



H Company

3rd Battalion

505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

82nd (All American) Airborne Division

Unit Manual



Mission Statement of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

The 505th PIR. Is a unit within its parent organisation the WW2 Historical Re-enactment Society (NZ) Incorporated, composed of historians, living historians, collectors and educators dedicated to the preservation of and fostering interest in the history, traditions and equipment of the United States Airborne forces of World War Two.

This unit is based in Auckland New Zealand and serves to accomplish its goals through the following activities:

- Technical support to museums and veterans organisation.
- Restoration and preservation of military equipment and other artifacts associated with airborne history.
- Educational Instruction and displays to schools, organisations and the general public.
- Living history interpretations.

The 505th PIR. Is not politically or religiously motivated, nor does it operate for profit.

Unit CO.

The Unit CO. is appointed at the meeting after the HRS AGM. The Unit CO. can be replaced in one of two ways.

Firstly he can voluntarily hand command over to someone else; the new appointee must be confirmed by a majority of the unit members.

Secondly, The Unit CO. can be removed at a unit meeting by a majority of all unit members. Removal of a Unit member is a drastic action that must be taken as a last resort.

Unit Meetings:

The Unit CO. will act as chairman (or can designate someone in his place if unable to attend), during unit meetings, which will be held on training days before or after training. Members must advise whether or not they are able to attend in advance.

Unit Responsibilities:

To be decided by NCO Committee.

HRS Requirements:

When you join the 505th PIR. You become a member of our parent organisation, The WW2 Historical Re-enactment Society (NZ) Incorporated (HRS). The HRS is recognised by the NZ Police and all events (either public displays or battles) are conducted under their auspices.

HRS rules require a member to either hold a valid NZ Firearms license or to have begun the process to obtain one within six months of joining the society. Once a member is licensed they must also purchase a standard firearm pertinent to their unit. Whilst engaged in Society activities, members must carry their Firearms license at all times.

The new members will also undergo a probation period either 3 months or 3 events (including at least one battle), whichever takes longer, and is subject to the final approval of the Unit CO.

The HRS charges an annual membership subscription of \$45.00 per annum to facilitate the function and promotion of the society.

Dealing with the Public

Being in uniform in public, members should conduct themselves in a proper and commonsense manner.

Dealing with the Media

If approached by any representative of the media, be courteous and polite, direct them to the Unit CO, and if you get the opportunity advise the KIWI CO as well so he can be in attendance. Let them deal with the interview! A unified approach gives less chance of being misrepresented.

History of the 505th

The 82nd Airborne Division "All-Americans"

The 82nd Infantry Division was formed August 25, 1917, at Camp Gordon, Georgia under the tutelage of American, British and French officers. Unlike the other Army divisions of the period which were largely based on National Guard or regional units, members of the 82nd Division came from all 48 states. Thus the fabled nickname of the "All-Americans" arose and is still proudly carried today on the Division's distinctive red, white and blue "AA" shoulder patch.

In the spring of 1918, the Division deployed to France. In nearly five months of continuous combat, more than any other American unit, the 82nd fought in three major campaigns and helped to break the fighting spirit of the German Imperial Army. By wars end, the 82nd had earned two Medals of Honour, three Distinguished Service Medals and seventy-five Distinguished Service Crosses. Among its most notable soldiers was that of Sgt. Alvin C. York who was awarded the Medal of Honour for his actions in France.

The 82nd was demobilised after World War I. For more than 20 years the "All-American Division" would live only in the memories of men who served in its ranks during the Great War.

With the outbreak of World War II, the 82nd was reactivated on March 25, 1942 at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana under the command of Major General Omar N. Bradley. However, events and tactics in Europe were to radically affect the 82nd.

As a result of German usage of their vaunted Fallschirmjäger in the Blitzkrieg in the Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands and Crete, the U. S. Army, like their British Allies, saw the need for an airborne force of their own. On August 15, 1942, the 82nd Infantry Division became the first airborne division in the U.S. Army. On that date, the All-American Division was redesignated the 82nd Airborne Division under the command of Major General Matthew B. Ridgeway.

In April 1943, paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division set sail for North Africa to participate in the campaign to puncture the soft underbelly of the Third Reich.

