

# *in*TIME



## BAND OF BROTHERS

They were ordinary men in extraordinary times.  
In 1942 they volunteered for one of America's newest military experiments:  
the paratroops. After intensive training, they earned their wings and became  
members of an elite Army unit known as Easy Company.  
They parachuted into France on D-Day, fought in several decisive battles  
and went on to capture the "Eagle's Nest," Adolf Hitler's  
Bavarian hideaway.

**NOW THE STORY OF THIS "BAND OF BROTHERS"**  
**IS COMING TO HBO® IN A TEN-PART MINISERIES THAT PREMIERES**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2001, AT 9 P.M. (ET)/8 P.M. (CT).**

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# THE MEN of EASY COMPANY

RIGOROUS TRAINING PREPARED THEM FOR BATTLE  
AND MADE THEM INTO A CLOSE-KNIT "BAND OF BROTHERS"

**D**uring the 1920s, military strategists came up with a novel idea: soldiers could surprise their opponents by jumping out of planes flying over enemy territory. In 1940, Germany became the first country to send highly skilled parachutists into battle; the armies of Britain and the U.S. formed their own airborne divisions in the early 1940s.

E Company, known as Easy, was one of four companies within the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division. All of the company's members volunteered to be trained as parachutists. Because of the extra risk involved in jumping, paratroopers received a monthly bonus—\$50 for enlisted men, \$100 for officers—and greater honors than other soldiers. Company members suffered high rates of injury and death during the war, yet those who survive speak of an extraordinary closeness and camaraderie that developed among the men of Easy Company.

**HERBERT SOBEL** was the first man assigned to Easy Company. A clothing salesman in civilian life, Sobel was not particularly athletic. Paradoxically, as the unit's commanding officer, he was in charge of training the men for battle. Sobel was a strict disciplinarian, handing out cruel punishments for seemingly harmless infractions of the rules. During

training in England, he threatened to court-martial Lieut. Richard Winters for his alleged failure to inspect a latrine at the appointed hour. In response, Easy's non-commissioned officers offered to turn in their stripes out of loyalty to Winters. Shortly before the company headed to France on D-Day, Sobel was reassigned

and became commander of a parachute jumping school. Despite Sobel's unpopularity, many credit Easy Company's success in battle to the rigorous standards he set for his men.

**RICHARD WINTERS** started in Easy Company as a 2nd lieutenant in charge of the first platoon, and rose to major as the war progressed. The men of the unit revered Winters, calling him fair, caring, tough under pressure, and brilliant at using his tactical knowhow in combat. He exhibited tremendous courage and resourcefulness in field situations. On October

9, 1944, during the "Hell's Highway" campaign, Winters was promoted to Executive Officer of the battalion. When the war ended, he married, started a family and bought a farm in Pennsylvania—keeping a vow he made shortly after D-Day to "live a peaceful life" if he was lucky enough to survive the war.

**DAVID KENYON WEBSTER** could have avoided combat service in World War II, because he came from a wealthy family and had attended Harvard College. But instead of using his connections to land a comfortable job or officer's commission, he volunteered to see combat as a paratrooper. Webster greatly admired the British writers of World War I—Wilfrid Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Robert Graves—and aspired, as they had, to write about the war as he experienced it. Webster chronicled the activities of E Company in great detail in his letters and diaries, finally published in 1994 as *Parachute Infantry: An American Paratrooper's Memoir of D-Day and the Fall of the Third Reich*. After the war, he moved to California, eventually becoming a reporter for the *Wall Street Journal* and the author of a book on sharks.

