

Tonight We Die As Men
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Veteran of D-Day's Airborne Landings Finally Gets His Say



Col Edward D. Shames of Virginia Beach, VA was a 21-year old Staff Sergeant in the Army's 101st Airborne Division on June 6, 1944. When his C-47 drop plane went off course, Shames found himself in the middle of a milk factory, miles from his landing zone and deep in enemy territory. Showing the leadership ability that would earn him the division's first D-Day officer commission, Shames found his way to the battalion's mission site where he led the squad holding back the Germans from reinforcing their troops at the Normandy beachhead. After D-Day, Shames was transferred to the famed "Easy" company, whose story was told by Stephen Ambrose in "The Band of Brothers."

Shames' story and that of his battalion, the 3/506, is told in the exciting new book *Tonight We Die as Men* from Osprey Publishing.

According to the Foreword Col Shames wrote for *Tonight We Die as Men*, the authors of the book have written "the most accurate history ever about the battles that began the drive to free the European continent of the German armies."

Ian Gardner, the book's co-author says, "Soon after Roger Day and I first began working on the book, we were introduced to Ed Shames. Right from the start he got behind it because he felt that Ambrose had given short shrift to the 3/506. From Shames and several other veterans of the battalion, we got the scoop on the battle of 'Bloody Gully,' which had never been properly told before." He adds, "Getting to know the veterans of 3/506 has been one of the best experiences of my life."

In addition to Col Shames, there are currently about 35 surviving members of the 3/506.

The authors

Ian L. Gardner has always loved military history, but it was several years after leaving 10 Para that his interest in WWII US paratroopers really began. Inspired after a visit to Normandy in 2000 he decided to focus on the 101st Airborne Division and in particular the 3rd Battalion of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Roger J. Day's family has lived in and around the village of Ramsbury, England for generations. Roger spent his childhood and early adult years in the village and during that time became very interested in the wartime history of Ramsbury and the surrounding area. His interest resulted in the publication, during 1999, of his first book, *Ramsbury at War*.

Col. Edward Shames volunteered for the then new 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment in 1942 and trained with them in Toccoa, Georgia and Ramsbury, England before jumping with them on D-Day. For his role during the operation he became the first enlisted man to receive a commission during D-Day. As a 2nd Lieutenant he fought with the 2/506's E Company (AKA the Band of Brothers) from Market Garden through VE Day.

