

D-DAY PATHFINDER GROUPS OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

Base Stick (501st Regiment)

Sgt Joseph Bass (F)* KIA
 T/5 Richard H. Beaver (2)*
 Pvt John J. Bouska (E)
 Capt Frank L. Brown (HQ)*
 PFC Robert A. Howarth (D)*
 2 Lt James V. Haslam (HQ)
 Cpl Thorwald K Larsen (F)*
 1 Lt Joseph G McGregor (E)
 Cpl Hiliary J. McKenna (E)
 Pvt Robert J. Miliski (E)
 Pvt Leonard J. Newcomb (F)*
 Pvt Ralph A Newton (F)*KIA
 Pvt Walter V Olender (E)KIA
 PFC Manuel Peralis (E)
 Pvt Theodore T. Pierz (E)
 Pvt Eugene L. Schuler (E)
 PFC Robert E. Sechrist (E)*
 PFC Harold E. Sellers*(KIA)
 Cpl Russell G Waller*(KIA)

Primary Stick (501st Regt)

PFC George E Adomitis(KIA)
 Cpl Delbert S Brazzle(KIA)
 PFC Charles E. Coleman (B)
 2 Lt John H. Crow (B)
 Pvt Alvin Daley (B) (KIA)
 T/5 John E. Eagan (B)
 PFC Paul M. Fletcher (B)
 Pvt Lubomir Dejanovich*(1)
 Pvt David W Hadley* (1)
 T/5 Joseph Haller* (1)
 Pvt Clarence J. Jack (A)*
 Sgt Warren K. McGinley (C)*
 Pvt John D. Mishler (B)
 Pvt John O. Ryan (B)*
 Sgt John O'Shaughnessy (B)*
 PFC Stephen Via Jr. (B) KIA
 Pvt Thomas M. Walker (B)*
 2 Lt Albert E. Watson (A)*

3rd Battalion Stick (501st)

T/5 Henry J. Billings (HQ)*
 PFC Lawrence R. Burgeon (I)
 PVT William J. Dooley (I)
 1 Lt John W. Ell (H)* KIA
 Pvt Spencer E. Everly (HQ)*
 2 Lt Charles M Faith (HQ)*
 S/Sgt Chester Garretson KIA
 Pvt Edmund L. Gregoire (I)
 Pvt Alvin Haux (HQ)*
 Pvt Lester Hunt (HQ)*
 PFC Kendell C Lewis (I) KIA
 Pvt Michael Refer (HQ)*
 Pvt Ernest A Robinson (HQ)*
 Pvt George L. Sarlas-HQ*KIA
 Pvt Stanley S Suwarsky-KIA
 Pvt Bert V Tadsen (I)
 Pvt Henry C. Taylor (I)

Base Stick (502nd Regiment)

Pvt James J. Bement
 Pvt Jarris C. Clark
 T/5 Owen R. Council*
 Pvt Paul O. Davis
 1 Lt Robert S. Dixon
 Pvt John H Funk (KIA)
 PFC Delbert A. Jones*
 Capt Frank I Lillyman*
 Pvt August M. Mangoni*
 1 Lt Samuel McCarter*
 Pvt John S. McFarlen*
 Pvt John G. Ott
 2 Lt Reed Pelfrey
 Pvt Raymond Smith*
 T/5 Thomas C. Walton*
 Pvt Bluford R Williams*
 PFC Fred A. Wilhelm*
 Pvt John A. Wilson (Med)
 Pvt John S. Zamanakis*

Primary Stick (502nd Regt)

Pvt Louis F. Banft
 T/5 Glenn B. Braddock*
 Pvt George C Dagres (KIA)
 Pvt Wilfred DesLauriers*
 Pvt Gilbert T Driscoll*
 Pvt James E. Elliott*
 PFC Clifford F. Gorton
 PFC William F. Haasm
 PFC John Kleinfelder (KIA)
 2 Lt Napoleon T Lavalie
 PFC William B. Mench*
 Pvt Bernard L. Ormsbee
 Capt Henry G. Plitt
 Pvt Francis A. Rocca*
 PFC Ernest Stene*
 PFC Roy B. Stephens*
 Pvt Phillip A Sangenario
 PFC Vincent Wallace (Dead)