Richard Winters

Herbert Sobel

David K. Webster

## KEY DATES IN WORLD WAR II AND IN EASY COMPANY'S HISTORY

Jan. 30, 1933	Sept. 1, 1939	May 10, 1940	June 10, 1940	June 22, 1940	Sept. 7, 1940	Sept. 16, 1940	Sept. 27, 1940	Nov. 5, 1940	June 22, 1941
Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany.	Germany invades Poland, sparking war in Europe.	Germany invades France. In Britain, Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister.	Italy declares war on Britain and France; President Franklin Roosevelt declares that the U.S. will "extend to the opponents of force the material resources of this nation."	France signs an armistice with Germany. The French government maintains control of two-fifths of France, while Germans control the rest.	"The Blitz" begins in London, involving all-out air raids by Germany.	President Roosevelt authorizes first U.S. peacetime draft; all American males ages 21-36 are required to register.	Japan joins the Axis powers of Germany and Italy. The three nations agree to provide military and economic assistance to one another. They are opposed by the Allies: Britain, France, the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.	F.D.R. wins election to an unprecedented third term as U.S. President.	Germany invades the Soviet Union.



To find out more about the training, careers and legacy of Easy Company's paratroopers, visit [www.hbo.com](http://www.hbo.com)



# A PROUD TRADITION LIVES ON

TODAY'S 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION HAS A NEW HOME

AND NEW FACES—BUT THE SAME STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

**F**orty-five years after World War II ended, the “Screaming Eagles” of the 101st Airborne Division set off for Saudi Arabia to take part in Operation Desert Storm. Upon arriving, the 101st mounted the largest and longest air assault in history.

Now housed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, the 101st has a vastly different composition than it did in the 1940s: 1 in 4 members is African American, and 1 in 10 is female. The demographics have changed, but the division's standards remain as demanding as ever. *inTIME* spoke with three current members of the division to find out what life in the 101st is like today.

**LISA BAILEY** enjoys a challenge. Although she was not required to attend Airborne School, she decided to volunteer for the training—and she became the only woman in her company to successfully complete both Airborne School and Air Assault School. “I wanted to see if I could do it,” she says, admitting that at first the training was frightening. Corporal Bailey began the three-week



Lisa Bailey

course by parachuting from a 34-foot tower. She went on to make five jumps from an airplane, including one jump at night. “In the 101st, we are supposed to be the best and to maintain the image that the division held back in World War II. I put myself to the test, and I was able to achieve the Airborne Patch.”

Bailey enlisted in the Army after obtaining her B.A. in international business and French from the University of Michigan. “One of my reasons for joining the military was to get assistance in paying back my student loans from college,” she explains. For each year of service that Bailey completes, the Army pays a portion of her college loans. By the end of four years, she expects her loans—which total more than \$50,000—to be fully paid off.

**BEU VANG** spent most of the year 2000 in Kosovo as part of a NATO peacekeeping force. “Kosovo was very big for me,” he says. “It made me feel that I made a difference.” Vang was assigned to guard a small Serbian village that was surrounded by Albanians. “We would stand there, in full battle gear, and make sure that the Albanians and Serbs didn’t go at each other. We knew that if we weren’t there, then some ethnic cleansing would have gone on, and the Serbs would have just been wiped



Beu Vang

out. I didn’t do anything spectacular, like save somebody’s life—but one day, the villagers had this little picnic, right out in front of their church. If it weren’t for us, none of the people in that village could have come out to celebrate.”

A native of Appleton, Wisconsin, Private First Class Vang describes the Army leadership as “magnificent.” The blueprint for success, he says, “is written out for you, and all you have to do is follow it. I’ve taken it and run with it. And it’s worked for me thus far, so I’m just gonna keep going with it.”

**SHANNON TARVER** was watching CNN’s coverage of Operation Desert Shield in 1990 when she had an epiphany. “At that moment, I realized that we should not allow Saddam Hussein to invade this other country and take over. And I felt that I needed to do something for my country. So I joined the Army.” Now a Staff Sergeant and the mother of two daughters, Tarver says the Army has taught her about teamwork, self-confidence and equal opportunity. “As a woman in the Army, I’ve never felt as equal as I do here at Fort Campbell. In the 101st you’re not male or female; black, white or yellow. We’re all green—we’re all Army.”



Shannon Tarver

Dec. 7, 1941

Japan launches surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, killing 2,400 and sinking eight battleships.

Dec. 7, 1941

Hitler issues “Night and Fog” policy, authorizing disappearance of “persons endangering German security.”