The Division's first major combat operation (earlier operations saw the Division provide elements of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR) and its associated support units for airborne operations in North Africa.) was the parachute and glider assaults into Sicily, code named Husky. on July 10, 1943. Even though the 82nd was widely scattered over the DZ's, bad weather hampered the operation and our own navy tried to shoot down their aircraft, they were a major asset to the invasion. The 82nd was critical to the defence of the allied invasion forces. As stated in the testimony of General Kurt Student, Chief of the German parachute forces, "The 82nd Airborne Division prevented the Panzer Division Hermann Goering from reaching the beachhead and driving the Allies back into the sea."

After capturing Sicily the 82nd was next used at Salerno, Italy on September 13, 1943. In January 1944, the 504th and 509th were detached for combat operations at Anzio. The 504th earned the first Presidential Unit Citation awarded to an airborne unit for its actions at Anzio. While fighting around Anzio, the oh-four also earned its nickname, "Devils in Baggy Pants." The nickname was taken from an entry made in a German officer's diary.

While the 504th and 509th was detached, the remainder of the 82nd was pulled out of Italy in November 1943 and moved to the United Kingdom to prepare for the liberation of Europe.

With two combat jumps under its belt, the 82nd Airborne Division was now ready for the most ambitious airborne operation of the war, Operation NEPTUNE-the airborne invasion of Normandy.

The operation was part of Operation OVERLORD, the amphibious assault on the northern coast of Nazi-occupied France.

In preparation for the operation, the division was reorganised. Two new parachute infantry regiments, the 507th and the 508th, joined the division. Due to its depleted state following the fighting in Italy, the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment did not take part in the invasion.

On June 5-6, 1944, the paratroopers of the 82nd's three parachute infantry regiments and reinforced glider infantry regiment boarded hundreds of transport planes and gliders to began the largest airborne assault in history. They were among the first soldiers to fight in Normandy, France.

By the time the All-American Division was pulled back to England, it had seen 33 days of bloody combat and suffered 5,245 paratroopers killed, wounded or missing. The Division's post battle report read, "...33 days of action without relief, without replacements. Every mission accomplished. No ground gained was ever relinquished."

Following the Normandy invasion, the 82nd became part of the newly organised XVIII Airborne Corps, which consisted of the U.S. 17th, 82nd, and 101st Airborne Divisions.

In September, the 82nd began planning for Operation MARKET GARDEN in Holland. The operation called for three-plus airborne divisions to seize and hold key bridges and roads deep behind German lines. The 504th now back at full strength rejoined the 82nd, while the 507th went to the 17th Airborne Division.

On September 17, the 82nd Airborne Division conducted its fourth divisional combat jump of World War II into Holland. Fighting off ferocious German counterattacks, the 82nd captured its objectives between Grave and Nijmegen. Its success, however, was short-lived. As a result of errors made in developing an UN-realistic time schedule and analysis of intelligence, the Allied advance ground to a halt just short of the final objective, Arnhem, "A Bridge too Far."

The gateway to Germany would not open in September 1944, and the 82nd was ordered back to France after an extended period of continuous combat.

Suddenly, on December 16, 1944, the Germans launched a surprise offensive through the Ardennes Forest, which caught the Allies completely by surprise. Hastily rounding up all of its men and combat equipment from the rest camps in France, the 82nd moved out for the Battle of the Bulge. Two days later the 82nd joined the fighting and helped blunt General Von Runstedt's northern penetration in the American lines. This battle hardened Division was instrumental in stabilising the panicked U. S. lines and providing a hard hitting force to counter this heavy German penetration.

After regrouping in Sissonne, France following the Ardennes, the Division moved back into action on March 30, 1945. It conducted a successful assault crossing of the Rhine north of Cologne. In April, they repeated the exercise by crossing the Elbe River and linking up with Soviet forces. On May 2, 1945, the 82nd received the surrender of the 21st German Army at Ludwigslust.

Following the surrender of Germany, the 82nd was ordered to Berlin for occupation duty. In Berlin General George Patton was so impressed with the 82nd's honour guard he said, "In all my years in the Army and all the honour guards I have ever seen, the 82nd's honour guard is undoubtedly the best." Hence the "All-Americans" became known as "America's Guard of Honour."