Alternate Stick (502nd)

Pvt Henry J. Bohleke
 PFC William G. Casey*
 Pvt Dominick Cherico (KIA)
 1 Lt Don S. Driver*
 PFC Troy S. Estes
 Pvt Lawrence F. Hall
 Pvt Joseph Hatcher
 Pvt Harold D. Locke
 T/5 Richard R. Lisk*
 T/5 Clifford J. McDowell*
 Pvt William G. Netterwold*
 Pvt David C. Parks*
 Pvt James H. Perkins*
 PFC Cleo G. Reed
 PFC Howard Stiles* (H)
 T/5 Hugh W. Selby*
 Pvt Max S. Trujillo
 2 Lt James W. Tolar

Base Stick (506th Regiment)

PFC Robert R. Blankenship (D)*
 PFC Carl L. Fenstermaker (E)*
 Pvt Frederick Linacre
 Pvt Charles R. Malley (F)*
 Cpl Jack E. Matts (D) (KIA)
 PFC Henry M. Meehan (D)
 2 Lt Rolf Michaelis
 Pvt Charles H. Partlow*
 PFC Stephen Pustola*
 1 Lt Gordon O. Rothwell*
 PFC John Sherbon (D) (KIA)
 PFC Lackman M. Tillman*
 Pvt Jerome E. Werbela (D)
 Pvt James Wheeler*
 PFC John "Jerry" M. White*
 PFC John W. Wright
 Cpl Richard M. Wright (E)*

Primary Stick (506th Regiment)

2 Lt Walter G. Amerman
 Pvt George H. Blain*
 Pvt Leo C. Bert*
 PFC Donald W. Carter (KIA)
 Pvt Harold V. Combs
 PFC Eugene D. Doerr*
 PFC Harold G. Duty*
 PFC Terrence C. Harris* (KIA)
 1 Lt Roy H. Kessler* (KIA)
 PFC Cleo W. Mers* (C)
 Pvt John Moseman*
 Pvt Robert L. Pollard
 Pvt Manderson V. Pullin
 Cpl LeRoy Sholenberg*
 Sgt Walter M. Skeen
 Pvt George H. Slater
 Pvt Fred J. Taylor*
 PFC John T. Wilson

3rd Battalion Stick (506th Regt)

Cpl James A. Benson*
 PFC Jack L. Brown
 Sgt Thayer Carlton* (KIA)
 W/O Ernest L. Dilburn* (POW)
 PFC John D. Edwards
 PFC Wilbur D. Croteau (G)* KIA
 PFC George E. Kenfield (KIA)
 PFC Edmund Lojko* (POW)
 Sgt Sidney L. McCallum
 Pvt George McMillan
 PFC John J. Monk* (KIA)
 Pvt David D. Morgan
 Pvt Dell T. Ripple*
 Pvt Raymond J. Schaneer* (WIA)
 T/4 Louis B. Tuttle* (MIA)
 PFC William Weber
 2 Lt John T. Windish (I)
 T/5 Erwin F. Zahradnik (WIA)

(Those starred (*) are pathfinders while others served as security personnel)

D-DAY PATHFINDER GROUPS OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

BASE STICK (501ST REGIMENT)

SGT JOE BASS (F) (KIA)*
 T/5 RICHARD H. BEAVER (2)*
 PVT JOHN J. BOUSKA (E)
 CPT FRANK L. BROWN (HQ)*
 PFC ROBERT A. HOWARTH (D)*
 2LT JAMES V. HASLAM (HQ) Died
 1LT JOE G. MCGREGOR (E) (KIA)
 CPL THORWALD LARSEN (F) (Died)
 CPL HILARY J. MCKENNA (E)
 PVT ROBERT J. MILESKE (E)
 PVT LEONARD J. NEWCOMB (F)*
 PVT WALTER OLENDER (E) (KIA)
 PVT RALPH A. NEWTON (F) (KIA)*
 PFC MANEUL PERALIS (E)
 PVT THEODORE T. PIERZ (E)
 PVT EUGENE L. SCHULER (E)
 PFC ROBERT E. SECHRIST (E)*
 PFC HAROLD E. SELLERS (F) (KIA)
 CPL RUSSELL G. WALLER (E) (KIA)