Dec. 8, 1941

U.S. declares war on Japan.

Dec. 11, 1941

Italy and Germany declare war on the U.S.

May 12, 1942

First mass gassing of Jews at the Auschwitz concentration camp.

June 4-6, 1942

With the help of American intelligence, the U.S. defeats a larger and better-equipped Japanese force in the Battle of Midway, marking the first major U.S. victory in the Pacific war.

June 1942

By this date, most Japanese Americans are interned in relocation camps. Some 112,000 Japanese Americans were imprisoned for an average of 900 days, on the grounds that they posed a threat to national security.

July, 1942

Easy Company reports to Camp Toccoa, Ga., for basic training.

Aug. 7, 1942

American troops land on Guadalcanal, the largest of the Solomon Islands in the Pacific.

Dec. 4, 1942

Easy Company reports to Fort Benning, Ga., for jump school.



Visit [www.campbell.army.mil](http://www.campbell.army.mil) to learn more about the 101st Airborne Division's past and present. For additional soldier profiles and details on basic training, visit [www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com)



# THE PUSH TO VICTORY

FOUR DECISIVE MOMENTS IN THE WAR'S LAST YEAR—  
AND THE ROLE THAT EASY COMPANY PLAYED



## Normandy

### D-DAY: INVASION OF NORMANDY

Just after midnight on June 6, 1944, the paratroopers of Easy Company dropped into the dark Normandy countryside as part of Operation Overlord, the massive Allied invasion of France. Disoriented from their first jumps in combat and weighed down with unnecessary equipment, the men had difficulty finding one another and fighting as a unit. In the chaotic hours after the jump, most of the company remained unaccounted for and spread over a wide area. But Lieut. Richard Winters led a small squad of men in a daring maneuver on a German patrol convoy, then successfully captured four German artillery pieces.



**CARENTAN (D-DAY PLUS TWO)** In its successful capture of this Norman town from the Germans, Easy Company came under heavy fire and killed a group of Germans who were fleeing the site of the battle. Lieut. Winters suffered a minor leg wound from a sniper; a number of others were killed or wounded. The men faced a fierce counterattack as the Germans attempted to retake the town; there was heavy shelling and machine-gun fire, as well as tank assault. Overall, the company suffered 65 casualties during its five weeks in Normandy; 18 men were killed. Easy Company had greatly distinguished itself—but at a heavy price.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IT:  
Watch Parts 2 and 3 of *Band of Brothers*,  
“Day of Days” and “Carentan,”  
and visit [www.hbo.com](http://www.hbo.com)



Jan. 14-24,  
1943

At a conference in Casablanca, Morocco, Roosevelt and Churchill agree to prepare for invasion of France and demand the unconditional surrender of the Axis powers.

Jan. 31,  
1943

German forces surrender at Stalingrad, marking the turning point of the war in Eastern Europe.

Aug.  
1943

Easy Co. ships out for Europe aboard the *Samaria*, arriving in England on Sept. 15.

Jan. 25,  
1944

The German commander in Poland records that of the 2.5 million Jews originally under his jurisdiction, all but 100,000 have been killed.

June 6,  
1944

More than 150,000 Allied troops, including 13,000 U.S. paratroopers, land in France on D-Day. Following 22 months of training, Easy Company jumps behind Utah Beach in its first battle.

Aug. 25,  
1944

Allies liberate Paris, which had been under German control since 1940.

Sept. 17,  
1944

Easy Company jumps into Holland as part of Operation Market-Garden on the Rhine.

Nov. 7,  
1944

F.D.R. is re-elected to an unprecedented fourth term as U.S. President.

Dec. 16,  
1944

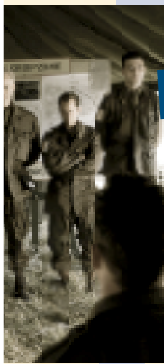
Germany launches the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. The Allies are victorious in this battle, which ends on Jan. 28, 1945.

Jan. 18,  
1945

Easy Company is sent to Hagenau, a city in Alsace on the German-French border.







