



Editions du
Centre Historique des
Parachutistes du Jour-J

CARENTAN

Linking Omaha Beach - Utah Beach

Part 1: Loading for the First Divisional Fight



Around the collections of
Autour des collections de

Michel De Tréz, Emmanuel Allain & Mark Bando



3rd Battalion of the 502. Designed to be worn on the belt, the 5-pocket magazine pouches for the Thompson SMG were also fitted on the front of the suspenders.

3ème Bataillon du 502. Conçu pour être portées au ceinturon, les pochettes pour 5 chargeurs de Thompson ont également été arrimées à l'avant des bretelles.





Greenham Common - Serial 08. Lt. George E. Bean's stick, G Co., 3rd Bn., 502nd PIR.

Paratroopers with blackened faces ready to load their C-47 transports freshly painted with black and white zebra invasion stripes on the wings and fuselage.

One of the men is wearing a cloth A-8 Air Corps flight helmet used by paratroops during parachute training.

Greenham Common - Serial 08. Stick du Lt. George E. Bean, G Co., 3ème Bn., 502ème PIR.

Des parachutistes au visage noirci sont prêts à embarquer dans leur C-47 fraîchement peint avec les bandes d'invasion rayées noir et blanc sur les ailes et le fuselage. Un des hommes porte un bonnet de pilote A-8 en toile, utilisé par les parachutistes durant l'entraînement au saut.

502ND PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT

Ready to move to the aircraft that will take him into Normandy, this paratrooper is identified as a member of the 101st Airborne Division by his shoulder insignia. The heart painted on the helmet indicates that the soldier is from the 502nd PIR. The white fabric tied around the neck identifies him as being a member of the 3rd Battalion. On his right shoulder, he wears a gas detector armband. Armed with a Thompson submachine gun stowed in a Griswold bag, he carries his ammunition in 20-round magazines housed in two pouches worn on his chest. His jump equipment is marked with the regimental initials inspired by those of Commander George Van Horn Moseley.

Prêt à se diriger vers l'avion qui l'em mènera en Normandie, ce parachutiste est identifié comme étant de la 101ème Airborne Division par l'insigne qu'il porte sur l'épaule gauche. Le cœur peint sur son casque indique qu'il est du 502ème PIR. Le morceau de tissu blanc noué autour du cou permet aux hommes du 3ème Bataillon de se reconnaître. À l'épaule droite, il porte un brassard de détection des gaz. Armé d'un pistolet mitrailleur Thompson rangé dans une housse de saut, il transporte ses munitions dans des chargeurs de 20 cartouches logés dans deux pochettes qu'il porte sur la poitrine. Ses équipements de saut sont marqués des initiales régimentaires inspirées par celles du commandant George Van Horn Moseley.

(D-Day Paratroopers Historical Centre collection)



Message of the 506th

Today, and as you read this, you are unable to show great sorrow
time for which you have lost the very best man.

Tonight is the night of silence.

Forever throughout the years of our freedom and the silent world
the bells will ring and the things that you were given, and the promise
for liberation has been.

The time and progress of your own country's progress. The confidence
of your hope continues with you. The future of the country is now
to become a reality.

Let us think now. You are going to sleep, but in your heart
know that with the knowledge of our country, and the peace of our
sleep, let us continue to our own world.

Now let us think back to you that soldier. In your action let us
justify his faith in you.

Thank you.

Prior to departure, Col.
Robert Sink provided this
message to the paratroopers
of the 506.

*Avant le départ, le Colonel
Robert Sink fit distribuer ce
message aux parachutistes
du 506.*

Chalk #81. Pfc. D. A.
Emelander, Pvt. Harvey
Morehead, 1st Lt.
Carl B. MacDowell -
Jumpmaster, and T/4
William D. Green.

*Chalk n°81. Pfc. D. A.
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- Jumpmaster et T/4
William D. Green.*





53302 A.C.



Capt. Stanley E. Morgan had the misfortune to sprain an ankle on the jump. Captured and after a short interrogation, he was conducted to a German aid station situated in Saint-Côme-du-Mont, where he courageously and fearlessly rendered first aid and definitive surgical care to American and German casualties who were brought in.

Le Capt. Stanley E. Morgan s'est foulé la cheville lors du saut. Capturé, il avait été conduit après un court interrogatoire dans une infirmerie allemande située à Saint-Côme-du-Mont où il soigne des blessés tant américains qu'allemands.

Capt. Morgan, 3rd Bn. Surgeon by his heroic conduct and utter disregard of danger, was an inspiration to the many wounded American parachutists who were huddled together under his care at a German aid station located at Saint-Côme-du-Mont. He managed, by both his diplomatic and forceful manner, to direct the evacuation of the seriously wounded by the Germans, securing the lion's share of the limited facilities available and at the same time, salvaging and keeping with him the less injured. The wounded were all loud in the praise of him, and the Germans captured in later stages of the campaign remembered him vividly.

