initiate patrols from there.

12 Jul 1944 ● **503d troopers on Biak**

When the 3rd Battalion took off for Noemfoor, 1Lt. Joe Phelan's plane developed engine troubles and had to return to Hollandia. He and his men were then attached to come in with the 2nd Battalion, who were due to take off the following morning.

The 2nd Battalion drop was cancelled for reasons not immediately known to them (but due to high injuries sustained during the first jump) and there was a lull for all those keyed up to go into action.

During this time, two of Lt. Phelan's men, Privates J. T. Coffee and Frank Gunderman, had wandered up into the hills and had joined with a company in the 41st Division. In making an attack, both were killed. Gunderman's body was never recovered.

13 Jul 1944 ● **2n Bn arrive Inasi, Noemfoor**

13 Jul 1944 ● **Noemfoor - "C" Co. contact Japanese at Hill 670**

Company "C" is despatched on patrol with the mission of contacting the main enemy body and forcing it towards the 2d Bn at Inasi. Contact is made at 1400 hrs with a screen of riflemen entrenched on Hill 670. A sharp firefight develops. The enemy force is estimated at 400, with numerous heavy machine guns and mortars. Prisoner later confirms 1400 men under Col. Shimizu.

"C" Co withdraw N 300 yards after three and a half hours, to await "A" and "B" , which arrive 1845 hrs.

Harrassing fire is directed ar Hill 670 by Btry "B", 147th FABn.

14 Jul 1944 - 22 Jul 1944 | **2d Bn patrolling**

Patrolling from Inasi to the N. & N.W.

22 Jul 1944 ● **Sgt. Ray E. Eubanks, CMH**



"D" & "E" Co's operating approx. 4 miles N. of Inasi contact major

Japanese Forces.

For details of Sgt. Eubanks CMH, refer to website as linked.

1 Aug 1944 ● **Japanese Cannibalism**

Patrols begin to find bodies from which fleshy portions have been carved. The usual victims are freshly slain Formosan laborers accompanying the enemy forces as slaves.

7 Aug 1944 ● **462nd PFABn arrives off Noemfoor**

The battalion arrived off Noemfoor on 7 August, 1944, lightered men and cargo by LCM's during the next two days to join the 503rd PIR and the newly arrived Company A, 161st Parachute Engineers. At last we were a Parachute Combat Team.

10 Aug 1944 ● **Capt. Spicer on Noemfoor**

12 Aug 1944 ● **KIA's mutilated & cannibalized**

"H" Co. move down from Hill 380 and secure the battlefield. Three casualties whose bodies could not be recovered during the battle of the previous evening are found both mutilated and cannibalized. Enraged, "H" Co. pursues the fleeing Japanese, giving no quarter. Several are found to be carrying human flesh in their knapsacks. Others are slain while eating flesh.

21 Aug 1944 ● **"F" Co, 503d PIR relocates from Namber strip to Kamiri, Noemfoor**

27 Aug 1944 - 17 Sep 1944 | **"F" Co., 503d PIR performs port Bn duty**

30 Aug 1944 ● **Bob Hope entertains us at Kamiri**

In a clearing not far from Kamiri strip on Noemfoor."What a beautiful swamp you have here.... It's a top-secret base"even the snakes can't find it. If you wanna hide from your draft board, this is the place to do it." Then, when several shots were heard in the distance. Hope shaded his eyes with his hands and looked at the surrounding forest, and asked, "Are those guys in back wearing kimonos?" This brought the house down. (Bill Calhoun)

30 Aug 1944 ● **ID Project - Img 201**





13 Sep 1944 ● **"C" Co, 161st Airborne Engineers attached**

Company "C" 161st Airborne Engineers joined the 503d PIR with 8 officers and 109 enlisted men.

From this time the 503d became known as the 503d Parachute Regimental Combat Team

13 Sep 1944 ● **"F" Co/. 503d PIR - Lt. Bailey assumes command**

13 Sep 1944 ● **503d PRCT established**

The lessons of the constraints of jungle fighting have been learned - henceforth the minimum deployable unit to field combat effectiveness is the trinity of the combat arm (503d PIR), its attached artillery unit (462d PFABn) and its supporting Combat Engineers (161st PE Bn.)

19 Sep 1944 ● **Warning Order No. 1 issued.**

Warning Order is received to prepare for the next mission.

1 Nov 1944 - 6 Nov 1944 | **"F" Co., 503d PIR prepares for unknown mission**

7 Nov 1944 - 14 Nov 1944 | **"F" Co., 503d PIR boards USS Custer. Waits.**

November 7, 1944, 1st and 2nd platoons departed camp at 1145 hr. and arrived at Kamiri jetty at 1200 hr. Boarded LCM and sailed to an ocean going ship, USS CUSTER. Boarded the Custer at 1509. These platoons were to act as a loading party for the 2nd Bn, 503d Parachute Infantry. The remainder of the company less one NCO and 8 EM, these men were left to guard company equipment. November 8, the company equipment was loaded and the rest of the men boarded the ship at noon.

Company stayed aboard the Custer in the harbor until Nov. 14.

14 Nov 1944 - 19 Nov 1944 | **transit on USS CUSTER**

At this time, Co. "F" consisted of 9 officers and 144 enlisted men. Destination unknown at the time but will be Maragona, Leyte.

19 Nov 1944 - 11 Dec 1944

#### "F" Co., 503d PIR - Tarragona, Leyte

company bivouacked near Tarragona, Leyte, training for coming operation. In the meantime the men enjoyed the dandy beach by swimming and playing ball on the sands. Many Nippon planes were shot down from the skies overhead. So foxholes had to be dug beside each man's bed. One day the regiment witnessed a Nippon Kamikase pilot that struck a liberty ship in the (blank space). Many men lost their lives and the ship burned continuously all night. Every night anti-aircraft batteries expended mucho rounds of tracer at the Nips. It resembled Coney island on the fourth of July. The P-38 fighter plane did its job of clearing the skies.

30 Nov 1944

#### ● GHQ directive issues, postponing Mindoro Operation until 15 December

To make proper preparations for naval escort carrier-based planes to protect the assaulting troops, Admiral Kincaid obtains a 10 day postponement.

30 Nov 1944

#### ● Mindoro

4 Dec 1944

#### ● Planned date for Mindoro Invasion

10 Dec 1944

#### ● "F" Co., 503d PIR - depart Leyte, await convoy departure.

Company consisting of 5 officers and 132 EM. Broke camp at 0700 and moved down to the beach ½ mile at Reading Point. Boarded LCI 759 at 1030. Joined convoy and anchored Leyte harbor overnight. Although most of the men were seasick, the morale was high since Peterson, R. L. discovered a strange hatch filled with ice cream powder, peaches and dehydrated milk.

10 Dec 1944

#### ● 503d embarks for Mindoro practice landing

11 Dec 1944

#### ● Convoy departure from San Pedro Bay

11 Dec 1944 - 14 Dec 1944

#### Transit on LCI-759

12th December 44: LCI's weighed anchor at 1530 and sailed as part of the invasion force for Mindoro Island, Philippine Islands. Morale is excellent. This is to be the first beach assault company "F" has ever attempted. The following day the convoy received several bombing raids which were met with our own intense anti-aircraft fire. No casualties aboard our own ship. One ship in the convoy was hit by an enemy suicide (Kamikaze) plane.

13 Dec 1944 ● **Kamikaze attack hits USS Nashville**  
135 deaths, 190 wounded on the USS Nashville

14 Dec 1944 ● **503d Landing - Mindoro**

2 Battalions land abreast on either side of the Bugsanga River at Green and Blue Beaches. By noon units are near San Jose village.

0720 hour, 15 Dec, 1944: "F" stormed ashore after a 15 minute naval bombardment of rockets and shells, then continued by foot to San Jose, Mindoro Is., Philippines. The terrain was rough for hiking with our heavy packs, loaded with chow mostly. Company minus the third platoon left to guard general headquarters at San Jose. No enemy ground resistance. Company did routine patrolling and setting up positions. Enemy air activity was very intense. Each man had to dig a deep, standing fox hole because of the punctual night bombings.

Note the time - the US Army, eminently unable to admit error, failed to award the 503d with an "arrowhead" to credit the beach assault. This failure, and the inability to admit it, continues.

14 Dec 1944 - 30 Jan 1945 | **Mindoro Operation**



H-Hour originally set at 0720 hrs but has to be delayed for 10 minutes. Filipinos begin streaming to the beaches with their belongings and water buffalos and waving flags.

Mindoro Island Operation is officially concluded on 31 January 1945. though the Regiment remains encamped there awaiting their next mission.