PRIMARY STICK (501st)

PFC GEORGE E. ADOMITIS (B) (KIA)
 CPL DELBERT S. BRAZZLE (A) (KIA)
 PFC CHARLES E. COLEMAN (B) (Died)
 2LT JOHN H. CROW (B)
 PVT ALVIN DALEY (B) (KIA)
 T/5 JOHN E. EAGEN (B) (DIED)
 PFC PAUL H. FLETCHER (B)
 PVT LUBOMIR DEJANOVICH* Died
 PVT DAVID M. HADLEY (1BN)*
 T/5 JOE HALLER (1BN)*
 PVT CLARENCE J. JACK (A)*
 SGT WARREN K. MCGINLEY (E)*
 PVT JOHN D. MISHLER (B) (Died)
 PVT JOHN C. RYAN (B)
 SGT JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY (B)*
 PFC STEPHEN VIA, JR (B) (KIA)
 PVT THOMAS M. WALKER (B)*
 2LT ALBERT E. WATSON (A)*

3RD BN STICK (501ST)

T/5 HENRY J. BILLINGS (HQ) (Died)
 PFC LAWRENCE R. BURGOON (I)
 PVT WILLIAM J. DOOLEY (I)
 1LT JOHN W. ELL (H)* (KIA)
 PVT SPENCER E. EVERLY (I) (Died)
 2LT CHARLES M. FAITH (HQ)*
 SSG CHESTER GARRETSON (KIA)
 PVT EDMUND L. GREGOIRE (I) Died
 PVT ALVIN HAUX (HQ)*
 PVT LESTER HUNT (HQ)*
 PFC KENDALL C. LEWIS (I)
 PVT MICHAEL ROFER (I) (KIA)
 PVT ERNEST A. ROBINSON (3)*
 PVT GEORGE L. SARLAS (3) (KIA)
 PVT STANLEY S. SUWASKY (3) (KIA)
 PVT BERT V. TADSEN (I)
 PVT HENRY C. TAYLOR (I)

BASE STICK (502ND REGIMENT)

PVT JAMES J. BEMENT
 PVT JARRIS C. CLARK (S-2) (Died)
 PVT PAUL O. DAVIS
 1LT ROBERT S. DICKSON (S-2)
 PVT JOHN H. FUNK (KIA)
 PFC DELBERT A. JONES (B)*
 CPT FRANK I. LILLYMAN (HQ) (Died)
 T/5 OWEN R. COUNCIL (HQ)*
 PVT AUGUST M. MANGONI (B)*
 1LT SAMUEL MCCARTER (HQ)*
 PVT JOHN S. MCFARLEN (HQ)*
 PVT JOHN G. OTT (S-2)
 2LT REED PELFREY (HQ)
 PVT RAYMOND SMITH (MEDIC) (Died)
 T/5 THOMAS G. WALTON*
 PVT BLUFORD R. WILLIAMS*
 PFC FRED A. WILHELM*
 PVT JOHN S. ZAMANOKIS (HQ)*

PRIMARY STICK (502ND)

PVT LOUIS F. BANFT
 T/5 GLENN B. BRADDOCK*
 PVT GEORGE C. DAGRES (C)
 PVT WILFRED DESLAURIERS (2)*
 PVT GILBERT T. DRISCOLL (2)*
 PVT JAMES E. ELLIOTT*
 PFC CLIFFORD F. GORTON (C)
 PFC WILLIAM F. HAAS (MEDIC)
 PFC JOHN KLEINFELDER (C)
 2LT NAPOLEON T. LAVELLE (HQ) (KIA)
 PFC WILLIAM B. MENCH (D)*
 PVT BERNARD L. ORMSBEE (C)
 CPT HENRY G. PLITT (S-3) Died
 PVT FRANCIS A. ROCCA (C)*
 PFC ERNEST STENE (E)*
 PFC ROY B. WILLIAMS*
 PVT PHILIP SANGENARIO (F) (Died)
 PFC VINCENT WALLACE (C) (Died)

