

Week of the Eagles

101st Airborne Division

13 August to 16 August 2009

Thursday, 13 August

We met at Harry Busse's home. Harry was unable to attend, but allowed us to use his trailer and all the gear in it. By 0830 hours we packed our gear into the trailer and were on the road. The roster for the event was Lt. Sullivan, 1st Sgt Traphagan and Cpl John Fowler. The plan was to visit the Patton museum, do some treasure hunting and get to Ft. Campbell in the early evening. We arrived at Ft. Campbell around 1630 hours.

We went to the Welcome Center at Gate 7, registered our vehicles and then entered the base. We had to wait for Captain Jim Page to arrive to get our keys for the barracks room. Captain Page arrived at the Welcome Center and drove us to the barracks. The barracks was adjacent to the air field. We were on the second floor and the Airborne Demonstration Team (ADT) was on the third floor. They would be doing a jump from a C-47 (The Black Sparrow) on Saturday.

The barracks were clean and comfortable. We occupied two rooms. Lt. Sullivan had one room and Cpl Fowler and I bunked in the other room. We had a small refrigerator which worked out well.

Friday, 14 August

First call was 0730. We decided to get some chow at Burger King and arrived at the Pratt Museum at 0930. Captain Page met us and informed us we could not get onto the air field until 1300 hours. He was able to spend some time updating us on the museum and the 101st Division. Jim was very busy. We told him we would meet him at the air field.

We toured the museum and then went off base to visit the surplus stores. We arrived at the air field at 1330 hours and began to set up at the designated area. We set up the pyramid tent with the help of some of the base troops. We helped Captain Page with the museum pyramid tent, command tent and wall tent. We helped stage gear and completed the area set up at 1830 hours.

We shared the area with Ed Lawrence (retired 1st Sgt) and his 506th PIR group. He had a command tent set up and had built a PW pen complete with a door. We would be processing German prisoners on Saturday.

We went off base to get a sandwich. We went back to the barracks. We were all tired. By 2100 hours we were in the sack.

Saturday, 15 August “Super Saturday”

0600 came quick! The Air Show was to open at 0800 hours to the public. It was to end at 1500 hours. We got dressed and went to the air field. Did you know it was closed on Saturday's? Well, neither did we. By 0700 hours we were getting our displays set up. Our planning from Friday made for an easy and smooth set up. 0800 hours came and we were ready! The crowd was steady throughout the day. All the kids got a Screaming Eagle sticker for their shirts.

The event schedule for the day was as follows:

0800 Gates Open

1000 Opening Ceremonies – 101st Screaming Eagles Parachute Demonstration
Team jumps in with the American Flag. National Anthem.

1030 C-47 fly-by and parachute drop (WWII re-enactment)

1130 Viet Nam Re-enactment (Rescue at Dawn)

1215 L39 Albatross Acrobatic Show

1230 B-52 Fly-By

1300 Cobra Show

1330 4BCT/101 Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) Air Assault demonstration

1445 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR) Missing Man
Formation

1600 Gates Close

The WWII Air Drop was done by the ADT out of Oklahoma. They were jump in the DZ, assault the enemy position and recover any prisoners. These prisoners were brought back to area. The 506th processed the prisoners, tagged them and placed them in the PW fenced area. The crowd also was shown the German weapons and gear.

The Nam Air Assault took place at approximately 1130 hours. The recon plane spots the enemy first. The Loach buzzes in and takes fire. A Cobra's fly in and fire rockets to take out the VC. Then a Huey's with nine troops flies to the LZ and the troops deploy and assaulted the objective.

We enjoyed meeting the active troops and their families. We were also able to meet again with veterans and Vinnie Vicari came and stayed for awhile in our area. This is what it's all about! We talked to the current veterans about their experiences and what the future held for them. It makes you proud to be around these men and women! They were appreciative of our efforts to keep the division history alive. It is hard work, but more than worth all the effort.

By 1330 hours we had our gear stowed and had also helped break down all WWII displays. We had not eaten since 0730 hours (coffee and a donut) and we were hungry. We opted for Charlie's. It is a steakhouse near Gate 7. It has been open since 1952 by a Greek family. We arrived at 1630 hours before they got busy. We headed back to the barracks full and tired. By 2130 hours we were sound asleep.

Sunday, 16 August

We got up about 0630 hours. Since there were no activities planned for Sunday we packed up all our gear and got our vehicle squared away. We cleaned our barracks. We had chow and hit the road. We arrived at Harry's house at 1530 hours. We separated out gear and loaded our vehicles. We can Harry a short recap of the events. We all shook hands and began our drive home. We were tired, but we really had a great time as usual.

Prepared by:
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Vinnie Vicari