24 Dec 1944 ● **Christmas Day 1944**

Roast turkey, with all the trimmings, is flown in from Leyte.

28 Jan 1945 ● **"F" Co., 503d PIR - Capt. McRoberts relieved by Lt. Bailey**

Captain McRoberts relieved of assignment as company commander and Lt. William T. Bailey assumed command. Company set up camp

across the river, west of San Jose. Began intensive training and preparation for another mission

3 Feb 1945 ● **Corregidor Day Reports - Introduction**

The day reports are a Date-based Navigation System which contain summaries of occurrences, incidents and messages taking place on Corregidor during the daytime and nighttime cycles. Each entry links to articles contained in the Corregidor, 503d PRCT Heritage Bn. and RockForce websites.

To visit the DAY REPORT SUMMARY SHEET, click on [Link](#) (below)

6 Feb 1945 ● **Warning Order received for new mission**

The company was alerted for coming mission (unknown).

The battalion commander gave out with some dope. About this mission we, the 503, would get mucho publicity. In fact the men knew it was Corregidor by guessing, and not officially. Equipment was packed and personnel restricted to regimental area, company consisted of 6 officers and 130 EM.

13 Feb 1945 ● **Col. Jones addresses the Regiment**

This will be the last regimental formation of the entirety of the 503d PRCT.

At 1800 hrs a beer ration is issued, with each trooper receiving six warm cans.

15 Feb 1945 ● **3/34th Inf landing on Black Beach, Corregidor**

First wave of the 3d Bn 34th Infantry hit Black Beach two minutes prior to schedule.

15 Feb 1945 ● **B-24's depart**

24 B-24s leave the target after securing good coverage from their bombs.

15 Feb 1945 ● **B-25 bombing and strafing**

Eleven B-25s bomb and strafe AAA positions and strong points on the southern coast. Simultaneously with this attack, 31 A-20s bomb and strafe defense positions on Corregidor and nearby Caballo Island.

Direct hits and near misses were registered on these positions and all targets are thoroughly strafed.

15 Feb 1945 - 16 Feb 1945

### Corregidor - 1st Lift

Initial landing is against light opposition due to surprise. Third Bn get the first drop honors. LC Ericson as 3d Bn CO in first aircraft, followed by Joe Conway as CO of H Co. LC Erickson is first to jump. The first EM is t/5 Arthur O. Smithback of Stoughton, WI. Initial jump from 500 ft with a count of 6. Jones orders 400ft with a +10 count. 1000 men in the first lift. 25% jump casualties;

XO's of 2nd lift jump with 1st lift

15 Feb 1945 ● Lead aircraft take-off from Mindoro

15 Feb 1945 ● Pre-invasion bombardment

15 Feb 1945 ● Reveille



Breakfast was dehydrated eggs and coffee

21 Dec 1945 ● 462nd PFABn inactivated

462nd PFABn inactivated at Camp Anza, CA.

16 Feb 1945 ● 1st Bn 503d PRCT land on Black Beach, Corregidor

6 KIA during the course of the landing.

16 Feb 1945 ● Corregidor - 2nd Lift

Second jump commences.

John Tolson Cmdr breaks ankle)Second lift comprises:

Detachment of RHq

Second Bn

Service Co

Btry B, 462d PFABn

.50 cal MG Pltn of Btry D, 462

"F" Company jumped on B Field. E Company jumped on A Field. See Ed Flash's account of the first arrival of F Company troops.

16 Feb 1945 - 6 Mar 1945

## Corregidor Operation

16 Feb 1945 ● **Malinta Hill summit declared secured**

17 Feb 1945 ● **Cancellation of the 1st Bn jump**

The third lift overflies Corregidor towards San Marcelino, dropping their freight cargo.

17 Feb 1945 ● **D+1 ZOOM 25-30**

18 Feb 1945 ● **D 2**

24 Dec 1945 ● **503d PIR inactivated**

503d Parachute Infantry Regiment inactivated at Camp Anza, California.

18 Feb 1945 ● **Pvt. Lloyd G. McCarter, MOH**



He was a scout with the regiment which seized the fortress of Corregidor, Philippine Islands. Shortly after the initial parachute assault on 16 February 1945, he crossed 30 yards of open ground under intense enemy fire, and at point blank range silenced a machinegun with hand grenades. On the afternoon of 18 February he killed 6 snipers. That evening, when a large force attempted to bypass his company, he voluntarily moved to an exposed area and opened fire. The enemy attacked his position repeatedly throughout the night and was each time repulsed. By 2 o'clock in the morning, all the men about him had been wounded; but shouting encouragement to his comrades and defiance at the enemy, he continued to bear the brunt of the attack, fearlessly exposing himself to locate enemy soldiers and then pouring heavy fire on them. He repeatedly crawled back to the American line to secure more ammunition. When his submachine gun would no longer operate, he seized an automatic rifle and continued to inflict heavy casualties. This weapon, in turn, became too hot to use

and, discarding it, he continued with an M-I rifle. At dawn the enemy attacked with renewed intensity. Completely exposing himself to hostile fire, he stood erect to locate the most dangerous enemy positions. He was seriously wounded; but, though he had already killed more than 30 of the enemy, he refused to evacuate until he had pointed out immediate objectives for attack. Through his sustained and outstanding heroism in the face of grave and obvious danger, Pvt. McCarter made outstanding contributions to the success of his company and to the recapture of Corregidor.

Further details see website feature as linked.

21 Feb 1945 ● **"D" Co. attack Btry Monja**

23 Feb 1945 ● **"E" Co. attack Btry Monja**

24 Feb 1945 ● **"D" Co. attack Btry. Monja**

8 Mar 1945 ● **PRCT arrives Mindoro**

2 Apr 1945 ● **161st Parachute Engineers redesignated**

161st Airborne Engineer Battalion is redesignated as Company C, 161st Parachute Engineers.

6 Apr 1945 ● **2 Bn Jump cancelled, aircraft diverted to Iloilo City**

7 April 1945 " "Early this morning the battalion moved to SAN JOSE (ELMORE) strip, loaded on C-46's and left at 0755. After an hour and twenty minutes flying we arrived at a tiny airstrip near ILOILO CITY at 0915 . . . . After several hours we loaded on LCI's and crossed the straits to NEGROS ISLAND. This was a battalion move, and we landed on the open beach at Pulupandan about 1735."

Bill Calhoun, F Co.

7 Apr 1945 - 11 May 1945 | **NEGROS CAMPAIGN - PHASE I**

7 Apr 1945 ● **Reg't arrives Negros**

Unit Arrives Green Beach Bacolod, Negros Occidental and entrucked - transported to E of Silay where it goes into combat.

7 Apr 1945 ● **Reg't deployed by truck from Pulupandan**





8 April 1945 "We loaded on trucks early in the morning and moved out on coastal highway, Highway #1, which went around the northern end of the island. This was a good asphalt surfaced highway. Almost all the Japs had retreated to the hills well before we landed. A few suicide parties had been left. Pulapandan was about 60 miles from Fabrica, where the large sawmill was located. After moving about 15 miles we came to the capitol, Bacolod. This was a fair size city, by far the largest we had seen since leaving Australia. We traveled on the flat coastal plains . . . and we could see the mountains 10-12 miles inland and the plains gradually rising towards them. Many large rivers had their origins in the foothills. There were a number of large steel bridges spanning these rivers along the highway . . . We passed through Silay which was a town of about 20,000 people . . . After proceeding east on Highway #1 several more miles we turned off on a gravel surfaced road and headed towards the mountains. We moved through the old sugar cane fields several miles fording a broad, shallow river, the Imbang River and stopped and detrucked at our first bivouac area . . . The road we were on was Tokaido Road. This is shown on the Imbang River map as a railroad.."

Bill Calhoun, F Co.

#### 22 Apr 1945 ● 1st Bn arrive Negros

The 1st Bn., having suffered excessive casualties on Corregidor, remained behind a few days to arm, assign and orient the many new troopers who had filled its ranks.

Upon arrival in Negros, they rapidly proceed to the combat area to join the other battalions.

