

paratroopers—alone, in pairs, and in small bands—armed only with trench knives and bayonets, slipped into the murky swamps and tried to evade capture. One 82nd Airborne trooper remained in Graignes for two days, however, hidden in the ruins of the old church. Despite the certain threat of execution if detected, Madame Meuriet guided the American out of town at night, right under the noses of the Wehrmacht, and to a bridge north of the village. There she gave him directions, and he eventually reached American lines at Carentan.

Capt. Leroy Brummitt, the Graignes force commander, led one group of 20 evaders to the hamlet of L'Port Saint-Pierre, a short distance to the northwest, where it hooked up with another pack under Lt. Francis Naughton, who had blown the bridge north of Graignes four days earlier. Picking their way northward through the swamps and hedgerows, this group of 50 to 60 paratroopers eventually made contact with an American armored patrol south of Carentan.

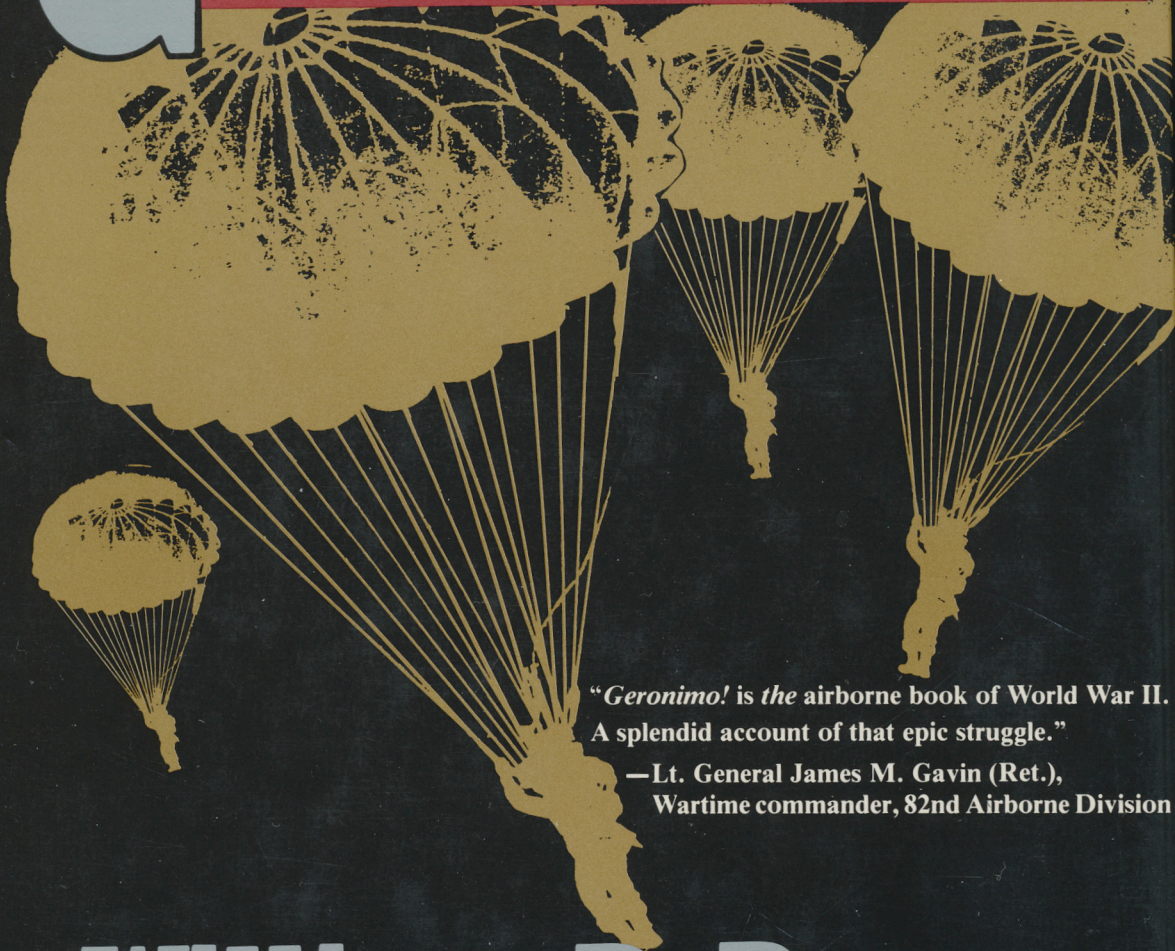
On the evening of June 14, Frank Costa, Ed Page, and Jim Klingman, the troopers who had been manning the large foxhole south of Graignes, were holed up in the hayloft of a barn on the farm of Gustave Rigault, outside L'Port Saint-Pierre. Below, they heard rustling sounds and, clutching their weapons, glanced down onto the heads of two Germans who were searching for paratrooper evaders. Had the two started up the hayloft ladder, they would have been blasted. But they quickly lost interest in the barn and departed. Breathing a sigh of relief—rifle blasts would have alerted the Germans on the premises—Ed Page whispered, "It's a good thing that the Krauts goldbrick sometimes; just like we do!"