The 82nd returned to the United States January 3, 1946. Instead of being demobilised, the 82nd made its permanent home at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and was designated a regular Army division on November 15, 1948. Today, the 82nd Airborne Division is still located at Ft. Bragg and is the only true Airborne Division in the U. S. Army.

Unit Regulations 505th Regiment

These are the regulations for re enacting the 505th PIR within the WW2HRS.

Never wear longhair, moustaches, black boots or Vietnam era helmets, modern glasses and other phony or unauthentic equipment in public.

Wearing of Rank and Distinctive Insignia

The 505th PIR. Unit CO has the right to determine the actual appointment of the different ranks and reserves the right to authorize and or revoke the wearing of distinctive insignia and rank. Unit ranks are divided into two groups: The Technical Ranks and Command Ranks.

Section 1: Technical Ranks.

The technical Ranks are ranks that describe the technical positions of a unit officer. The technical ranks are those ranks that have a “T” under the chevrons. Unit officers with technical stripes may be the unit secretary, unit safety officer etc...

Section 2: Command Ranks.

The Command Ranks are ranks that describe the command position of a unit officer. The command ranks are those ranks that do NOT have a “T” under the chevrons. Unit officers with command stripes may be the unit leader, unit second in command, unit squad leaders etc.

Promotions

A) To be promoted to a PFC, a person must attend three (3) WW2HRS sponsored re enactments while portraying 505th PIR. Troopers

B) Ranks above and beyond that of PFC will be appointed by the Unit CO.

Unit Property

Unit property such as rental uniforms, field equipment, unit vehicles and other related items shall be the responsibility of the Unit Leader; however the HRS Committee, under vote may appoint an individual to become bearer of unit property.

Table of Uniforms and Equipment.

The 505th PIR. Re enactment unit shall maintain a table of equipment. Only genuine articles or suitable reproductions therefore may be used for 505th PIR. Impressions. Both the early war style and the late M43 uniforms are part of the 505th PIR impressions. The use of which will be determined according to the time period of the re enactment. It is strongly urged that all-505th PIR. Members acquire both the combat and dress uniforms to wear to re enactments and social events. Dress uniforms

consist of the wool class "A" uniform, which bears decorations and the summer Khaki class "C" uniform.

This table for the parachute infantry combat and dress uniforms

Section 1: The Divisional Patch

A) Members re enacting the 505th PIR. Wearing combat and dress jackets and shirts must bear the divisional insignia of the 82nd Airborne Division at any HRS sponsored function.

Section 2: The Basic Items

As a requirement of the unit, every member must have these items for his combat impression:

1. Helmet, steel M1 complete with para liner
2. Shirt flannel OD
3. Belt web waist EM
4. Belt cartridge cal. 30 M1923, Dismounted or Belt pistol or revolver M1936
5. Suspenders belt M1936
6. Canteen M1910 or M1942 and cover Canteen dismounted M1910
7. Coat Parachute Jumper M1942 or M1943
8. Trousers Parachute Jumper (with bellow cargo pockets)
9. Boots Parachute Jumpers

Section 3: Other discretionary combat uniforms and equipment

NB All equipment noted with "LOD" is to be Light Olive Drab colour, OD #3

1. Cap wool knit M1941
2. Sweater highneck
3. Suspenders trousers
4. Bag canvas field OD M1936
5. Strap carrying OD Bag canvas field
6. Gloves wool OD leather palm
7. Can meat M1932 or M1942
8. Knife spoon fork M1926
9. Pouch first aid packet M1910, M1924 or M1942
10. Blanket Wool OD M1934
11. Necklace ID Tag with extensions and tag identification
12. Raincoat rubberised M1938 Dismounted
13. Overcoat, wool melton OD roll collar 32oz
14. Jacket Combat winter
15. Coat Mackinaw OD
16. Shirt, Knit, Od
17. Belt, Cartridge, Cal. .30, M-1923, Mounted
18. British contract helmet net without elastic helmet band, 1" grid LOD
19. Tent, Shelter, Half, LOD
20. Poles, Tent, Shelter and Pins, Tent, Shelter, Wood for the above
21. Bag, Sleeping, Mountain
22. Tool, Entrenching, T-Handle

