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WILLIAM TRUE

'48

June 19, 1995  
182 Seaspray Way  
Port Hueneme, CA 93041

Mr. Norval "Lee" Miller  
1857 Lisa Terrace  
El Cajon, CA 92021

Dear Lee:

So our Alumni Assoc. has stuck you with the work of organizing information on all of we old Pre-'50s grads. Well, into all of our lives a little rain must fall, and maybe if you don't do too good a job they'll not call on you again.

Enclosed is a brief bio I did a few years ago for the history book of my WW II unit, the 101st Airborne Division. That's a very brief summary which doesn't deal with 1945 specifically, so I'll add a little to meet the flyer's suggestion: "We would like to know where you were and what you were doing during that year."

As the year 1945 opened I was at Bastogne, Belgium, and my acting division commander, Gen. Anthony McAuliffe, had just told the Germans "Nuts" in response to their demand for our surrender. As noted in the enclosed bio we went from that Battle of the Bulge to other actions across Germany, taking Berchtesgaden just before the war in Europe ended. The few days we were in Berchtesgaden were fabulous, and amounted to a wonderful way to end a war. My squad was billeted (luxuriated would be a better term) in a German general's chalet overlooking the beautiful alps, and we had all of the fresh eggs, garden produce, smoked and canned meats, and wine and booze, we could handle. With spacious and lavish bedrooms, and bathrooms with all the hot water in the world, it was a heavenly experience after some rather trying times.

We shortly moved on into Austria for a few months of occupation duty, till some time in August when word came through that we old timers who had been through all of the campaigns and had enough points would be coming home shortly. The required points to come home with the first group was 85, and I was sitting on just 83. Miraculously, the record of a minor wound I had sustained just as we were jumping in Holland in September, 1944, came through, and the Purple Heart and 5 points it added put me over the top.

So I arrived home in San Diego late in September, 1945, enrolled at San Diego State as an Adult Special (my high school record left something to desired), and as they say, the rest is history (or sometimes they say something like that).

Looking forward to seeing you again, Lee.

Best Regards,  
William True

Bill

March 31, 1992  
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BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM TRUE  
for 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION HISTORY BOOK

William True was born in Omaha, Nebraska, November 11, 1923. Following high school graduation his family moved to San Diego, California, and he enlisted in the Army in August, 1942, at Fort Rosecrans. His basic training was at Camp Toccoa, Georgia, with F Co., 506 Parachute Infantry Regiment, and he remained in that same unit until discharged in September, 1945, with the rank of sergeant. True participated in all of the actions of the 506, which included the D-Day jump in Normandy, and the Market Garden jump in Holland. The unit was trucked into Bastogne for the Battle of the Bulge, and engaged in the final campaign across Germany, taking Berchtesgaden just before the war in Europe ended.

True was married to Clarissa Jane Tufts in 1946, and they had four children, Deryck, Dedra, Devin, and Dean, and presently have six grandchildren, Colin, Kelly Jane, Devin Junior, Keenan, Adam, and Cadence.

He received a B.A. degree from San Diego State College in 1948, an M.A. degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1950, and worked in governmental administration and hospital management. True recently retired from the San Gabriel Valley Medical Center where he was chief executive officer for fifteen years.