#### 12 May 1945 - 8 Jun 1945 | NEGROS CAMPAIGN - PHASE II

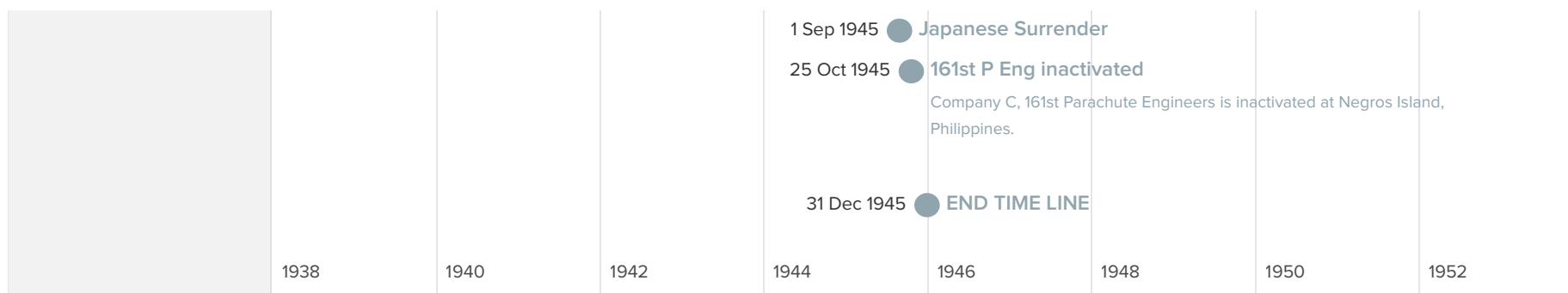
#### 9 Jun 1945 - 7 Jul 1945 | NEGROS CAMPAIGN - PHASE III

#### 8 Jul 1945 - 14 Aug 1945 | NEGROS CAMPAIGN - PHASE IV

5 Aug 1945 ● Hiroshima

8 Aug 1945 ● Nagasaki

27 Aug 1945 ● Japanese Occupation begins



## Events

### 503d Parachute Battalion constituted.

5 Oct 1939

### BEGIN TIMELINE

5 Oct 1939

### Call for volunteers

27 Jun 1940

The call for volunteers for a parachute test platoon was issued at the reveille formation of the 29th Infantry Regiment on 26 June 1940. Firstly, the men were warned of the high risk they would be taking. This risk was so high that married men would not be accepted. Undaunted, over 200 men had volunteered by 0830 hours. At officers call that morning volunteers were asked for to fill the position of platoon leader. Seventeen lieutenants volunteered. The situation was settled by accepting four men from each company, each with a written recommendation from his company commander. This provided forty eight men as compared to the usual thirty nine man rifle platoon. The nine extra men were considered as reserves to allow for injured men. 1st Lt. William T. Ryder was selected as the platoon leader because he scored the highest score on a written test. Ryder, having studied whatever he could obtain on the German and Russian experience with the use of paratroops, had finished the two hour test in forty five minutes. 2nd Lt. James A. Basset, who had scored second to Ryder, was added as assistant platoon leader on 11 July, lest Lt. Ryder be incapacitated.

## BEGIN TIME LINE

1 Jul 1940

### "B" Co., 501st Parachute Infantry Battalion organized.

8 Nov 1940

2nd Lt. B. M. Vandervoort designated as Company Commander.

The company strength at that time was one officer and one-hundred and eleven enlisted men.

Their purpose in training was to pick up where the test platoon left off.

2nd Lt. Vandervoort will be replaced later by Capt. B. F. Sink.

Capt. Sink will be replaced by Capt. Cotts (4 Jan, 1941)

S/Sgt. Lloyd McCullough is 1st Sgt., until transferred to 502nd Parachute Battalion.

He is replaced by S/Sgt. Mike A. Hotinski

### 503d Infantry reconstituted

13 Mar 1941

1st Battalion, 503d Infantry constituted in the Army of the United States as

Company A, 503d Parachute Infantry Battalion

2nd Battalion, 503d Infantry constituted in the Army of the United States as

Company B, 503d Parachute Infantry Battalion.

3rd Battalion, 503d Infantry constituted in the Army of the United States as

Company C, 503d Parachute Infantry Battalion.

### 503d Parachute Battalion constituted.

13 Mar 1941

### 504th Parachute Battalion constituted.

13 Mar 1941

### Training accident "B" Co., 501st PIB

1 Apr 1941

Sgt. Finley hung on the tail of the aircraft.

### Image

30 Apr 1941

### 503d PIB activated

21 Jul 1941

503d Parachute Infantry Battalion is activated with Maj. Robert F. Sink commanding.

Major Sink was a member of the 501st Parachute Bn., and is West Point Class of 1927.

### First U.S. Airborne training exercises

31 Jul 1941 - 30 Aug 1941

In August 1941, the 550th Infantry Airborne Bn together with Company "C", 501st Parachute Bn conduct training exercises in Panama. It is the first airborne training exercise in US Army history.

The aircraft used are C-39 troop transport planes with B-18 bombers.

Critiques following the exercises underline the need for coordination between the Air Corps and airborne paratroopers.

### Premiere of "Parachute Battalion" Atlanta.

14 Aug 1941

On August 14th, 1941, the company went to Atlanta, Georgia, for a world's premier of RKO motion picture "Parachute Battalion". Buffet suppers, dances, and the key to the city was enjoyed by all.

### 1st, 2d, 3d Bn 503 Infantry activated

21 Aug 1941

It is possible to distinguish 'constituted' and 'activated' as the difference between conception and birth.

### 501st PIB entrains to Port of Embarkation

5 Sep 1941

Departure Ft. Benning, SC.

Arrival Pt. Moutrie, SC.

### 501st PIB embarks for Panama

7 Sep 1941

501st PIB having departed from Ft. Benning by train on 5 September, 1941 to join Company "C" in the Panama Canal Zone.

The troopers embark upon "SS Siboney" at Pt. Moutrie, Charleston, SC.

At the time of departure, the destination is unknown to the EM.

### Transit of the USAT SIBONEY

8 Sep 1941 - 13 Sep 1941

Hoisted anchor at Charleston and sailed for destination unknown at 0702 pm on the 8th of September 1941.

The boat voyage was uneventful and Cristopal, Canal Zone was sighted on the 12th of September, and anchor dropped at night. The ship left Cristopal early the next morning and docked at Balboa, Canal Zone. The troops arrived at Fort Kobbe 0630 pm. They occupied new concrete barracks. Shore leave was granted and our men made the most of it.

### 501st PIB -1st Lt. McRoberts assumes command

22 Sep 1941

First Lt. McRoberts assumed command of Company "B" on the 22nd of September, 1941,

### 504th PIB activated.

4 Oct 1941

The significance is that the the 504th will later become the 3rd Bn of the 503d PIR.

### 501st PIB Practice Jump, Rio Hato, Canal Zone

21 Nov 1941

### "B" Co. detailed to Orlando, FL.

29 Nov 1941

To test the coordination of parachute troops with the airborne infantry.

### "B" Co., 501st PIB - Capt. Michaelis assumes command.

30 Nov 1941

## Christmas Day 1941

24 Dec 1941

The 501st Parachute Bn are in Panama;  
502d, 503d & 504th Parachute Battalions are in F. Benning, GA.  
Because of crowded conditions at Ft. Benning, the 503d and 504th Parachute Battalions will move to Ft. Bragg, NC.

## "B" Co. dispatched to Salt Lake City, UT.

13 Jan 1942

for infantry paratroop ski training.  
Much derision has been made of this, that the Army would train paratroopers for snow warfare and then transfer the unit to the Pacific. However the publicity given to the ski training actually suggests that it was part of a deliberate ruse, intended to mislead Hitler that the United States may become involved in Norway.

## Singapore Falls

14 Feb 1942

## "A" Co, 503d Parachute Infantry

23 Feb 1942

1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry consolidated with Company A, 503rd Parachute Infantry (concurrently constituted) and consolidated unit designated as Company A, 503rd Parachute Infantry.  
2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry consolidated with Company B, 503rd Parachute Infantry (concurrently constituted) and consolidated unit designated as Company A, 503rd Parachute Infantry.  
3d Battalion, 503rd Infantry consolidated with Company C, 503rd Parachute Infantry (concurrently constituted) and consolidated unit designated as Company A, 503rd Parachute Infantry.  
503rd Infantry (The Rock Regiment) constituted in the Army of the United States as the 503rd Parachute Infantry (1st Battalion concurrently consolidated with the 503rd Parachute Battalion, and the 2nd Battalion consolidated with the 504th Parachute Battalion) and consolidated units designated as the 1st and 2nd Battalions, 503rd Parachute Infantry.  
Comment - The above reference to the 503rd Infantry (The Rock Regiment), of course, refers to the present 1996 designation. "The Rock" was to become associated with the 503rd much later in its history and comes from the airborne assault on the island fortress, of Corregidor.

### 503d PIR activated at Ft. Benning, GA.

1 Mar 1942

The 503d PIR began as a two battalion regiment formed by uniting the 503d and 504th Battalions.