## Holland

Easy Company parachuted into Holland on Sept. 17, 1944, seeking to secure the city of Eindhoven. The American objective was to open a small, pointed line into German territory and to advance north to the city of Arnhem and capture it. The goal was to liberate a highway and supply line that would allow a quick invasion of Germany. While Dutch nationals welcomed the liberating Americans, the operation was ultimately unsuccessful. In Eindhoven, Easy Company encountered heavy resistance and German bombing, and was forced to retreat. The men spent the rest of the fall of 1944 in battles along the road to Arnhem, nicknamed "Hell's Highway," and were repelled along the road at Neunen, Uden and Veghel.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IT:**  
Watch Parts 4 and 5 of *Band of Brothers*, "Replacements" and "Crossroads," and visit [www.hbo.com](http://www.hbo.com)

## Germany/Berchtesgaden

Early in April 1945, Easy Company moved into Germany without resistance. The war was drawing to an end, and, instead of fighting, the paratroopers enjoyed the indulgence of lodging in comfortable private homes, along with hearty food and plenty of German beer.

The company spent two days assisting with the liberation of a concentration camp. The Americans were horrified by their encounter with Hitler's "Final Solution": the camp was filled with thousands of prisoners, mostly Jewish, who were



nearly starved to death, and hundreds of skeletal corpses. As Winters wrote, "The impact of seeing these starved, dazed men ... leaves feelings that cannot be described and will never be forgotten."

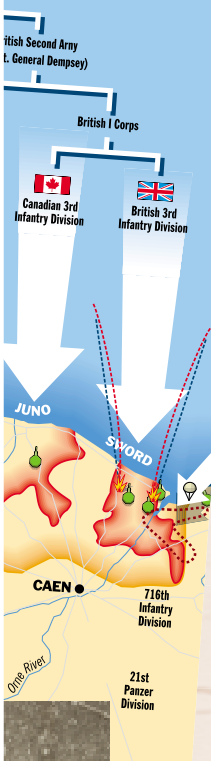
In early May, the men arrived in the Bavarian city of Berchtesgaden, the site of Hitler's mountain fortress, called the *Aldershorst*, or "Eagle's Nest." The city held most of the art, gold and other treasures stolen by the Nazis. In short order, the company discovered Hitler's and Goering's supply of liquor and learned on May 8 that Germany had surrendered. The war in Europe was over, and the men of Easy toasted the Allied victory with the Führer's own champagne!

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IT:**  
Watch Part 9 of *Band of Brothers*, "Why We Fight," and visit [www.hbo.com](http://www.hbo.com)

## Bastogne

On Dec. 19, 1944, Easy Company was sent to Belgium to help defend the besieged city of Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. Allied forces in Bastogne were essentially surrounded by the Germans, making Easy Company's task to "hold the line" critically important. Digging into their fox-holes, with frequent shelling from the well-supplied enemy, the company experienced the true hardships of war during wintertime: the men had limited access to food, proper boots or long underwear to defend against the bitter cold, and were frequently shivering and hungry. On Dec. 26, General George Patton finally broke the siege, allowing the resupply of food and ammunition to the beleaguered men. As the Battle of the Bulge continued, Army press releases described the great bravery of the 101st Airborne soldiers. They became famous in an instant: The press jubilantly named them the "Battered Bastards of the Bastion of Bastogne."

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IT:**  
Watch Part 6 of *Band of Brothers*, "Bastogne," and visit [www.hbo.com](http://www.hbo.com)



**Feb. 4-11, 1945**

Roosevelt, Churchill and Joseph Stalin meet at the Yalta Conference to reapportion post-war Europe, leaving most of Eastern Europe under Soviet control.

**Feb. 19- March 26, 1945**

In one of the war's costliest offensives, the U.S. captures the island of Iwo Jima, strategically located south of Japan.

**April 2, 1945**

Easy Company arrives in the German region of the Ruhr, near Dusseldorf, for the Battle of the Rhine.

**April 12, 1945**

President Roosevelt dies; Harry S. Truman becomes the 33rd President of the U.S.

