

Chicago Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association Newsletter

August 2019



2019 Chicago Chapter Officers:

- Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary: Mark Mueller
- Vice Chairman, Sergeant at Arms, Historian: Glenn T. Granat
- Service Officers: Mark Mueller and Glenn T. Granat

Airborne Farewell: World War 2 82nd Airborne Veteran and Chicago Chapter member Manny Steinfeld passed away at the age of 95. Manny emigrated from Germany 1938 when he was 14 years old to escape the Nazi persecution of the Jewish people. Manny's Father, Mother, and Sister died in the concentration camps. Manny participated in operation Market Garden where he received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Manny also participated in the liberation of the Wöbbelin Concentration camp in 1945 with the 82nd Airborne Division. Manny, may you have light winds and soft landings. AATW.



Manny in Germany at the end of the War



82nd Airborne Division Memorial plaque in Wobbelin Germany.



82nd Airborne Paratroopers participating in the liberation of the Wobbelin Concentration Camp.



82nd Airborne Division concentration camp liberators and Chicago Chapter members: L-R Tony Vallos, Stan Gryga and Manny Steinfeld recall their experiences in the liberation of the Wobbelin Concentration Camp at a National Holocaust Memorial Museum event in Chicago, IL in September 2014.

Upcoming Events:

- **7-10 August, 2019:** 73rd Annual 82nd Airborne Association Convention in Washington, DC. Please contact Chicago Chapter Chairman Mark Mueller at chairman@chicagoairborne or (630) 561-2139 for further details.
- **11 August, 2019:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting at the Rock Bottom Brewery and Restaurant in Warrenville, IL, 14:00-16:00.
- **16 August, 2019:** NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY! ALL THE WAY!

Fort Bragg, North Carolina



Fort Bragg is the largest military installation in the world (by population) with more than 50,000 active duty personnel. It is named for Confederate General Braxton Bragg. It covers over 251 square miles and is the home of the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps, the 82nd Airborne Division and is the headquarters of the United States Army Special Operations Command, which oversees the U.S. Army 1st Special Forces Command and 75th Ranger Regiment.

Camp Bragg was established in 1918 as an artillery training ground. The original plan for six brigades was abandoned after World War I ended. Camp Bragg was then renamed Fort Bragg on September 30, 1922. From 1923 to 1924 permanent structures were constructed on Fort Bragg, including four barracks. By 1940, during the population of Fort Bragg had reached 5,400. The following year, that number ballooned to 67,000. The population reached a peak of 159,000 during the war years.

Following World War II, the 82nd Airborne Division was permanently stationed at Fort Bragg. In 1961, the 5th Special Forces Group was activated at Fort Bragg, with the mission of training counter-insurgency forces in Southeast Asia. Also in 1961, the "Iron Mike" statue, a tribute to all Airborne soldiers, past, present and future, was dedicated. More than 200,000 young men underwent basic combat training at Ft. Bragg from 1966–70. The 3rd Brigade, (Golden Brigade) deployed to the Dominican Republic in 1965 and Vietnam from February 1968 to December, 1969.

In the 1980s, there was a series of deployments of tenant units to the Caribbean, first to Grenada in 1983, Honduras in 1988, and to Panama in 1989.

The 82nd was also on point in the first Gulf War, participating in the route of the Iraqi Army. Currently, the 82nd is serving in Iraqi, Afghanistan, Poland, and other NATO Nations. The 82nd Airborne has been serving in the War on Terror since 11 September, 2001.

There are five major drop zones at Fort Bragg, all named for the 82nd Airborne Division's World War II battles: Sicily, Normandy, Salerno, Holland and Nijmegen.