The 503d Parachute Battalion became the 1st Bn 503d PIR and the 504th Bn becomes the 2d Bn 503d PIR.

Before they could be welded into a solid unit the Second Battalion, commanded Lt. Col. Edison D. Raff, departed for Europe on 2 May 1942, where it eventually became the 509th Parachute Battalion.

### 504th Parachute Battalion redesignated

2 Mar 1942

504th Parachute Battalion is redesignated as 2nd Btn., 503d Parachute Infantry Regiment

101 Officers, 4 Warrant Officers, 1205 Enlisted

Lt. Colonel William M. Miley assumes command.

### Reg't moves to Ft. Bragg, NC.

19 Mar 1942

Regiment moves to Fort Bragg, NC.

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30 Mar 1942

### 501st PIB Training fatality

1 Apr 1942

Private Delia was killed when the parachute failed to open at Pacora R. De, P.

(Source - A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE

"F" COMPANY - Don Abbott)

### Bataan Surrenders - Death March begins

8 Apr 1942

### 504th PIR activated

30 Apr 1942

Lt. Col Reubin H. Tucker (West Point Class of 1935) CO.

Some of the men of this regiment will become integral to the future structure of the 503d PIR.

### 2d Bn, 503d PIR departs for ETO

1 May 1942

Before the two battalion regiment formed two months earlier could be welded into a solid unit the Second Battalion, commanded Lt. Col. Edison D. Raff, departs for Europe on 2 May 1942, where it eventually became the 509th Parachute Battalion.

### Battle of The Coral Sea

3 May 1942 - 7 May 1942

### Corregidor Falls

5 May 1942

### 2d Bn 503d PIR embarks for ETO

30 May 1942

2nd Battalion under Major Edison P. Raff moved to New York Port of Embarkation for transfer to England.

Departure date was 4 June 1942.

In the meantime, the parent unit remained at Ft. Bragg awaiting additional men to bring the numbers up to the authorized strength.

### Battle of Midway

3 Jun 1942 - 6 Jun 1942

### 3d Bn, 503d PIR activated

4 Jun 1942

The Third Battalion, 503d Parachute Infantry Regiment was activated 4 June 1942 under the command of Major John J. Tolson III. This battalion was formed by 502nd troops: Headquarters Company, 502nd became Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Third battalion, 503d; "A" Company became "G" Company; "B" Company became "H" Company; and "C" Company became "I" Company.

### 1st Bn 502nd PIR redesignated

6 Jun 1942

On 6 June 1942 the 1st Battalion, 502nd PIR was redesignated 3rd Battalion, 503rd PIR.

At this time they expected to embark for England as soon as transportation was available.

### 3d Bn 503d PIR designated

6 Jun 1942

On 6 June 1942 the 1st Battalion, 502nd PIR was redesignated 3rd Battalion, 503rd PIR.

At this time they expected to embark for England as soon as transportation was available.

### 3d Bn 503d PIR formed

7 Jun 1942

3d Bn is formed by a 'lateral transfer' of the 3d Bn 502d Bn

### 502nd Parachute Infantry redesignated

8 Jun 1942

Regiment receives 3rd Battalion with redesignation of 1st. Battalion of the 502nd Parachute Infantry under Major John J. Tolson III.

Lt. Colonel Robert F. Sink assumes command ex. Lt. Col. Miley

### Lt. Col Kinsler, CO.

29 Jun 1942

Lt. Colonel Kenneth H. Kinsler assumed command ex. Lt. Colonel Sink.

### Heraldry - 503d PIR

1 Jul 1942

"The 503d never had an official shoulder patch, and they still do not for that matter."

John Lindgren

### Co. "C" 161st Engineer Bn constituted

12 Sep 1942

Constituted in the Army of the United States as Company C, 161st Engineer Battalion.

### Heraldry of the 161st Prcht Eng.

12 Sep 1942

As far as can be determined, even by its own members, there was no contemporary individual WWII insignia for the 161st Parachute Engineer Battalion. This design was composed by Bob Flynn, a 161st veteran and the Official 503d PRCT Historian, and has been used unofficially.

### "A" Co. 504th PI attached

9 Oct 1942

"A" Company of the 504th Parachute Infantry (82nd Airborne Division) is attached to the Regiment on the night of departure and is loaded on train with the 503rd PIR, but retains its original designation.

### 503d PIR entrain

9 Oct 1942 - 15 Oct 1942

503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, less 2d Bn which had gone to England, moves from Fort Bragg to San Francisco Port of Embarkation.

"A" Company of the 504th Parachute Infantry (82nd Airborne Division) attached Regiment on the night of departure and loaded on train with the 503rd but retained its original designation.

### 501st PIB - Capt. Greco assumes command

17 Oct 1942

On the 17th of October, 1942, Captain Greco assumed command and preparations were made for a change of station.

### Reg't departs US

20 Oct 1942

At this time it appeared the 503d PIR had two second Battalions, one headed towards Australia and one in Africa.  
For detail, refer to "Bless 'em All"

### **Transit of the "MS Poelau Laut"**

20 Oct 1942 - 2 Dec 1942

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Units sails from San Francisco on MS Poleau Laut.

Ship proceeds to Balboa, Panama Canal Zone, where the 501st Parachute Battalion, less "C" Company is boarded 1 November, 1942.

At Balboa, six officers and one-hundred enlisted men from "B" Co. 501st PIB are embarked on the U.S.A.T. "POELAU LAUT" on November 1, 1942, for destination unknown.

Thereafter the Reg'd is confined on the Poelau Laut until arrival in Cairns, at 0845 hrs 2 December 1942

### **"F" Co., 503d PIR created from "B" Co., 501st PIB.**

3 Nov 1942

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On the 31st of December, 1941, secret letter, WDAGO, file number AG 320-2-11-3-42 OB-1-E-M-1 dated November 8, 1941, Subject: Transfer of Certain Parachute Infantry Units, as amended by secret letter WDAGO file number AG 570-5 (11-16-42) OB-1-G-N-M, dated November 17, 1942, Subject; Transfer of Certain Parachute Infantry Units, designated Company "B", 501st Parachute Battalion as Company "F", 503rd Parachute Infantry, effective November 3, 1942.

### **"D" Co., 503d PI activated**

7 Nov 1942

4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry activated in the Army of the United States in Australia as Company D, 503d Parachute Infantry.

Comment - To make this chronology more complete it is noted that the unit which was to become Company D, 503d Parachute Infantry was originally "A" Company of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, later became part of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and was reassigned to the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment just prior to their departure from Fort Bragg, North Carolina in October 1942.

On their way to Australia, the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment stopped in Panama to pick up three companies from the 501st Parachute Battalion. The companies were Headquarters and Headquarters Company, A Company and B Company. They were picked up to complete the 2nd Battalion of the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 501 became Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion of the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, A Company of the 501 became E Company of the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment and B Company of the 501 became F Company of the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Former 2nd Battalion of the 503rd Parachute Infantry reorganized and redesignated as the 2nd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry and thereafter followed into a separate lineage; new 2nd Battalion 503rd Parachute Infantry concurrently activated in Australia.

### **Co. "C" 161st Engineer Squadron activated**

15 Nov 1942

Activated at Fort Bliss, Texas as Company C, 161st Engineer Squadron.

### **Reg't Reorganized**

2 Dec 1942

Regiment Officially reorganized to include HQ, HQ Co., 1st Battalion and 3rd Battalion as it had left Ft. Bragg. "A" Co. 504th redesignated as "D" Co and 501st Prcht Bn was redesignated as "E" and "F" Cos of the 503rd Prcht Infantry Regiment.

## Reg't deploys in Australia

2 Dec 1942

Regiment Officially reorganized to include HQ, HQ Co., 1st Battalion and 3rd Battalion as it had left Ft. Bragg. "A" Co. 504th redesignated as "D" Co and 501st Prcht Bn was redesignated as "E" and "F" Cos of the 503rd Prcht Infantry Regiment.

## Regiment arrives Cairns, Australia

2 Dec 1942

Departure from Pittsburg, CA is 42 days ago;

Departure from Panama is one month ago

The Regiment goes into camp at Gordonvale, near Cairns in the State of Queensland, Australia.

Though often referred to as North Queensland or NQ, there is no separate state or province by that name. Queensland is approx. 2500 km from S to N, and is more than twice the size of Texas.