23. Sling, Rifle, LOD Canvas or Leather
24. Sling, Sub Machine gun, LOD, Canvas or Leather
25. Overshoes, Arctic
26. Shoe, Pack, High or Show Pack, 12-inch
27. Glove Inserts, Wool
28. Drawers, Cotton Shorts or Drawers, Wool
29. Handkerchief, Cotton
- 30a. Socks, Cotton, Tan
- 30b. Socks, Wool Cushion Sole
- 30c. Socks Wool, Light
- 30d. Socks Wool, Heavy
31. Undershirt, Wool or Undershirt, Cotton
32. Bag Barrack
33. Bag Duffel
34. Bag, Sleeping, Wool
35. Case, Water, Repellent, Bag, Sleeping
36. Brush, Shaving
37. Brush, Tooth
38. Comb, Rubber or plastic
39. Towel, Bath
40. Pocket, Magazine, Double, Web, Em, M-1910 or M-1923
41. Pocket, Magazine, Double, Web for Carbine, Calibre .30, M-1
42. Pocket, Cartridge, Calibre .30, M1 Carbine or Rifle
43. Box, Match, Waterproof
44. Pad, insulating, Sleeping, Filled type or inflated type
45. Cover, Protective, Individual
46. Belt, Magazine for BAR, M-1937
47. Pouch, Compass
48. Flashlight, TL 122
49. Prismatic Compass
50. Binoculars M-3
51. Case, Carrying, M-17
52. Tool, Entrenching, Pickmattox
53. Carrier, Tool, Entrenching, Pickmattox
54. Case, Dispatch, M-1938
55. Pack, Apron
56. Pouch, Ammo, Rocket,
57. Carrier, Belt, Carbine, M-1
58. Tool, Wire Cutting
59. Carrier, Tool, Wire Cutting
60. Bag, Clip, Sub-Machine Gun
61. Bag, General Purpose, M-1936
62. Watchcap, Wool, Knit, M-1941
63. U.S. WWII Gi Whistle
64. Razor, Safety
65. Packboard
66. Muffler, Wool, Od
67. Bandolier, Rifle, Cal. .30, M-1
68. Pouch, Medical, Parachutist
69. Pouch, Medical, Aidman's

70. Cot, wood frame, LOD Cover
71. Lantern, WWII vintage
72. Stove, Tent
73. Cream, Shave, WWII vintage
74. Soap, WWII vintage
75. Basin, Wash, WWII vintage
76. Tent, Pyramidal M1938; and hardware
77. Unit flags and guidons
78. Carrier, flag
79. Can, Jerry
80. Wooden Ammo boxes
81. Wooden Ration boxes
82. Shaving kit
83. Sewing kit

Early War parachutist's allowances (Circa 2/42 - 8/44):

1. Packet, First Aid, Parachutist
2. Helmet, Steel, M-1c
3. Liner, Helmet, M-1c
4. Cup, Chin, Helmet, Parachutist
5. Holder, Rifle Clip, (Short)
6. Holder, Sub-Machine gun, Clip
7. Mask, Gas, Training, M2A1-1-1
8. Stencilled Name Tape
9. Supporter, Athletic
10. Tape, Ankle, 2"
11. Gloves, Horsehide, Riding, Unlined
12. Rope, Parachutist
13. Machete, 18" Blade, M-1942
14. Sheath, Machete, 18" Blade, M-1942
15. Strap, Hook, Cover, Canteen, Mounted, M-1941
16. Cover, Canteen, Mounted, M-1941
17. "Polaroid" Gray Rubber Frame Goggles
18. Eyeshield, M-1
19. Compass, Wrist, Engineer's
20. Sleeve, Detection, Gas
21. Machete, 22" Blade, M-1939

Late War airborne allowances (Circa 9/44 through 11/44)

1. British contract helmet net without elastic band, 1/2" grid, Dark OD
2. Tool, Entrenching, Collapsible with M43 Carrier
3. Toque, Wool Knit, M-1941
4. Tent, Shelter, Half, Dark Od
5. Mask, Gas! Service, Lightweight