**April 29, 1945**

Easy Company stops in Buchloe and assists with the liberation of Dachau.

**April 30, 1945**

Hitler commits suicide in Berlin.

**May 4, 1945**

Easy Company arrives in the Bavarian city of Berchtesgaden, which houses Hitler's "Eagle's Nest" headquarters.

**May 8, 1945**

V-E Day: Germany surrenders.

**Aug. 6, 1945**

U.S. drops an atom bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later, the U.S. drops a second atom bomb on Nagasaki, Japan.

**Aug. 15, 1945**

V-J Day: Japan accepts the Allies' terms of surrender, effectively ending the war.



To explore turning points and key battles of World War II through an illustrated interactive timeline, visit [www.hbo.com](http://www.hbo.com)

# FROM LIFE to TV

FOR THE *BAND OF BROTHERS* PRODUCTION TEAM,  
ACHIEVING HISTORICAL ACCURACY WAS A MISSION

## GETTING IT RIGHT:

Easy Company veteran Bill Guarnere (right) coached actor Frank John Hughes, who portrays Guarnere in the series.

**W**hether they were choreographing battles, constructing buildings or creating costumes, the producers of *Band of Brothers* were determined to present history as accurately and authentically as possible. To achieve that goal, they took extraordinary steps:

★ The actors endured a grueling two-week boot camp, where they learned everything from how to wear a uniform to how to parachute from a plane. The average day was 16 hours long, beginning at 5:00 a.m., with strenuous calisthenics and a three- to five-mile run.

★ Dale Dye, a retired Marine Corps captain, joined the crew as military adviser. His job was to turn the actors into soldiers. "It's important," he says, "for these men to be able to say, 'I remember what exhaustion is, because I was exhausted. I understand what it's like to slide in the mud and be absolutely filthy, because I did that.'"

★ Approximately 700 authentic weapons and 400 rubber prop weapons were used during production. A heavy day of filming required up to 14,000 rounds of ammunition.

★ The art department reconstructed four World War II-era tanks for the series, using the frames of modern-day Russian T-34 tanks and British army personnel carriers as the foundations.

★ More than 500 actors with speaking roles and 10,000 extras appear in the series.

★ Production on *Band of Brothers* lasted nearly 10 months. Shooting took place in Hatfield, England, at the Hatfield Aerodrome, a former British aerospace facility where planes were built and tested. The village scenes—depicting 11 different European towns—were shot on a lot the size of nine American football fields.

★ Veterans and those eager to learn from them can contribute stories and photos to the living memorial that has been created at [www.hbo.com](http://www.hbo.com)

## LIFE IN A FOXHOLE:

As Captain Herbert Sobel, David Schwimmer led the men of Easy Company in rigorous training exercises.

## Return to Normandy

Fifty-seven years after they landed near Utah Beach, surviving members of Easy Company returned to France for the world premiere of *Band of Brothers*. For many of the veterans, this was their first trip to Normandy since the end of the war. Tom Hanks, Stephen Ambrose and the grandchildren of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Winston Churchill also attended.

"It's a very emotional day," said Richard Winters, one of the 47 Easy Company vets at the June 6 premiere. "Pass these lessons that we learned along. They were hard lessons to learn." Added Donald Malarkey, another Easy Company member, when asked to evaluate the series' authenticity: "It's exactly like it was when we were there."

**MEN OF HONOR:** 47 Easy Company vets attended the Normandy premiere.







**THE VALUE OF TEAMWORK:** *Band of Brothers* benefited from the expertise of veterans, actors, crew members and executive producer Tom Hanks (front row, second from right).



**BATTLE SCARS:** Makeup artists played a crucial role in readying actors for combat scenes.

## “What Does Ambrose Say?”

“There are no fictitious characters in *Band of Brothers*,” notes Stephen E. Ambrose, the history professor on whose non-fiction book the new HBO miniseries is based. “There are no Hollywood romances. That was much more Tom Hanks’ and Stephen Spielberg’s insistence than mine. They were determined to make the series absolutely accurate, and they did, in ways that are just astonishing to me.