## Christmas Day

25 Dec 1942

Pfc Henry J. Blalock drowns in the Little Mulgrave River, Gordonvale. The accident occurs in a deep pool of the river near the base of Welches Pyramid, a dominating mountain peak of the area. Men of the 503d frequented this spot to wash their clothes and to cool off after a hard day's activities. (Guthrie, p.33)

## Training fatality

25 Dec 1942

Pfc Henry J. Blalock drowns in the Little Mulgrave River, Gordonvale. The accident occurs in a deep pool of the river near the base of Welches Pyramid, a dominating mountain peak of the area. Men of the 503d frequented this spot to wash their clothes and to cool off after a hard day's activities. (Guthrie, p.33)

## The Cat Patch

5 Feb 1943

### 462nd FABn constituted

25 Feb 1943

Constituted in the Army of the United States as the 462nd Field Artillery Battalion.  
Note: the absence of the "Parachute" designation.

### Gen Kreuger inspects

24 Mar 1943

Lt. Gen. Walter Kreuger is U.S. Sixth Army commander of the Southwest Pacific Area

### Training fatality - Bernard

2 Apr 1943

S/Sgt Bernard drowns while on maneuvers

### Sir Leslie Wilson inspects

9 Apr 1943

Sir Leslie Wilson is the Governor of Queensland.

### 161st AEBn designated.

1 May 1943

Company C, 161st Engineer Squadron redesignated as the 161st Airborne Engineer Battalion.

### General Downing inspects

1 May 1943

General Downing - British liaison officer attached to the Australian Army

### General Lavarack inspects

5 May 1943

General Lavarack - First Australian Army

### ● Training fatality - White

6 May 1943

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Pvt. Robert H. White becomes entangled in electrical transmission lines near Cairns. The proximity of the line to the intended jump field was known beforehand, and orders had been made, but not complied with, to disconnect it for the jump. Subsequently, the regiment clears a jump field out of bush and lantana closer to Gordonvale, naming it "White Field."

### ● 462d PFABn Patch

16 May 1943

### ● 503d PIR Jumpmaster Training, Gordonvale

31 May 1943 - 24 Jul 1943

### ● 462nd FABn activated

15 Jun 1943

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The Battalion was activated on 15 June 1943 by G.O. #44 Hq. Airborne Command at Camp Mackall, NC, still without the parachute designation but under TO&E was essentially the same as the one developed by experimentation in the Parachute Test Battery under the Airborne Command and remained with one small change in 1945, the same for all PFA battalions throughout WWII.

The 462nd was the fifth unit formed under this TO&E. (The others were 456th-82 ABN Div, 457th-11th ABN Div and 460th-17th ABN Div.) It was the first non-divisional Parachute Field Artillery Battalion and although seven additional units were activated it was the only one that was not assigned to an airborne division during the war.

## Assignment of personnel to 462 Prcht FA Bn

16 Jun 1943

The cadre for the 462nd, including the original Commander, LT Col Forrest R. Armstrong, came from the 458th PFA which had been activated at Fort Bragg only four months previously. Special Orders No. 143, Hq Airborne Command, 16 June 1943, assigned 55 officers (only 35 were required for the new battalion) and 285 enlisted men to the 462 Prcht FA Bn. The same date 24 officers and all of the EM were assigned to individual batteries. The surplus officers were formed into a "pool" of parachute qualified Artillery officers who subsequently were used in the activation of several new Battalions. The pool (and later an enlisted counterpart) was attached to the 462nd for administration purposes.

So for a period of over 4 months, Armstrong and his personnel officers (a bright, conniving, (bless him) warrant officer named Pape) screened the records and chose those Armstrong wanted from over 200 officers and several hundred enlisted men.

Armstrong placed heavy emphasis on experience and attitude and, as a result, we went overseas with a disproportionate number of "old soldiers", regular army enlisted men, not only as the top level NCO's but professional privates as well-not so hot in garrison but top-notch field soldiers. He also snagged over 30 of the original test battery who in the context of the time were old paratroopers with a year and a half of jump and heavy drop experience.

## 462d Officers

22 Jun 1943

Image taken at Camp Mackall, 23 June 1943

## Gens. MacArthur & Blamey inspect

25 Jun 1943

Gen. Sir Thomas Blamey is in command of all Australian troops.

## Training fatality - Wilson

25 Jun 1943

During the course of a demonstration jump for Generals Blamey and MacArthur, Pvt. Donald "Shanghai" Wilson falls to his death when his canopy fails to open. There were questionable circumstances leading to the late opening of Wilson's canopy which did not involve an equipment failure or failed equipment check. Gen. MacArthur witnesses the death and notwithstanding that the Regiment is not in the face of the enemy, orders that Wilson be awarded the order of the Purple Heart.

## "G" Co prior to Nadzab Jump

12 Jul 1943

Project ID link: [http://corregidor.org/503rd\\_Association/ID\\_project/ID\\_001.htm](http://corregidor.org/503rd_Association/ID_project/ID_001.htm)

Members of "G" Company at Port Moresby prior to the Markham Valley Mission

1: Avelino Fernandez

2: Charlie McLemore

3: Karsten Hall

4: Bert Coder

5: Dragone

6: Stempemski

7:

8: Sleepy Linton

9:

10:

11:

12:

13:

14:

15:

16:

17: Lemuel T. Pitts

18: Buford Adams

19: 20: 21: 22: 23: 24:

25: 26: 27: 28: 29: 30:

## Reg't moves to Pt. Moresby

7 Aug 1943 - 22 Aug 1943

## "F" Co., 503d PIR transfer by air to Pt. Moresby

19 Aug 1943

On the 19th of August the Company traveled by air from Cairns to (Wards Landing Strip), Port Moresby, New Guinea.

### ● **Gen. Blamey inspects.**

2 Sep 1943

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The 503d Prcht Inf fell out on parade with full battle equipment, jump suits, jump boots, helmets, covered with camouflage nets, special ammunition pouches made especially for this outfit. We are inspected by Major General Blamey. Gen. Blamey is tall, lean, lined faced, and speaks more like an Englishman than an Australian. He said he was proud to have us with him. He paused and appeared to be reading. The 503d will jump, take an airfield, clean the field and hold it for the airborne landing of the 7th Australian Div. Then the general waxes bitter against the Jap.

I have never seen a man in so high a position so bitter. "Kill them all," he said.

Received a warning order that Gen McArthur might possibly inspect tomorrow.

Gerry Riseley, from 'Bless 'em All' - See Link

### ● **Gen MacArthur inspects**

3 Sep 1943

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"At 1017 telephone call was received saying that General McArthur was in the regimental area and that all men would put on coveralls.

At 1019 General McArthur and party ambled alongside the CO S-3 tent wherein is the famous sand table. And within were the Bn Cmdr, the Ex, S-3 and 4 Co cmdrs. They smell him coming and came out as fast as possible for people pretending to accidentally come out. Lt Richmond, the combination actg S-4, asst S-3, and general duties officer had to edge all the way from the CP tent, about 30 yds, but he made an admirable edge and arrived in time to have his picture taken along with the aforementioned. General McArthur is very publicity minded and always is accompanied by a corps of photographers."

Gerry Riseley, quoted from "Bless 'em All"

### ● **NADZAB - Jump**

5 Sep 1943 - 19 Sep 1943

### ● **"F" Co., 503PIR return by air to Pt. Moresby from Nadzab**

16 Sep 1943

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Six officers and one hundred and ten enlisted men traveled by air from Nadzab, New Guinea to Port Moresby, New Guinea, on September 16, 1943.

### **"G" Co. await transport return to Pt. Moresby**

19 Sep 1943

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Members of "G" Company await transport from Nadzab Field to Jackson Strip, Port Moresby.

2: Mike Levack

3: Bill Malone

7: Company Clerk

15: Howard Hicks

20: Lemuel T. Pitts

22: Strebe

### **3d Bn return to Pt. Moresby**

19 Sep 1943

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3d Bn return to Pt. Moresby, a dull muddy and generally unhealthy encampment.

### **ID Project - Img 204**

13 Oct 1943

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ID Project

### **Col. Jones assumes command.**

22 Oct 1943

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As senior to Col. Lawrie and Col. Tolson, Col. Jones assumes command.

### **Kinsler suicide**

22 Oct 1943

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Kinsler Suicide

Col. Jones, as senior Col., assumes command.

### **Training for Cape Gloucester mission.**

2 Nov 1943 - 25 Dec 1943

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Preparing for Cape Gloucester operation

### **Cape Gloucester**

26 Dec 1943

Planned jump date for jump on airfield at Cape Gloucester;

### **Reg't alert**

8 Jan 1944

Regiment alerted for move to new station.

### **Advance Party for return to Gordonvale**

25 Jan 1944

Selected details of an advance party fly to Cairns to prepare Gordonvale for return of remainder of the Reg't.

