

# 327th

*Glider Infantry Regiment*  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn, A Company  
“HONOR AND COUNTRY”



On 15 August, 1942 the 327th Infantry became a Glider Infantry Regiment and was reassigned to the newly formed 101st Airborne Division.

### Normandy - D-Day

In June 1944, the decision to drop both the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions simultaneously into Normandy reduced the number of available aircraft to tow the gliders for a glider assault. The 327th Glider Infantry Regiment was ordered to land across Utah Beach with the 4th Infantry Division on D-Day. Its mission was to move to Carentan to cut off the fleeing Germans. Although casualties were high, the mission was accomplished and the Regiment moved back to England to prepare for its next mission.

The next combat operation the Regiment would participate in would be Operation “Market Garden,” the airborne invasion of Holland. The Regiment, along with allied units, endured 73 days of continuous combat. After the fighting settled down, the 327<sup>th</sup> occupied the front lines for 48 days until ordered to withdraw from Holland. The Regiment went back to France to rest and recuperate before the next operation.

### The Ardennes - Battle of the Bulge

On 16 December, 1944, the Germans launched an offensive in the west through the Ardennes Forest. The 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division was ordered to the vitally important town of Bastogne. Bastogne was the key to the German counteroffensive and had to be held at all cost by the 101<sup>st</sup>. The Regiment arrived at Bastogne on 19 December following a hundred mile truck march. The 327<sup>th</sup> immediately assumed a defensive sector south of Bastogne. By 22 December the Germans had completely surrounded Bastogne and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> the German Commander offered terms of surrender to General McAuliffe, the acting Division Commander. His reply was “Nuts.” The German delegation had come through the 327<sup>th</sup> sector and Colonel Harper was given the responsibility of relaying General McAuliffe’s response. The Germans said they did not understand. Colonel Harper replied, “The reply is decidedly not affirmative – in plain English, it is the same as ‘Go to Hell.’” Although encircled and outnumbered, American forces withstood all attempts by the Germans to take their positions, including Germans dressed in American uniforms. The 327<sup>th</sup> Regiment held for nine days, until relieved by the 4<sup>th</sup> Armored Division. Despite suffering heavy casualties, the Regiment took 750 prisoners, knocked out 144 Nazi tanks and 105 other enemy vehicles. For its actions as a unit in the defense of Bastogne, the 327<sup>th</sup> the Regimental motto “Bastogne Bulldog”

After the Battle of the Bulge, the 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry fought in the Rhineland and Berchtesgarden Campaigns. Following the end of World War II, the 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was again deactivated on 30 November, 1945.