After dark, the three troopers and a band of other evaders holed up nearby, climbed into a few flat-bottomed boats that would, if all went well, take them up the Carentan Canal, right through German lines, for nearly five miles to American positions. The tiny flotilla was shepherded by Joseph Folliot, the young Frenchman who had guided numerous paratrooper patrols from Graignes during the past week.

Folliot told the Americans to lie flat, and the flotilla moved out. Passing through German lines, flares went up regularly and machine-gun bursts could be heard off in the distance. The leaky old boats were one-third filled with water. Everyone remained deathly still and silent, and then a trooper, Carlos Hurtado,

AMERICAN PARATROOPERS IN WORLD WAR II

GERONIMO!

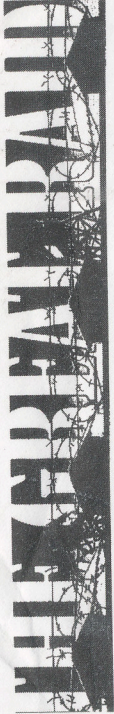


*"Geronimo!" is the airborne book of World War II.
A splendid account of that epic struggle."*

—Lt. General James M. Gavin (Ret.),
Wartime commander, 82nd Airborne Division

William B. Breuer

author of Hitler's Undercover War and Retaking the Philippines

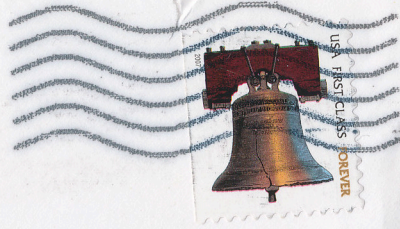


WILLIAM B. BREUER

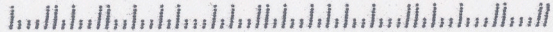
Author & Movie Consultant
3815 Westview Drive, NE
Cleveland, Tennessee 37312
USA

Brian Siddall
PO Box 3897
Ithaca, NY 14852

CHATTANOOGA
TN 374 1 T
02 JUL 2007 PM



1485283897



Brian N. Siddall
P.O. Box 3897
Ithaca, NY 14852

June 15, 2007

Mr. William B. Breuer
3815 Westview Dr. NE
Cleveland, TN 37312

Dear Mr. Breuer,

I am writing you today seeking information on the notes that you gathered in researching Geronimo! I have been researching the battle of Graignes in Normandy from June 6th to June 12th 1944 in Lower Normandy. I have been assisting Colonel Frank Naughton who was a First Lieutenant with HQ/3 in Graignes.

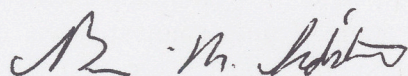
The monument in Graignes has the names of thirty paratroopers on it who were killed in the village. In reality two of the men on the monument survived the war, and several more are misspelled. Through further research I have compiled a list of 48 men who were killed in and around Graignes during the time period of June 6-12.

I have been in contact with a number of 507th PIR men who were there, as well as Frank Juliano of B/501 who is quoted in Graignes. I was wondering if you would be so kind as to share his notes about his time in the village. I was also wondering if you had any other accounts that you'd collected, but not been able to fit in the context of your story.

I am sure you receive many requests due to your stature, but I am hoping that I at the very least would be able to speak with you about this. I have done extensive research on the 507th in World War II. I was able to locate all of their jump rosters for Normandy and Operation Varsity, and have assisted veterans of this regiment in tracking down what happened to men in their sticks.

I shall close by saying I have read 14 of your books so far, and I am currently reading Bloody Clash at Sadzot which is one of my favorites along with Drop Zone Sicily. I hope to hear back from you if at all possible. I can be reached at the address listed on the top of this letter or by phone at 607-319-4843 or e-mail at bnsiddall@gmail.com.

Thank You,



Brian N. Siddall

Mr. Sidell: Have been out of the country or would have replied sooner. Over the past 21 years when 39 of my books have been published, I no doubt had thousands of notes and other info. If I tried to keep them, I would have to build a warehouse in my back yard. I have no occasion to hang on to notes or whatever.

Many thanks for your kind words about my books. Best Wishes,