### **Reg't embarks at Moresby to return to Cairns**

25 Jan 1944

Entire regiment board SS John Carroll and a British liner.

### **503d PIR transit of S.S. Robert J. Walker**

1 Feb 1944 - 17 Feb 1944

On February 1st, 1944, camp at Gordonvale was broken at 1480 hours and the troops went aboard the S.S. ROBERT J. WALKER at 1605 hr, hoisted anchor at 1740 hr from Cairns and sailed for unknown destination.

The ship arrived at Brisbane, Australia on the 17th of February, traveling a distance of 1256 miles.

### **Camp Cable**

2 Feb 1944 - 8 Apr 1944

The last elements of Regiment arrive in Brisbane and are transported into camp at Camp Cable on 17 February 1944.

During the period at Camp Cable, each Bn will rotate through jungle training at the Jungle Training area at Canungra.

### **"D" Co leaves Pt. Moresby for new station**

10 Feb 1944

### **"E" Co leaves Pt. Moresby on USS Robert J. Waker for rest period in Australia**

10 Feb 1944

### **"F" Co. debarks at Dobodura, Oro Bay.**

13 Feb 1944

"Co left Camp Cable by truck and boarded Army Transport at Brisbane, Qld. Aust. Harbor for new station."

### **"F" Co. arrives at Brisbane**

16 Feb 1944

On 17 February we arrived at Brisbane, Australia. The concrete arches of Grey Street Bridge were a beautiful sight to behold. We unloaded from the ship and onto rear wheel drive trucks operated by a colored transportation battalion. Passing through Brisbane we quickly noticed the large number of places advertising American hamburgers. We soon found out, to our chagrin, the Aussie idea of a hamburger bun was a tough English muffin. Soon we were out in the country traveling on a two lane asphalt surface road. We would pass through an area of farms and then several miles of no habitation or land use. We were told there was still land here which was available for claim. We continued on to Camp Cable. This camp consisted of hastily thrown up kitchens, latrines, and a few other auxiliary buildings. The troops were quartered in pyramidal tents. It was a great place, though. We were just about thirty miles from the city of Brisbane.

### **"F" Co., 503d PIR arrive Camp Cable**

28 Feb 1944 - 5 Apr 1944

### **462d in transit, troop train Camp Mackall to Camp Stoneman**

28 Feb 1944 - 5 Mar 1944

On Monday, 28 February 1944 the battalion, with equipment, loaded aboard a troop train on the siding of Camp Mackall. After a long, circuitous but uneventful trip (Chicago, Denver etc.) it arrived at Camp Stoneman CA (outside San Francisco) on Sunday, 5 March, six days and nights even with troop train priority. PT, running and final paper work occupied the next few days and although we were restricted to camp, a number of individuals went over the fence and smuggled in cases of joy juice.

### **462d Camp Stoneman**

5 Mar 1944 - 11 Mar 1944

Camp Stoneman is a Port of Embarkation holding camp near San Francisco

#### 462d Port of Embarkation, Camp Stoneman, SFO

5 Mar 1944 - 11 Mar 1944

#### 462d in transit SFO-BNE, USAT SEA CAT

11 Mar 1944 - 2 Apr 1944

On Saturday, 11 March, we boarded the ferry boat at Camp Stoneman and proceeded to the ferry building at the Port San Francisco. There we boarded the SEACAT, a fast (?) C-4 type, victory cargo ship just recently converted to a troop transport. Two other separate battalions were already aboard; an all black Motor Transport unit and a white Air Corps Engineer Construction battalion. We got underway in the late afternoon and sailed out of the Golden Gate into a setting sun. Most of us were started to find that we were to sail alone - no naval escort, no convoy. Our apprehension was somewhat allayed by the "now hear this" we were too fast for an enemy submarine to catchâ€”"Good Show! But most of us had at least heard of radio and realized that if we were spotted we could be intercepted. Some of us (again I'll take the fifth) never did put all of our weight down.

We zig-zagged across the pacific, with the appropriate ceremonies at the International Date Line and the Equator, for 22 days with only life boat drills, two submarine scares and the detonation of a floating mine with the ship's 20 mm Bofors AA guns to break the monotony. Poker and crap games occupied the time between the daily calisthenics. The sighting of schools of flying fish and porpoises, with an occasional shark (all new to most of us) provided additional diversion.

The cessation of the ship's throbbing awakened almost everyone in the pre-dawn hours of Sunday, 2 April. We had arrived in the harbor of Brisbane, Australia. Land, any land would have been welcome but the sight of Brisbane in the early morning light was a sight never to be forgotten.

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14 Mar 1944

#### 462d PFABn attached

29 Mar 1944

462nd Parachute Field Artillery Battalion attached to 503d PIR.

#### "E" Co - the regiment is alerted

31 Mar 1944

## **"E" Co transit USAT SEA CAT Brisbane-Oro Bay**

5 Apr 1944 - 13 Apr 1944

## **Reg't departs Camp Cable**

5 Apr 1944

Embarks "SS. Van Der Lijn".

## **Depart Milne Bay for Oro Bay**

13 Apr 1944

Oro Bay serves the Dobodura area.

Camp will be at Cape Sudest for approx. 6 weeks. Hot, wet & Boring) " GHQ plan for jump in the Hansa Bay Area, approx. halfway between Madang & Wewack. This will be discarded and a dual assault planned for area near Hollandia (200 m north of Jap bastion of Wewack, w/ a simultaneous attack against Aitape (125mi SE of Hollandia between the Driniumor & Esim Rivers)

## **Reg't arrives Oro Bay**

13 Apr 1944

Unit arrived Oro Bay, New Guinea 0730. Distance travelled 2000 miles. Debarked by DUKW'S and proceeded to new camp at Sudest Bay.

## **Arrive Milne Bay**

15 Apr 1944

No debarcation

## **Training Accident**

19 Apr 1944

Lt. Michael Brady accidentally shot in stomach.

## **Reg't strength**

30 Apr 1944

Strength 188 Officers, 2400 EM's.

## **Reg't strength**

15 May 1944

Strength 174 Officers, 2294 EM's.

A number of Officers and Enlisted Men had been rotated to U.S

### Reg't relocates

26 May 1944

Moved to new camp adjacent to Air Strip.

### Reg't alert

28 May 1944

### Reg't relocates

28 May 1944 - 30 May 1944

Leave Dobodura for Cyclops Drome, Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea.

### Eberley Plantation

30 May 1944

Temporary camp established in Eberle Plantation in Hollandia Drome area. Nearby are: Sentani Lake, Tami River and the Sangke River.

### transit by air, Oro Bay-Cape Cassoe, Hollandia

4 Jun 1944

### F.O.19 establishes Noemfoor Task Force as CYCLONE

21 Jun 1944

U.S. Sixth Army Field Order No. 19

The taskforce consists of 8,069 combat personnel, of which 5,495 were service troops, and about 10,000 air corps personnel - a total invasion force of approx. 23,000 men.

158th IR - Col. Earl O. Sandlin, CO.

147th FABn

116th AAG

Plt. 603d Tank Co

641st Tank Destroyer Bn (4,2" Mortar Co.)

27th Engineers

593d Bn ES&B Regt.

2d Eng. Special Brigade

34th IR of 24th Div.

503d PIR (reserve)

### ● Orders for Noemfoor Received

28 Jun 1944

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The 503d PIR received its orders regarding TABLE TENNIS and is assigned the U.S. Sixth Army reserve codename ESCALATOR

### ● C-47's arrive Hollandia

30 Jun 1944

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38 C-47's of the 54th Troop Carrier Wing arrive, Hollandia.

### ● 2200 parachutes arrive, Hollandia

1 Jul 1944

### ● Noemfoor Jump

3 Jul 1944

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1st Bn, elements of RHQ & Service Co of 503d arrive Cyclops Drome at 0505 hrs and emplaning is completed by 0615 hrs.

First plane departs 0630 hrs, with the remaining aircraft departing at 30 second intervals.

The intended jump field is Kornasoren airstrip, but at the last moment this is changed to Kamiri airstrip.

The first two aircraft erroneously set their altimeters and jumping occurs at less than 175 ft.

### ● "F" Co., transit by air, Hollandia-Biak

4 Jul 1944

### ● 3d Bn., Regimental HQ & Service Co jump

4 Jul 1944

### ● "F" Co. transit by LCI, Biak-Noemfoor

10 Jul 1944 - 11 Jul 1944

### ● 2d Bn arrive Noemfoor

11 Jul 1944

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The 2d Bn 503d PIR arrive across the beach at Romboi Bay, near Namber Drome and are ordered to proceed overland to Inasi and to initiate patrols from there.