Le Capt. Morgan, chirurgien du 3ème Bn., de par sa conduite héroïque et son mépris absolu du danger, a été une source d'inspiration pour de nombreux parachutistes américains blessés qu'il a pris en charge au poste de secours allemand situé à Saint-Côme-du-Mont. Il a réussi, par sa manière à la fois diplomatique et énergique, à diriger l'évacuation des blessés graves, exploitant au mieux l'insuffisance des moyens disponibles et en même temps, soutenant en les gardant auprès de lui les blessés légers. Aucun ne tarira d'éloges à son sujet, et les Allemands capturés plus tard conserveront de lui un vif souvenir.









◀ Cpl. Joseph 'Jojo' J. Oleskiewicz, Jr., Demolition Platoon, Rgtl. Hq. with face daubed with Indian war paint.

Le Cpl. Joseph 'Jojo' J. Oleskiewicz, Jr., du Demolition Platoon, Rgtl. Hq. dont le visage arbore les peintures de



Pvt. Thomas 'Old Man' F. Lonergan, 31, and 'Jojo' Oleskiewicz. Lonergan landed in an enemy bivouac at Saint-Côme-du-Mont, injuring himself. Laid buried in a hedgerow for 15 hours, hiding himself and another injured paratrooper. Two days later, he was captured and taken to Saint-Côme-du-Mont aid station. He was rescued when the enemy aid station had been taken. Lonergan has stuck in his belt an antitank rifle grenade, M9A1 onto which is taped its dedicated launching cartridge.

Le Pvt. Thomas 'Old Man' F. Lonergan, 31 ans, et 'Jojo', Oleskiewicz. Lonergan a atterri sur une position ennemie à Saint-Côme-du-Mont. Blessé, il se cacha dans une halle pendant 15 heures avec un autre parachutiste également blessé. Deux jours plus tard, il a été capturé et emmené au poste de secours de Saint-Côme-du-Mont. Il a été sauvé lors de la prise de cette antenne médicale. Lonergan a coincé dans son ceinturon une grenade à fusil antitank M9A1 sur laquelle est scotchée sa cartouche propulsive.



Brixham Harbour, June 3, 1944. Due to a shortage of troop carrier capacity, the flight time of the 101st Airborne glidermen was severely limited. This trooper of the 1st Bn. 327th GIR is part of the Seaborne Force. While the uniform prescription for the 2nd Bn. required that movement was to be operated in their woollen, the uniform requested to wear by the whole regiment on D-Day was HBT's and M-41's. The newly constituted amphibious assault force had been issued the M5 Assault gas mask in its rubberised case but not everyone in the regiment got one like the glidermen from 2nd Bn who landed on Utah Beach with their older lightweight service respirators. US troops liked to carry as much ammo as possible. In addition to the normal magazine belt, this Browning automatic rifle gunner carries an assistant half-belt bandoleer giving him a total of eighteen 20-round magazines.

Brixham Harbour, 3 juin 1944.

À cause d'un manque important d'avions de transport de troupe, le temps de vol des glidermen de la 101ème Airborne fut très limité.

Ce soldat du 1er Bn. du 327ème GIR fait partie de la force de débarquement par mer. Bien que l'uniforme préconisé pour le transfert du 2ème Bn. soit chemise et pantalon moutarde, celui utilisé pour le Jour-J se compose de la tenue HBT et du blouson M-41. La nouvelle unité amphibie a reçu le nouveau masque anti-gaz d'assaut M5 lors dans son sac en caoutchouc, mais ce n'est pas le cas de tous les bataillons du régiment. Les hommes du 2ème Bn. débarqueront sur Utah Beach avec leurs vieux masques anti-gaz Lightweight.

Les troupes américaines aimaient transporter le plus de munitions possible. En plus du ceinturon cartouchière standard, ce tireur FM BAR porte en bandoulière un demi-ceinturon lui permettant d'emporter un total de dix-huit chargeurs de 20 cartouches.

These glidermen from the 1st Bn., wear the standard dress and equipment of the D-Day landing phase. The divisional insignia is worn on both the herringbone twill (HBT) and the M41 jackets. Most are still wearing the early type M42 HBT jacket recognizable by its light color and clipped corner pocket flaps.

Ces Gliders du 1er Bn. portent la tenue

et l'équipement standard de la phase

débarquement du Jour-J. L'insigne de la division est porté à la fois sur la veste HBT et la veste M41. La plupart des hommes portent encore la veste HBT M42, 1er type, reconnaissable à sa couleur claire et ses coins de rabats de poche tronqués.







Jack H. Lieb, is one of several war correspondents who followed the Allied advance across France, working for the newsreel News. Here aboard LCI(L) 5, he shows his Bell & Howell Eyemo 35mm film movie camera to Lt. Commander L. E. Hart Jr. commander of the Utah Beach invasion group of Flotilla 2.

Jack H. Lieb, est l'un des correspondants de guerre qui a suivi l'avance des Alliés à travers la France, travaillant pour les actualités cinématographiques. Ici, à bord du LCI(L) 5, il montre sa camera 35mm Bell & Howell Eyemo au Lt. Commander L. E. Hart, Jr., commandant le groupe d'invasion Beach de la Flottille 2.