ALTERNATE STICK (502ND)

PVT HENRY J. BOHLCKE*
 PFC WILLIAM G. CASEY (G)*
 PVT DOMINICK CHERICO (E) (KIA)
 1LT DON S. DRIVER*
 PFC TROY S. ESTES (E)
 PVT LAWRENCE F. HALL (E)
 PVT JOSEPH HATCHER (E)
 PVT HAROLD D. LOCKE (E)
 T/5 RICHARD R. LISK*
 T/5 CLIFFORD J. MACDOWELL* (Died)
 PVT WILLIAM G. NETTERWOLD*
 PVT DAVID C. PARKS*
 PVT JAMES H. PERKINS*
 PFC CLEO G. REED (E)
 PFC HOWARD STILES (H)* Died
 T/5 HUGH W. SELBY*
 2LT JAMES W. TOLAR (E)

BASE STICK (506TH REGIMENT)

PFC ROBERT R. BLANKENSHIP (KIA)
 PFC CARL L. FENSTERMAKER (E)*
 PVT FREDERICK LINACRE (D) Died
 PVT CHARLES R. MALLEY (F)*
 CPL JACK E. MATTS (D) (KIA)
 PFC HENRY M. MEEHAN (D)
 2LT ROLF MICHAELIS (2)
 PVT CHARLES H. PARTLOW (D)*
 PFC STEPHEN PUSTOLA (F)*
 1LT GORDON O. ROTHWELL (D)*
 PFC JOHN SHERBON (D) (KIA)
 PFC LACHMAN M. TILLMAN*
 PVT JEROME E. WERBELA (D)
 PVT JAMES WHEELER (2)*
 PFC JOHN M. WHITE (D)*
 PFC JOHN W. WRIGHT (D)
 CPL RICHARD M. WRIGHT (E)*

PRIMARY STICK (506)
 2LT WALTER G. AMMERMAN* (Died)
 PVT GEORGE H. BLAINE (1)* (Died)
 PVT LEO C. BERT (C)*
 PFC DONALD W. CARTER (B) (KIA)
 PVT HAROLD V. COMBS (B)
 PFC EUGENE D. DOERR (C)*
 PFC TERRY C. HARRIS (1) (KIA)*
 PFC HAROLD G. DUTY (A)
 1LT ROY H. KESSLER (A) (KIA)*
 PFC CLEO W. MERS (C)*
 PVT JOHN MOSSMAN (A)*
 PVT ROBERT L. POLLARD (B)
 PVT MANDERSON V. PULLIN (B)
 CPL LEROY SHOENBERG (B) Died
 SGT WALTER M. SKEEN (B)
 PVT GEORGE H. SLATER (B) (Died)
 PVT FRED J. TAYLOR*
 PFC JOHN T. WILSON (B)

3RD BN STICK (506TH)

CPL JAMES A. BENSON (3) (Died)
 PFC JACK L. BROWN (I)
 SGT THAYER CARLTON (3) (KIA)
 W/O ERNEST L. DILBURN (3) (Died)
 PFC JOHN D. EDWARDS (I)
 PFC WILBUR D. CROTEAU (G) (KIA)
 PFC GEORGE E. KENFIELD (I) (KIA)
 PFC EDMUND LOJKO (HQ)*
 SGT SIDNEY L. MCCALLUM (I)
 PVT GEORGE MCMILLAN (I)
 PFC JOHN J. MONK* (KIA)
 PVT DAVID D. MORGAN (I)
 PVT DELL T. RIPPLE (3)*
 PVT RAYMOND J. SCHANEER* (KIA)
 T/4 LOUIS B. TUTTLE (MIA)*
 PFC WILLIAM WEBER (I)
 2LT JOHN T. WINDISH (I) Died
 T/5 ERWIN F. ZAHRADNIK (I)

(Over)

