

Robert Burdick locations, year and rank

I. Camp Grant, Illinois

A. October 27, 1943

1. Company G, 2nd Battalion, Barracks #C
2. 1633 Service Unit
3. Received shots, had head shaved (almost)
4. Issued uniform, garrison cap, helmet, two “good sized” bags about 40 lbs. each.

II. Leaving Fort Sheridan, Illinois

A. December 7, 1943

B. Company “C”, Bks. 243

C. Travelled on a pullman train with porter to Georgia

III. Camp Wheeler, Macon, GA

A. Tuesday, December 10, 1943

Company “B”

Under the command of Captain L. Hughlett

Promoted to Squad Leader without the stripes Jan 1944

Will Burdick visits his brother, Bob, on Jan 9, 1944 Sun. Morning

17 weeks of basic training including:

1. Machine gun and mortar completed Feb. 18, 1944
  2. The mortar is more interesting to Bob
- B. Bob finds out he and Don Bunge are accepted into Paratroops  
after a difficult day of hiking in the rain Feb. 25, 1944

II. Fort Benning, GA (Columbus, Ga.)

A. April 16, 1944 2nd Bn. 1st P.T.R

B. Pvt. R. Burdick #36884340 Co. “L” 1st Parcht. Tng. Regt. just for first week of training

C. Bob is placed in Company “E”

D. Bob makes his first parachute jump May 8 or 7th a.m., 60 degrees and “sunshiney” day. He uses a 28 foot parachute.

Bob flies to California and does an exhibition for recruiting paratroopers at Fort Roberts sometime between May 8 and May 12, 1944.

- E. May 13, 1944, Bob does his Fifth “Qualifying” jump which is at night.
- F. Bob goes to Chicago to visit friends Phil and Perc, but when he can’t hook up goes to see a very pregnant (two days overdue, baby not born as of 6/29) Lorraine Bunge on May 31, 1944.
- G. Pvt. R. Burdick 336884340 is in Co. “A” 5th Bn. 2nd P.T.R. (Class #120) as of June 6, 1944 Fort Benning, Columbus, GA
- H. Pvt. R. Burdick is now in Co. “F” 6th Bn. 2nd PTR. as of June 11, 1944

### III. Weapons June 1944

- M1 rifle
- Light machine gun
- 60 m.m. mortar
- M-3 “What a weapon that is, ...two machined parts (precision) ...looks like a toy. Cost \$15.00 compared to old model less efficient \$146.00.

IV. Bob goes to Fort George M. Meade, Maryland June 24, 1944 for processing to go overseas (Eng.)

V. Bob goes to England JULY 14 1944

- Station just outside the “city”
  - Likes little British kids that come to him and say: “Any gum, Chum?”

VI. Bob assigned to 82nd Airborne Div. 505th Regiment. JULY 20, 1944

1. Sept. 7 still in England
2. Operation Market Garden September 17-25, 1944
3. Bob’s last jump, September 1944
4. Late Nov. Early Dec. Bob has tea with the British 2nd troops in fox holes while alot of “shelling” occurs and they were “cleaning out” in Holland--Nijmegen
5. December 16, 1944 France Bob’s pin up Girl is Marguerite Chapman “some babe in the movies I guess, not bad. “Cuter ‘n a bugs ear and Gams what am.” Taken from Yanks magazine.

VII. The Ardennes (Forest) Offensive

December 18, 1945 “The 82nd blunted General Von Runstedt's northern penetration of the American lines above Bastogne.”

VIII. Bob is injured in battle near Trois Pons, Belgium January 1, 1945

1. Assistant gunner P.F.C. R. Burdick hit by shrapnel from a German ("Jerie") S.P. (self propelled gun). in both arms.
2. Bob given Penathol and wounds cleaned up in Ververriers.
3. Ambulance ride to the edge of Liege, Belgium for 24 hours.
4. Buzz bombs coming in regularly and "cutting off" close-- all worldly goods lost (i.e. pictures and letters from home)
5. Liege, Belgium in makeshift hospital treated and transferred again at 5:50 p.m unexpectedly, placed on a train from a depot in the middle of town.
6. Taken to Hospital from train by bus through Paris, France to new "redecorated" hospital.
7. Injuries include two small pieces of shrapnel on left upper arm and shoulder and one in right forearm.

IX. England Jan 20 to March 26, 1945

1. Transferred to Hospital in England around January 20, 1945
2. Goes on tour, does rehab. Won't remove his shrapnel; rash improving but was infected.
3. March 12, 1945 Returned to duty

X. Belgium March 29, 1945

1. March 29, 1945 S/Sgt. Merrett (Roy) R. Bunge killed in action. Loraine Bunge and infant son survived him.

XI. Laon, France April 9, 1945

XII. Censors taken off letters; May 24, 1945

XIII. Laon, France June 7, 1945

XIV. Epinal France July 19, 1945

XV. Berlin August 1945 Sgt. Bob Burdick gets his stripes in Berlin, German

Occupation

"The war officially ended in Europe on 8 May 1945 and the 82nd Airborne Division was called upon to serve as the occupation force in the American Sector of Berlin. Here the 82nd Airborne Division earned the name, "America's Guard of Honor," as a fitting end to hostilities in which

the "All-Americans" had chased the German Army some 14,000 miles across the European Theater."

XVI. German Political Prisoner Escapes Sept. 18, 1945 Berlin

XVII. ARMY EDUCATION PROGRAM Completed Oct. 5 1945

A. 505th Unit School

1. Salesmanship 20 hours - Excellent
2. Business English 20 hours - Very Satisfactory
3. Typing 20 hours - Superior

XVIII. October 21, 1945 Helmstadt by truck and on train to Camp Oklahoma by train, near Reims, France.

XIX. ORDER Changed 10/31/45 - Warships coming over on Dec. 7th. Leaving the 12 of Nov. for Camp Oklahoma

XX. Nov. 11, 1945 telegram: "Going to St. Erme France Monday waiting out possible 2 month delay.

XXI. November 15, 1945 Alert for Port Call to Load on the 25th of November.

XXII. December 1, 1945 Camp Wash.

Medals and Awards for 82nd Airborne: For its valor in the seven major campaigns of the European Theatre of Operations, the 505th was awarded two Distinguished Unit Citations and three Foreign decorations: the French Forragere, Netherlands Military Order of William, and Belgium Forragere (braided lanyard).

Bob participated in four campaigns and received Four battle stars with one spearhead depicting battle in hostile area.

XXIII. January 5, 1946 Honorably Discharged given at the Separation Center, Camp Atterbury Indiana under the command of Reid H. McLain, Major, A.C

XXIV. SUMMARY OF HONORABLE DISCHARGE

Date of induction: October 4, 1943

Active Service: October 25, 1943

XXV. Squad Leader 7607, Certification: Combat Infantryman Badge: Rifle SS

XXVI. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS NORMANDY; ARDENNES; RHINELAND; CENTRAL EUROPE

XXVII. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS

- A. EAME Theater Ribbon w 4 bronze stars
- B. Good Conduct Medal
- C. Purple Heart Medal
- D. Belgium Fourragers
- E. Bronze Arrowhead
- F. Militaire Willems Order Holland
- G. Victory Medal WWII