

Let's Go!

The Story of the Men Who Served
In the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment



Wayne Pierce

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tracted the men with up-to-date movies, and for those wanting a date with a girl and a chance to dance the night away, the opportunity was there. It wasn't long before a regular schedule for passes was established. Trucks transported the men on pass the approximately five miles into the heart of the city and returned them to camp at posted intervals.

Training commenced again on a serious note progressing through company, battalion and regimental problems. The golf course was used for small-unit tactics but in general, problems were run across the farms in the area. Care was taken not to dig foxholes in the middle of a potato field, but some crops were damaged and claims were filed.

Night problems found the men climbing fences, tramping across newly plowed fields and in some instances, moving around farm buildings and houses. Training in this lush farming area was good preparation for what was to come in France.

On 10 March 1944, the 2nd Battalion 401 Glider Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, moved into the camp at Scruptoft to serve as the 3rd Battalion for the 325 Glider Infantry. The Airborne Command was finally admitting that the 325 "light infantry" organization of two battalions was not adequate for the type of missions being planned. Although the men of the 2nd Battalion 401 were not enthused at leaving the 101st Airborne Division, this move was long overdue. The officers of the regiment understood the reason behind this move and were pleased to see the added manpower in the 325.

Test problems were run by all battalions in the division. After observing the 1st Battalion of the 325 run their test problem, Gen. Ridgway wrote a letter of commendation, saying in part, "This was the best I have seen in two years with this division."

The Charge Of The Causeway

Capt. Sauls had been losing quite a bit of blood from his wound. A medical officer looked at his hand and told him he would have to go back to the Regimental Aid Station. He turned the company over to Lt. Thomas E. Goodson and started back. Goodson was killed a few days later in Normandy.

The tank that had been supporting Company G withdrew when its machine gun jammed. Another tank moved forward and immediately drew heavy mortar fire. One shell landed directly in front of the tank which then clattered and clanked as it hastily back-pedaled to the rear. This maneuver taught the glidermen to not seek shelter behind a tank — a quick move in reverse would pin a man under the tank treads.

About 300 yards down the road, Company G was again held up by machine gun fire. Pfc Leander Reel (Petersburg, W. Va., KIA in Holland), acting on orders from Goodson, circled around the position and in a short time came back with 30 prisoners in a column of threes.

When Gen. Ridgway arrived on the far bank he wanted to make sure the area was secure. This was Ridgway's peculiarity or characteristic, going back perhaps to the time the explosives were found under his hotel in Naples. Sgt. August Sciuchetti picked up a light machine gun and, while Keller kept the belt straight, he fired from the hip at suspected German positions. Ridgway went along with them, firing his weapon as they moved about. [After the war, Sciuchetti changed his name to Bud Olson.]

It was then about 1500 hours and Company G 401 moved to the right side to join flanks with Company E 401. The junction was made and the men were distributed along the hedges to form a defensive perimeter.

Sgt. James Malak set up three 60mm mortars in battery and, as the German pressure mounted, these mortars began travers-