377TH PARACHUTE ARTILLERY PATHFINDERS

<u>PVT WILLIAM H BARTON (D)*</u>	<u>T/5 DONALD N. GREEN (A)*</u>	<u>T/4 JOHN M. MURPHY (HQ)*</u> ^{DIED}
<u>PVT ARTHUR L BROOKS (D)*</u>	<u>PVT FRANCIS G. GUNNING (C)*</u> ^(Died)	<u>T/5 JERROLD J QUINN (B)*</u> ^(Died)
<u>CPL VINCENT L CART (HQ)*</u>	<u>PFC FRANCIS B HAAGA (D)*</u> ^(Died)	<u>PFC JOHN B. SAMPLE (B)*</u> ^(Died)
<u>T/4 JAMES O DETRICK (A)*</u> ^{DIED}	<u>1LT LAURENCE G HENSLEY (HQ)*</u> ^(KIA)	<u>PVT SAUL SANCEDO (B)*</u> ^{DIED}
<u>PVT EDWARD D DULMIN (A)*</u>	<u>PFC JOHN HOSTA (D)*</u>	<u>CPL MICHAEL P. SAPARA (A)*</u> ^(Died)
<u>PVT NORMAN D GANNON (MED)</u>	<u>CPL GRAHAM C. LUDWIG*</u>	<u>2LT ROBERT G SMITH (HQ)*</u> ^{DIED}

326TH AIRBORNE ENGINEER PATHFINDERS

<u>PFC LOUIS DIGAETANO (KIA)*</u>	<u>PVT ALBERT A KOUBA (C)*</u> ^{Died}	<u>CPL CALVIN C JACKSON (C)*</u>
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General Information:

Capt. Frank Lillyman is given credit for being the first pathfinder to touch down on French soil at 0015 hours of June 6, 1944.

The stick jumpmastered by 1LT Gordon Rothwell (506th) was unable to jump due to the fact that one engine was on fire and the pilot was losing altitude. The men were ordered to jettison all radar, pathfinder equipment and weaponry and prepare for a water landing. This was done successfully in the English Channel. The entire load was rescued by a British vessel. The incident is well described in D-Day With The Screaming Eagles.

The sticks of the 502nd and the 377th were not dropped on the targets but several kms to the north. However, the parachute elements were so badly scattered that men from every regiment of the 82nd were jumping on their signals and lights plus a scattering of 101st troops.

There is a 19-page chapter in D-DAY WITH THE SCREAMING EAGLES which covers training, equipment used, and eye witness accounts of pathfinders from almost every one of the sticks I have listed.

I have placed an asterisk (*) beside the name of each pathfinder. Others who jumped, but they came in as security for the teams. 1LT ROBERT DICKSON and his three man S-2 Team was to find the easiest path to the 4-gun coastal battery which was covering Utah Beach. Capt Henry Plitt (S-3) had assignments which I was never able to verify.

On the Holland jump on September 17, 1944 only four sticks of pathfinders were used. 1Lt. Charles Faith and his group were to mark the DZ just outside of Veghel. However, the plane was shot down just after it crossed the front lines south and west of Eindhoven. Only a few troopers survived. The crew died with them except for the pilot who managed to survive. Normandy pathfinders who died in this incident were Pvt Michael Rofer, Pvt George Sarlas, Cpl Delbert S. Brazzle and Cpl Roy L. Stephens. The plane went down in the Belgian town of Arendonk, just outside the Belgian/Dutch border.

There will be a pathfinder chapter in my latest book (HELLS HIGHWAY) which I am currently working on.

Dr. Walter Amerman made an appearance at the pathfinder company several years ago and stated that only a few of them were still alive. However, if you note the names that are underlined, I have current addresses for these men. I have copies of pictures of all the D-Day pathfinder sticks and if I can have reasonable assurances that they will be returned to me, I shall send them to your headquarters. The D-Day book has one of the pictures in it.

George E. Koskimaki
1222 Charleston Court
Northville, MI 48167
(348)-348-1037 (Home)
(906)-255-3721 (Summer cabin)

If you decide to do something big with your pathfinder program, I recommend the following resource people from our pathfinder list: Charles Faith, Glenn Braddock and Robert Smith. The addresses I have (still good in 1988):
Charles M. Faith - 3204 N. Galloway, #1504, Mesquite, TX 75150

Glenn Braddock - 830 Tuttle, Manhattan, KS 66502
Robert Smith - 5201 Jerry Drive, El Paso, TX 79924
Died