



Company I Poopsheet

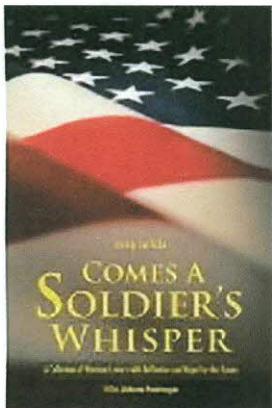
Company I, 502 PIR, 101st Airborne Division, US Army

July 2013

These are the Company I, 502, WWII veterans on our mailing list today. If a correction is needed, please let me know. God bless you all and thank you for your service to our country and freedom everywhere.

- Augustnowski, Edward, Wetherfield, CT
- Brangwin, Joe S., Ridgecrest, CA
- Camarillo, Fernando S. San Antonio, TX
- Cantu, Domingo, San Antonio, TX
- Clark, Jack R. New Castle, PA
- Dunch, Louis B., Sharon, PA
- Dunlap, Ray L., Fayette City, PA
- Elliott, Chester H., Birch Tree, MO
- Hartzell, Robert J., Tiffin, OH
- Hennessey, Joseph S., Sarasota, FL
- Kelly, Earl R. , Aberdeen, MD
- Lichtenthaler, Donald W. Newberg, OR
- Nivens, Harry C., St. Cloud, FL
- Penkwitz, William , Mishicot, WI
- Smith, Meredith E., Baton Rouge, LA
- Taylor, Floyd M. Midwest City,, OK
- Vaccaro, Richard P., Cottonwood, AZ
- Walker, Frank M., Lake Charles, LA

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Recommended reading....



"Comes a soldier's whisper: A collection of Wartime Letters with Reflection and Hope for the Future" written by Jenny La Sala and based on her Dad's letters which he wrote during WWII. **David Clinton Tharp** was a member of the 502nd PIR, HQ Company. Her Dad was a radioman to Robert Cole, Steve

Chappuis and John Michaelis. The book was published in February 2013.

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August 16 is National Airborne Day

Nick V. Bledsoe, Morrisville, PA I-502. The May Poopsheet was returned. The phone number has not been good for years. I've learned his daughter Margaret (Peggy) Eckenrode may have received the newsletters until her death in September 2012. She had no living relatives and was the daughter of the late Nick V. and Margaret R. Bledsoe. Her brother, Nick E. Bledsoe is deceased.



I recently found the death record of Nick V. Bledsoe, born Sept. 19, 1921 died March 5, 1998, and a photo of the family grave in Our Lady of Grace Cemetery, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, from *Find A Grave* website. That information was posted in September 2012 by Becky Evans, a researcher, who provided photo above and helped me confirm this is probably our Nick V. Bledsoe of Company I, 502.

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Returned Mail - May 2103

Mrs. Sarah Mitchell, widow of Loren L. Mitchell, So. Charleston, OH. No forwarding address.

Mrs. Edwina K. Shepard, widow of Corey R. Shepard, Houston, TX, Her mail was returned "unable to forward"

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If you're not a member o the 101st Airborne Division Association, now is the time to join. You will be supporting the association and receive the quarterly magazine *"The Screaming Eagle"*. Sign up at www.screamingeagle.org or call the office at (931)-431-0199 for info and application.

Joe Brangwin, I-502, Ridgecrest, CA selected for the Honor Flight

From an article by Jack Barnwell April 24, 2013



Joe Brangwin at his home in Ridgecrest, CA standing near a portrait of him in WWII.



Lori Acton with her father, Joe Brangwin

Joe Brangwin was surprised when he found out he would be part of a Honor Flight to Washington DC on April 26. Brangwin, 87, was tapped as one of many World War II veterans to be flown to nation's capitol in April as part of the Honor Flight Kern County to visit the WWII Veteran's Memorial. Honor Flight Kern County is part of a national non-profit organization that honors WWII veterans by flying them to Washington to honor their service. While WWII vets are a priority, the organization honors **all veterans**, from the Korean War to the most recent conflicts.

Brangwin, who has lived in Trona and later Ridgecrest since 1950, joined the Army in 1934 and served in the 101st Airborne Division through most of the war. "It was exciting to represent veterans in Kern County and it was quite a surprise," Brangwin said initially over the phone on Thursday. "I was quite amazed and quite pleased they recognize WWII veterans."

After being honorably discharged in June 1946, Brangwin moved to Trona in 1950, where he met his wife Merle and opened up a service station in 1954. It closed in 2000. Brangwin later moved to Ridgecrest in the 1970s and opened up Brangwin's Building Supplies on Richmond Road in 1977, which he operated until 1984. Brangwin said it was well known for the giant hammer in front of the building.

Brangwin spoke very little of his wartime service during an interview at his home Friday, but recalled a few occasions following the war's end. Always humble, he said he did nothing more than what any other member of division did. "Right after the war, I was sent to a school in Scotland," Brangwin said. He said following that, he was merged with the 82nd Airborne Division when it returned to New York in January 1946 on the RMS Queen Mary. "We marched in the parade there in New York on 5th Avenue," Brangwin said, referring to the Victory Parade the 82nd led. Brangwin comes from a military family, with his twin brother John having served in the Navy, his brother Don in the Coast Guard and his third brother Earl also having served in the Army. His sister Velva Ford was a civilian nurse in Chicago.

"My mother went to church Seven days a week to pray for her children" Brangwin said. Ridgecrest City Councilwoman Lori Acton, Brangwin's daughter said her father was a strong role model growing up.

"My father helped everyone whether or not they had the ability to pay or not," Acton said. "I learned about community service by the example my parents set. I still get stopped by people when they know he's my father because of what great man he is."

Brangwin will be joined by his nephew-in-law, Jim Johnson as "guardian" as part of the program. Guardians are part of the Honor Flight

