

THE CANOPY
82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION INC.
NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER
MARCH 2007

Member Profile



Howard Huebner

Howard was born and raised in Saginaw Michigan. He was inducted into the Army in February 1943 at Ft. Custer Michigan. He left a High Paying job of 35 Cents an hour to enter the Army.

He was sent to Camp Wheeler, Georgia for 8 weeks of Basic Training. Then off to Ft. Benning For 4 weeks of Parachute Training. After getting his Wings he was sent to Alliance, Nebraska where he describes the area as "Flat Land, Sandy, and No Trees." There were three trees a few miles from camp that they called "The Woods"

He made Parachute Jumps for Bond Drives while in Alliance, and was there for the dedication of the Airbase in Alliance.

They trained in the Black Hills of South Dakota in August 1943. He was granted a Leave to return home in October 1943 but had to leave home on the 15th of October to return to Base. The Pheasant season opened on the 16th of October in Saginaw, but the Pheasant Season opened for Howard and another Paratrooper on the 14th of October when they got their limit of Pheasants.

In December 1943 Howard went to Port Rush in Ireland and then to Tollerton Hall, outside of Nottingham, England to a Tent City where there was an Old Castle built in 1400. From there he

went to the Stockades (Airports) for the Normandy Jump.

The Airports had Barb Wire around them with American Guards so no one could get in and no troops could get out. After a week they got out. Howard Jumped into Normandy on June 6, 1944. He said he hit the ground about 2:32 AM about 10 miles from the Drop Zone in a country, where he could not speak French.

D-Day Night found Howard and some fellows from the 506 Para Inf, of the 101st Div on Utah Beach with 50-75 Prisoners.

The next morning he left the Beach to find his Unit. He and the Paratroopers of the 82nd spent 32 Days in Combat living off the land and eating whatever they could steal. He said they never received any replacements.

After D-Day he was returned to England and assigned to the 17th Airborne. During a practice jump in England, Howard broke three bones in his right leg. He spent 3 months in the Hospital.

He fought in Germany and when the 507th and the 17 Div. Was sent back to the States, Howard was sent to the 505th of the 82nd to Berlin for Occupation Duty. Howard says he was in Supply as a Supply Sgt. but never got paid. (He would like to get his Back Pay)

Howard was discharged from Camp Atterbery, Indiana in January 1946. He married Betty in 1950. He and Betty have two Children and four Grandchildren. Howard said he had a Used Car Lot at one time, was a Cement Contractor, and was in the Home Building Business for 10 years. He spent the last ten years of his working life as Head Carpenter for the Saginaw School System. He retired in 1988 on his 65th Birthday.

Howard and Betty bought in Florida in 1992 and moved to Florida for good in 1995, and hasn't worked since.

Thank You Howard for letting me write your Profile in the Canopy,

The Editor.