### 503d troopers on Biak

12 Jul 1944

When the 3rd Battalion took off for Noemfoor, 1Lt. Joe Phelan's plane developed engine troubles and had to return to Hollandia. He and his men were then attached to come in with the 2nd Battalion, who were due to take off the following morning.

The 2nd Battalion drop was cancelled for reasons not immediately known to them (but due to high injuries sustained during the first jump) and there was a lull for all those keyed up to go into action.

During this time, two of Lt. Phelan's men, Privates J. T. Coffee and Frank Gunderman, had wandered up into the hills and had joined with a company in the 41st Division. In making an attack, both were killed. Gunderman's body was never recovered.

### 2n Bn arrive Inasi, Noemfoor

13 Jul 1944

### Noemfoor - "C" Co. contact Japanese at Hill 670

13 Jul 1944

Company "C" is despatched on patrol with the mission of contacting the main enemy body and forcing it towards the 2d Bn at Inasi. Contact is made at 1400 hrs with a screen of riflemen entrenched on Hill 670. A sharp firefight develops. The enemy force is estimated at 400, with numerous heavy machine guns and mortars. Prisoner later confirms 1400 men under Col. Shimizu.

"C" Co withdraw N 300 yards after three and a half hours, to await "A" and "B" , which arrive 1845 hrs.

Harrassing fire is directed at Hill 670 by Btry "B", 147th FABn.

### 2d Bn patrolling

14 Jul 1944 - 22 Jul 1944

Patrolling from Inasi to the N. & N.W.

### Sgt. Ray E. Eubanks, CMH

22 Jul 1944

"D" & "E" Co's operating approx. 4 miles N. of Inasi contact major Japanese Forces. For details of Sgt. Eubanks CMH, refer to website as linked.

## Japanese Cannibalism

1 Aug 1944

Patrols begin to find bodies from which fleshy portions have been carved. The usual victims are freshly slain Formosan laborers accompanying the enemy forces as slaves.

## 462nd PFABn arrives off Noemfoor

7 Aug 1944

The battalion arrived off Noemfoor on 7 August, 1944, lightered men and cargo by LCM's during the next two days to join the 503rd PIR and the newly arrived Company A, 161st Parachute Engineers. At last we were a Parachute Combat Team.

## Capt. Spicer on Noemfoor

10 Aug 1944

## KIA's mutilated & cannibalized

12 Aug 1944

"H" Co. move down from Hill 380 and secure the battlefield. Three casualties whose bodies could not be recovered during the battle of the previous evening are found both mutilated and cannibalized.

Enraged, "H" Co. pursues the fleeing Japanese, giving no quarter. Several are found to be carrying human flesh in their knapsacks. Others are slain while eating flesh.

## "F" Co, 503d PIR relocates from Namber strip to Kamiri, Noemfoor

21 Aug 1944

## "F" Co., 503d PIR performs port Bn duty

27 Aug 1944 - 17 Sep 1944

## Bob Hope entertains us at Kamiri

30 Aug 1944

In a clearing not far from Kamiri strip on Noemfoor: "What a beautiful swamp you have here.... It's a top-secret base" even the snakes can't find it. If you wanna hide from your draft board, this is the place to do it." Then, when several shots were heard in the distance. Hope shaded his eyes with his hands and looked at the surrounding forest, and asked, "Are those guys in back wearing kimonos?" This brought the house down. (Bill Calhoun)

## **ID Project - Img 201**

30 Aug 1944

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## **"C" Co, 161st Airborne Engineers attached**

13 Sep 1944

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Company "C" 161st Airborne Engineers joined the 503d PIR with 8 officers and 109 enlisted men.

From this time the 503d became known as the 503d Parachute Regimental Combat Team

## **"F" Co/. 503d PIR - Lt. Bailey assumes command**

13 Sep 1944

## **503d PRCT established**

13 Sep 1944

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The lessons of the constraints of jungle fighting have been learned - henceforth the minimum deployable unit to field combat effectiveness is the trinity of the combat arm (503d PIR), its attached artillery unit (462d PFABn) and its supporting Combat Engineers (161st PE Bn.)

## **Warning Order No. 1 issued.**

19 Sep 1944

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Warning Order is received to prepare for the next mission.

## **"F" Co.,503d PIR prepares for unknown mission**

1 Nov 1944 - 6 Nov 1944

## **"F"Co., 503d PIR boards USS Custer. Waits.**

7 Nov 1944 - 14 Nov 1944

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November 7, 1944, 1st and 2nd platoons departed camp at 1145 hr. and arrived at Kamiri jetty at 1200 hr. Boarded LCM and sailed to an ocean going ship, USS CUSTER. Boarded the Custer at 1509. These platoons were to act as a loading party for the 2nd Bn, 503d Parachute Infantry. The remainder of the company less one NCO and 8 EM, these men were left to guard company equipment. November 8, the company equipment was loaded and the rest of the men boarded the ship at noon.

Company stayed aboard the Custer in the harbor until Nov. 14.

#### transit on USS CUSTER

14 Nov 1944 - 19 Nov 1944

At this time, Co. "F" consisted of 9 officers and 144 enlisted men.  
Destination unknown at the time but will be Maragona, Leyte.

#### "F" Co., 503d PIR - Tarragona, Leyte

19 Nov 1944 - 11 Dec 1944

company bivouacked near Tarragona, Leyte, training for coming operation. In the meantime the men enjoyed the dandy beach by swimming and playing ball on the sands. Many Nippon planes were shot down from the skies overhead. So foxholes had to be dug beside each man's bed. One day the regiment witnessed a Nippon Kamikase pilot that struck a liberty ship in the (blank space). Many men lost their lives and the ship burned continuously all night. Every night anti-aircraft batteries expended mucho rounds of tracer at the Nips. It resembled Coney island on the fourth of July. The P-38 fighter plane did its job of clearing the skies.

#### GHQ directive issues, postponing Mindoro Operation until 15 December

30 Nov 1944

To make proper preparations for naval escort carrier-based planes to protect the assaulting troops, Admiral Kincaid obtains a 10 day postponement.

#### Mindoro

30 Nov 1944

#### Planned date for Mindoro Invasion

4 Dec 1944

#### "F" Co., 503d PIR - depart Leyte, await convoy departure.

10 Dec 1944

Company consisting of 5 officers and 132 EM. Broke camp at 0700 and moved down to the beach ½ mile at Reading Point. Boarded LCI 759 at 1030. Joined convoy and anchored Leyte harbor overnight. Although most of the men were seasick, the morale was high since Peterson, R. L. discovered a strange hatch filled with ice cream powder, peaches and dehydrated milk.

#### 503d embarks for Mindoro practice landing

10 Dec 1944

## Convoy departure from San Pedro Bay

11 Dec 1944

## Transit on LCI-759

11 Dec 1944 - 14 Dec 1944

12th December 44: LCI's weighed anchor at 1530 and sailed as part of the invasion force for Mindoro Island, Philippine Islands. Morale is excellent. This is to be the first beach assault company "F" has ever attempted. The following day the convoy received several bombing raids which were met with our own intense anti-aircraft fire. No casualties aboard our own ship. One ship in the convoy was hit by an enemy suicide (Kamikaze) plane.

## Kamikaze attack hits USS Nashville

13 Dec 1944

135 deaths, 190 wounded on the USS Nashville

## 503d Landing - Mindoro

14 Dec 1944

2 Battalions land abreast on either side of the Bugsanga River at Green and Blue Beaches. By noon units are near San Jose village.  
0720 hour, 15 Dec, 1944: "F" stormed ashore after a 15 minute naval bombardment of rockets and shells, then continued by foot to San Jose, Mindoro Is., Philippines. The terrain was rough for hiking with our heavy packs, loaded with chow mostly. Company minus the third platoon left to guard general headquarters at San Jose. No enemy ground resistance. Company did routine patrolling and setting up positions. Enemy air activity was very intense. Each man had to dig a deep, standing fox hole because of the punctual night bombings.  
Note the time - the US Army, eminently unable to admit error, failed to award the 503d with an "arrowhead" to credit the beach assault. This failure, and the inability to admit it, continues.

## Mindoro Operation

14 Dec 1944 - 30 Jan 1945

H-Hour originally set at 0720 hrs but has to be delayed for 10 minutes. Filipinos begin streaming to the beaches with their belongings and water buffalos and waving flags.  
Mindoro Island Operation is officially concluded on 31 January 1945. though the Regiment remains encamped there awaiting their next mission.

## **Christmas Day 1944**

24 Dec 1944

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Roast turkey, with all the trimmings, is flown in from Leyte.