Late War airborne allowances (Circa 12/44 thru 5/45)

1. Net, Helmet with Band, Helmet, Camouflage
2. Sling, Rifle, Dark Od
3. Sling, Sub-Machine Gun, Dark Od
4. Cap Field, Pile, Od
5. Cap Field, Cotton Od, with Visor
6. Mittens, Over, White
7. Overcoat, Parka type, Reversible with Pile liner
8. Parka, Reversible, Ski, Fur Trimmed
9. Gloveshells, Leather

All uniforms and equipment typically used by airborne troops early in WWII can be used during late war reenactments.

Section 4: Class "A" Dress Uniform Consists of:

- A) Cap, Garrison, Od with blue piping and signifying parachute or glider infantry cap emblem.
- B) Coat, Wool, Serge, Od, 18oz or Jacket, Field, Wool, M-1944 Both bearing Insignia, Collar, infantry, EM and insignia, Collar, "U.S." EM
- C) Shirt, Flannel, Od, Coat style or Shirt, Flannel, Od, M1938
- D) Necktie, Cotton, Mohair, Khaki
- E) Trousers, Wool, Serge, Od
- F) Belt, Web, Waist, EM
- G) Shined shoes
 1. Boots, Parachute Jumper
 2. Boots, Service, Combat
 3. Shoes, Service, Brown
 4. Boots, Combat, Buckle type

Section 5: Class "C" Summer dress uniform consists of:

- A) Shirt, Cotton, Khaki
- B) Trousers, Cotton, Khaki
- C) Belt, Web, Waist1 EM
- D) Cap, Garrison, Khaki with blue piping and signifying parachute gliderinfantry cap emblem
- E) Necktie, Cotton, Mohair, Khaki
- F) Shined shoes
 1. Boots, Parachute Jumper
 2. Boots, Service, Combat
 3. Shoes, Service, Brown
 4. Boots, Combat, Buckle type

Section 6: Airborne Weapons Allowances

- A) Under no circumstances are 82nd Airborne troops allowed to use weapons that are not listed in this table of equipment.

B) Unit Weapons Allowances are:

1. U.S. Rifle, Cal. .30, M-1903
2. U.S. rifle, Cal. .30, M-1
3. Carbine, Cal. .30, M-1
4. Carbine, Cal. .30, M1A1
5. Pistol, Colt, M-1911A1 with Holster, Pistol Colt, M-1911A1, Brown
6. Sub-Machine gun, M-3 (Late War impressions only)
7. Sub-Machine gun, Thompson, M1A1, Cal. .45
8. Rifle, Automatic, Browning
9. Rocket, Launcher, 2.5" or 2.37"
10. Mortar, 60mm
11. Mortar, 81mm
12. Knife, M-3
13. Knife, Trench, M-2
14. Knife, Pocket, M-2
15. Bayonet, M-1942 or M-1
16. Scabbard, M-6
17. Scabbard, M-8
18. HMG, Cal. .30
19. LMG1 Cal. .30
20. HMG, Cal. .50
21. ATK gun, Towed, 57mm
22. ATK gun, Towed, 75mm

Section 7: Airborne communications Equipment Allowances

A) Modern or non-historical radio communication equipment should not be used in the 505th if there is radio communication equipment available that appears WWII vintage. Vintage radio communication equipment can be modified to use new or modern components with authentic cabinets.

B) Only the following sets are allowed for use in the 505th PIR:

1. SCR 300 or BC 1000
2. SCR 536
3. Field Telephones

Section 8: Allowable Vehicles

A) The 505th PIR was allotted certain vehicles into its table of organisation, which is listed in the U.S. Army Tables of Organisation circa 1942.