AP War correspondent Peter Carroll shows his black Anniversary Speed Graphic field camera to Lt. Forbes, XO, LCI(L) 5. During WW2 many Speed Graphics, all black and otherwise, entered the military supply chain. Some of the most famous images that are acknowledged for their technical and artistic beauty have been captured by these cameras. Carroll used his to take photographs of the 101st during the crossing and at Carentan.

Le correspondant de guerre Peter Carroll montre son appareil photo Black Anniversary Speed Graphic au Lt. Forbes, XO, LCI(L) 5. Pendant tout le conflit, de nombreux Speed Graphic, noirs ou autres, furent utilisés par l'US Army. Quelques photos célèbres de par leur qualité technique et artistique, furent prises par ces appareils. Peter Carroll utilisa notamment le sien pour prendre quelques photos de la 101ème pendant la traversée de la Manche et à Carentan.



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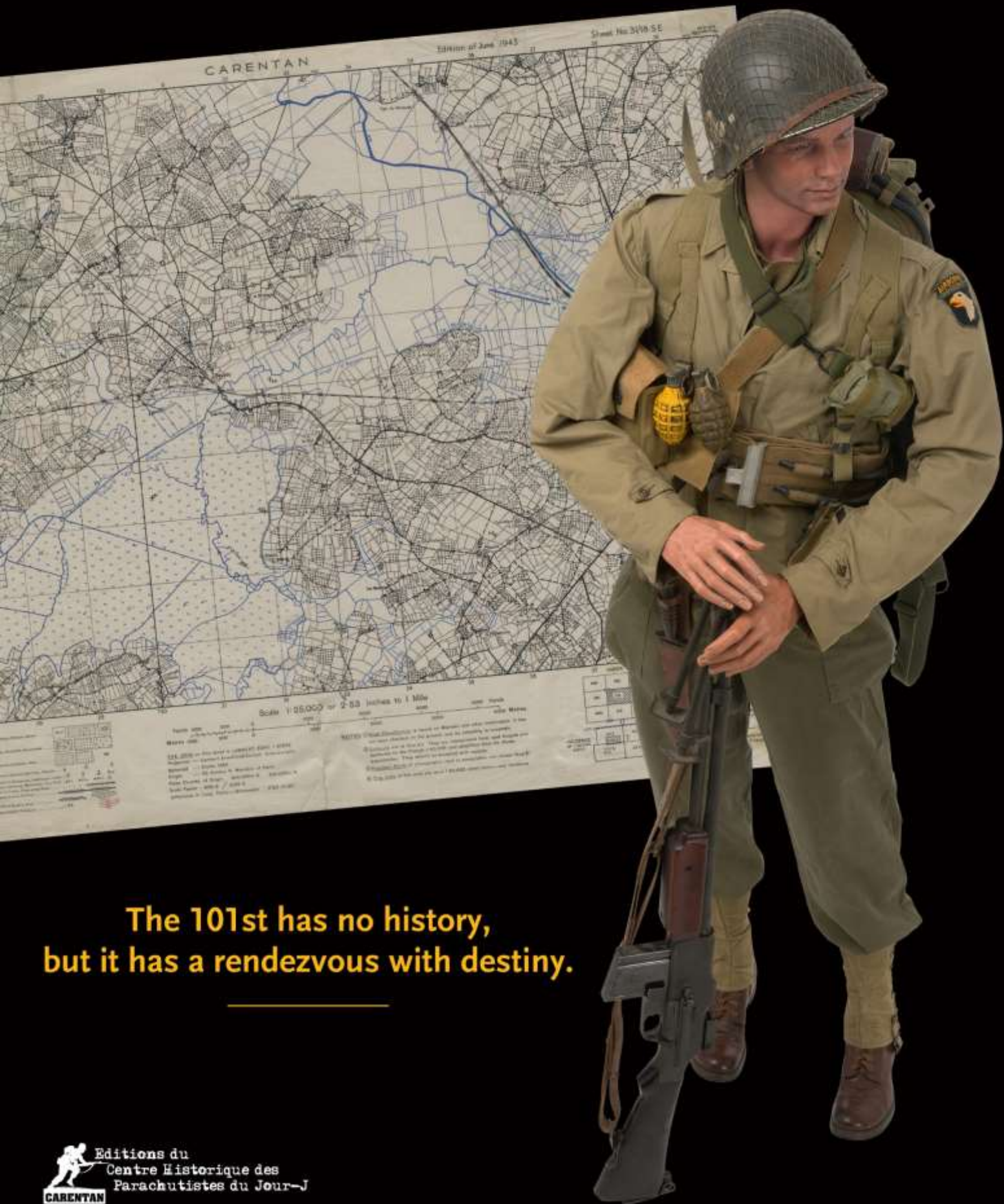
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(Michel De Trex et Emmanuel Allain, Centre Historique des Parachutistes du Jour-J, Saint-Côme-du-Mont / Carentan, Normandie)



**The 101st has no history,
but it has a rendezvous with destiny.**