## **"F" Co., 503d PIR - Capt. McRoberts relieved by Lt. Bailey**

28 Jan 1945

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Captain McRoberts relieved of assignment as company commander and Lt. William T. Bailey assumed command. Company set up camp across the river, west of San Jose. Began intensive training and preparation for another mission

## **Corregidor Day Reports - Introduction**

3 Feb 1945

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The day reports are a Date-based Navigation System which contain summaries of occurrences, incidents and messages taking place on Corregidor during the daytime and nighttime cycles. Each entry links to articles contained in the Corregidor, 503d PRCT Heritage Bn. and RockForce websites. To visit the DAY REPORT SUMMARY SHEET, click on Link (below)

## **Warning Order received for new mission**

6 Feb 1945

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The company was alerted for coming mission (unknown). The battalion commander gave out with some dope. About this mission we, the 503, would get mucho publicity. In fact the men knew it was Corregidor by guessing, and not officially. Equipment was packed and personnel restricted to regimental area, company consisted of 6 officers and 130 EM.

## **Col. Jones addresses the Regiment**

13 Feb 1945

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This will be the last regimental formation of the entirety of the 503d PRCT. At 1800 hrs a beer ration is issued, with each trooper receiving six warm cans.

## **3/34th Inf landing on Black Beach, Corregidor**

15 Feb 1945

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First wave of the 3d Bn 34th Infantry hit Black Beach two minutes prior to schedule.

### **B-24's depart**

15 Feb 1945

24 B-24s leave the target after securing good coverage from their bombs.

### **B-25 bombing and strafing**

15 Feb 1945

Eleven B-25s bomb and strafe AAA positions and strong points on the southern coast. Simultaneously with this attack, 31 A-20s bomb and strafe defense positions on Corregidor and nearby Caballo Island. Direct hits and near misses were registered on these positions and all targets are thoroughly strafed.

### **Corregidor - 1st Lift**

15 Feb 1945 - 16 Feb 1945

Initial landing is against light opposition due to surprise. Third Bn get the first drop honors. LC Ericson as 3d Bn CO in first aircraft, followed by Joe Conway as CO of H Co. LC Erickson is first to jump. The first EM is t/5 Arthur O. Smithback of Stoughton, WI. Initial jump from 500 ft with a count of 6. Jones orders 400ft with a +10 count. 1000 men in the first lift. 25% jump casualties;

XO's of 2nd lift jump with 1st lift

### **Lead aircraft take-off from Mindoro**

15 Feb 1945

### **Pre-invasion bombardment**

15 Feb 1945

### **Reveille**

15 Feb 1945

Breakfast was dehydrated eggs and coffee

### **1st Bn 503d PRCT land on Black Beach, Corregidor**

16 Feb 1945

6 KIA during the course of the landing.

## ● Corregidor - 2nd Lift

16 Feb 1945

Second jump commences.

John Tolson Cmdr breaks ankle)Second lift comprises:

Detachment of RHq

Second Bn

Service Co

Btry B, 462d PFABn

.50 cal MG Pltn of Btry D, 462

"F" Company jumped on B Field. E Company jumped on A Field. See Ed Flash's account of the first arrival of F Company troops.

## ● Corregidor Operation

16 Feb 1945 - 6 Mar 1945

## ● Malinta Hill summit declared secured

16 Feb 1945

## ● Cancellation of the 1st Bn jump

17 Feb 1945

The third lift overflies Corregidor towards San Marcelino, dropping their freight cargo.

## ● D+1 ZOOM 25-30

17 Feb 1945

## ● D 2

18 Feb 1945

#### **Pvt. Lloyd G. McCarter, MOH**

18 Feb 1945

He was a scout with the regiment which seized the fortress of Corregidor, Philippine Islands. Shortly after the initial parachute assault on 16 February 1945, he crossed 30 yards of open ground under intense enemy fire, and at point blank range silenced a machinegun with hand grenades. On the afternoon of 18 February he killed 6 snipers. That evening, when a large force attempted to bypass his company, he voluntarily moved to an exposed area and opened fire. The enemy attacked his position repeatedly throughout the night and was each time repulsed. By 2 o'clock in the morning, all the men about him had been wounded; but shouting encouragement to his comrades and defiance at the enemy, he continued to bear the brunt of the attack, fearlessly exposing himself to locate enemy soldiers and then pouring heavy fire on them. He repeatedly crawled back to the American line to secure more ammunition. When his submachine gun would no longer operate, he seized an automatic rifle and continued to inflict heavy casualties. This weapon, in turn, became too hot to use and, discarding it, he continued with an M-1 rifle. At dawn the enemy attacked with renewed intensity. Completely exposing himself to hostile fire, he stood erect to locate the most dangerous enemy positions. He was seriously wounded; but, though he had already killed more than 30 of the enemy, he refused to evacuate until he had pointed out immediate objectives for attack. Through his sustained and outstanding heroism in the face of grave and obvious danger, Pvt. McCarter made outstanding contributions to the success of his company and to the recapture of Corregidor.

Further details see website feature as linked.

#### **"D" Co. attack Btry Monja**

21 Feb 1945

#### **"E" Co. attack Btry Monja**

23 Feb 1945

#### **"D" Co. attack Btry. Monja**

24 Feb 1945

#### **PRCT arrives Mindoro**

8 Mar 1945

### 161st Parachute Engineers redesignated

2 Apr 1945

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161st Airborne Engineer Battalion is redesignated as Company C, 161st Parachute Engineers.

### 2 Bn Jump cancelled, aircraft diverted to Iloilo City

6 Apr 1945

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7 April 1945 "Early this morning the battalion moved to SAN JOSE (ELMORE) strip, loaded on C-46's and left at 0755. After an hour and twenty minutes flying we arrived at a tiny airstrip near ILOILO CITY at 0915 . . . . After several hours we loaded on LCI's and crossed the straits to NEGROS ISLAND. This was a battalion move, and we landed on the open beach at Pulpandan about 1735."  
Bill Calhoun, F Co.

### NEGROS CAMPAIGN - PHASE I

7 Apr 1945 - 11 May 1945

### Reg't arrives Negros

7 Apr 1945

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Unit Arrives Green Beach Bacolod, Negros Occidental and entrucked - transported to E of Silay where it goes into combat.

## Reg't deployed by truck from Pulupandan

7 Apr 1945

8 April 1945 " "We loaded on trucks early in the morning and moved out on coastal highway, Highway #1, which went around the northern end of the island. This was a good asphalt surfaced highway. Almost all the Japs had retreated to the hills well before we landed. A few suicide parties had been left. Pulapandan was about 60 miles from Fabrica, where the large sawmill was located. After moving about 15 miles we came to the capitol, Bacolod. This was a fair size city, by far the largest we had seen since leaving Australia. We traveled on the flat coastal plains . . . and we could see the mountains 10-12 miles inland and the plains gradually rising towards them. Many large rivers had their origins in the foothills. There were a number of large steel bridges spanning these rivers along the highway . . . We passed through Silay which was a town of about 20,000 people . . . After proceeding east on Highway #1 several more miles we turned off on a gravel surfaced road and headed towards the mountains. We moved through the old sugar cane fields several miles fording a broad, shallow river, the Imbang River and stopped and detrucked at our first bivouac area . . . The road we were on was Tokaido Road. This is shown on the Imbang River map as a railroad."

Bill Calhoun, F Co.

## 1st Bn arrive Negros

22 Apr 1945

The 1st Bn., having suffered excessive casualties on Corregidor, remained behind a few days to arm, assign and orient the many new troopers who had filled its ranks.

Upon arrival in Negros, they rapidly proceed to the combat area to join the other battalions.

## NEGROS CAMPAIGN - PHASE II

12 May 1945 - 8 Jun 1945

## NEGROS CAMPAIGN - PHASE III

9 Jun 1945 - 7 Jul 1945

## NEGROS CAMPAIGN - PHASE IV

8 Jul 1945 - 14 Aug 1945

- **Hiroshima**  
5 Aug 1945
- **Nagasaki**  
8 Aug 1945
- **Japanese Occupation begins**  
27 Aug 1945
- **Japanese Surrender**  
1 Sep 1945
- **161st P Eng inactivated**  
25 Oct 1945  

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Company C, 161st Parachute Engineers is inactivated at Negros Island, Philippines.
- **462nd PFABn inactivated**  
21 Dec 1945  

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462nd PFABn inactivated at Camp Anza, CA.
- **503d PIR inactivated**  
24 Dec 1945  

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503d Parachute Infantry Regiment inactivated at Camp Anza, California.
- **END TIME LINE**  
31 Dec 1945