B) According to T/07-55 of September 1942 the following is historical for the 505th PIR. Re-enactment unit:

1. Motorcycle, Harley Davidson or Indian MFG
2. Motorcycle, Extra light, M-1
3. Trailer, 1/4 ton
4. Trailer, 1 ton
5. Truck Utility, 1/4 ton, (Jeep)

6. Truck Ambulance, 3/4 ton
7. Truck, Weapons Carrier, 3/4 ton
8. Truck, Cargo, 1 1/2 ton
9. Truck, Cargo, 2 1/2 ton
10. Truck Dump, 2 1/2 ton
11. Truck Signal Repair, 2 1/2 ton
12. Truck, Wrecker, 4 ton
13. Cushman Model 53 Airborne Scooter

Section 9: Unallowable Items of Comfort

- A) In order to guarantee that all aspects of historical accuracy are as correct as possible this unit shall prohibit the following items to be used by its members.
1. Except for first time reenactment participants, no non-period eyeglasses shall be worn by members of this unit.
 2. All members are prohibited from using non period wristwatches and food packaging while participating in field activities and authentic encampments.
- B) The philosophy of the authenticity in the 505th should be that of utmost regard, and it is a constant goal of this unit to be as historically "accurate" as possible. Only genuine items from the time period, or the best reproductions of items from the time period will suffice in keeping the historical accuracy as high as possible.

Uniform Decorations

- A) It is not the Intent of the 505TH PIR to award decorations that detract from the actual meanings of military decorations, however, the 505th will recognise proficiency and dedication through the use of A/B related decorations from WWII.

These decorations do not necessarily apply to veterans wearing their own decorations. Members should note that they are responsible for the upkeep and appearance of their class "A" uniforms. The uniforms under which these decorations are worn must reflect the same high quality, as do the decorations themselves. They should be clean and free from damage and the uniforms must be pressed.

- B) The 505th d shall maintain criteria for the issuance and wearing of WWII era uniform decorations. Regulations and instructions on how to wear them are as follows.
1. Sleeve markings, are worn for the following criteria
 - a. Rank Chevrons - awarded per the discretion of the unit leader.
 - b. Service Stripes - or "hash marks", represents three years' membership in the 82nd.
 - c. Overseas bars - or "hershey bars", represents 6 months membership in the 82nd. This is to be worn in conjunction with service stripes, max. 5.
 2. Badges are worn and awarded per the following criteria.
 - a. Parachute wings - for those members who reenact parachute infantry. One bronze battlestar positioned in the center of the badge's chute risers represents

- actual combat or recreational parachute jump conducted by that member.
- b. Glider wings - for those members who reenact glider infantry. One bronze battlestar positioned in the center of the badge's glider fuselage represents actual recreational glider flight that member has participated in.
- c. Presidential Unit Citation - Represents extensive knowledge of 505 PIR .
- d. Regimental Wing Ovals - Either white (325) or red (505) with blue background. Worn behind wings as background represents at least one successful unit level command or office.
- e. Combat Infantryman's Badge - Represents 10 verifiable battle reenactments the member has attended as 82nd airborne.

3. Lanyards, are worn and awarded per the following criteria.

- a. French Fourgerre - Represents exceptional proficiency in school of soldier without arms.
- b. Belgian Fourgerre - Represents exceptional proficiency in Rifle Manual of Arms, including:
 - Order Arms
 - Inspection arms
 - Left shoulder arms
 - At ease
 - Sling Arms
 - Fire by volley
 - Trail arms
 - Port Arms
 - Right shoulder arms
 - Present arms
 - Parade rest
 - Rifle salute
 - Fix Bayonets
- b. Dutch Orange Lanyard - Represents exceptional tactical knowledge. Candidates for this sward should consider themselves exceptionally proficient in squad level tactics.

4. Helmet markings, shall be worn as follows.

- a. NCO stripe, a horizontal 1"x 3.5" white bar on the back of combat helmet is worn by unit nco's.
- b. Rampant Lion, a distinctive white lion worn on combat helmets by parachute inf. members who have been members of 82nd for 5 years or more or appealed otherwise.

5. Streamers are awarded to the unit and are attached to the unit flag. A red, white, and blue streamer represents each honourable publicly oriented activity such as a parade or memorial ceremony that at least 4 members of the 82nd have participated in.

Welcome to the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment and last but not least: Lear, share, respect and enjoy.

We give thanks to the WW2HRS for their support in creating this unit and its manual. Our regulations are based on their know how and experience in re enacting matters.