“We worked together—the main thing I did was to read over scripts. Whenever there was a dispute on the set about how to do this or that, the cry

always went up: ‘What does Ambrose say?’ During the course of the filming, the actors spoke on the telephone with the men they were portraying; sometimes the veterans got together on the set with the actors. The actors would ask the veterans, ‘What did it feel like when you shot that German? Did you laugh? Did you just grimace? Or what?’ That was a relationship that developed in the filming of the series.

“The filmmakers came up with ways to film scenes, details to highlight, and places to linger with the camera that I never would have been able to think of. But they did it all, with an insistence on accuracy.”



**ON WITH THE SHOW:** The series captures Army life both on and off the battlefield.



**DETAILS, DETAILS:** Clothes, hats and flags were chosen to mirror history in this scene from Part 4, when Easy Company arrives in Holland.



# BAND OF BROTHERS NOTEBOOK

For fascinating Web-only content—including photos and video clips, a behind-the-scenes look at *Band of Brothers* and a living memorial to which you can contribute—visit [www.hbo.com](http://www.hbo.com).  
Go to [www.timeclassroom.com/brothers](http://www.timeclassroom.com/brothers) for excerpts from TIME's archives and additional resources.  
You'll find information on today's Army at [www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com).

## “VERBATIM”

“From this day to the ending of the world,  
...we in it shall be remembered  
...we band of brothers.”

**KING HENRY V**, summoning his troops to arms,  
in William Shakespeare's historical drama *Henry V*

“Dear Sir or Madam:  
Soon your son will drop from the sky to engage and  
defeat the enemy. Your frequent letters of love and  
encouragement will arm him with a fighting heart.  
With that, he cannot fail, but will win glory for  
himself, make you proud of him, and his country  
ever grateful for his service in its hour of need.”

**CAPTAIN HERBERT M. SOBEL**, commander of Easy Company,  
in a 1943 letter to parents of company members

“Nuts!”

**GENERAL ANTHONY MCAULIFFE**, artillery commander of the  
101st Airborne Division, in a defiant reply to a German demand  
that the U.S. surrender during the 1944 Battle of the Bulge

## BAND OF BROTHERS BY THE NUMBERS

**5,300** Number of men who volunteered for the 506th  
Parachute Infantry Regiment.

**1,800** Number who made it through basic training and  
were accepted into the regiment.

**150** Weight, in pounds, of the gear paratroopers carried  
when jumping into combat. Included were two parachutes,  
a life jacket, ammunition, a pistol, a compass, a spoon, a  
razor, a flashlight, maps and four chocolate bars.

**150** Speed, in miles per hour, at which planes were flying  
when Easy Company's paratroopers jumped on D-Day.

**24 million** Estimated number of service members, of  
both the Allied and Axis powers, killed during World War II.

**40 million** Estimated number of civilians around the  
globe who died during World War II as a result of bombing  
raids, in ground combat, through executions, in labor or  
concentration camps, or because of disease or starvation.

### WITNESS TO HISTORY

This sketch, created by Sergeant  
Burton Christenson, shows the  
men of Easy Company jumping  
into combat on D-Day. The first  
paratrooper out of the plane was  
Lieutenant Richard Winters;  
behind him was Christenson.  
Though General Dwight D.  
Eisenhower feared that up to 75%  
of all paratroopers would die on  
D-Day, fewer than 25% of the men  
who jumped were killed or injured.



### UNDERSTANDING ARMY FORMATIONS

In the U.S. Army, a *company* is a group of soldiers led by a captain. Four companies form a *battalion*; three battalions in turn form a *regiment*. The chart below shows where Easy Company fit into the larger structure of the 101st Airborne Division.

NAME OF FIGHTING UNIT	ESTIMATED SIZE (6/44)
101st Airborne Division	6,000
506th Parachute Infantry Regiment	2,500
2nd Battalion	650
<b>Easy Company</b>	<b>150</b>
1st, 2nd and 3rd platoons	50
Squads	12-14

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