

BOOK REVIEW

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION AND ITS VETERANS by 101ST Airborne Division Association, Acclaim Press, PO Box 238, Morley, MO 63767. Hardcover, 224 pgs w/photos on every page plus Photos and biographies of 101ST Airborne Division Association members as of 2016. \$59.95. Reviewed by Col. William E. Weber, USA-Ret

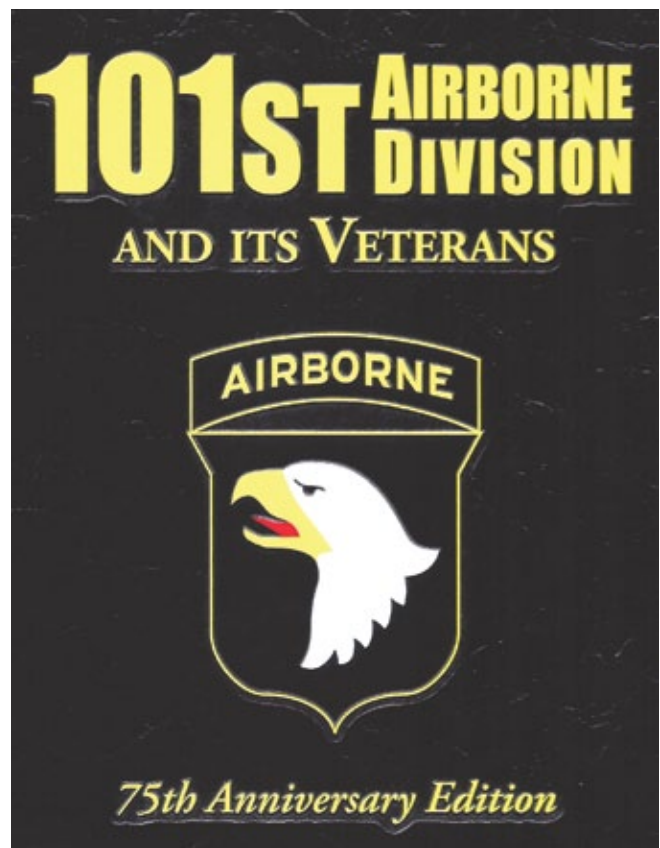
This exciting book devotes 91 pages to an encapsulated history of the 101st from activation as an Airborne Division in 15 August 1942 to it's present day as the only Air Assault Division in the U.S. Army. For the most part the Division's service in the post RVN period is featured although there is encapsulated coverage of WWII service and somewhat more of Vietnam.

This is understandable for the book is aimed primarily at current members of the Division's current fraternal membership which is primarily Iraq/Afghanistan veterans with, of course RVN and a dwindling number of WWII veterans. It is, sad but true, that the WWII veterans and to a lesser, but nonetheless significant extent, RVN veterans are too rapidly disappearing from our midst! And, with them goes the personal anecdotes that are more representative of an 'outfits' service and soul than all the PhD historians can begin to capture!

This reviewer can personally relate to such for my WWII outfit was the 11th Airborne Division and our membership of veterans from that era is fewer than I want to record! The same is too true for WWII veterans of the 101st! Once the last of us are gone so too will be the 'first hand' accounts that have not been captured!

Will that matter? Probably not too much insofar as recording the major events of history! But, in another sense, the real substance of history is how it impacted those who made it—and what their presence and actions determined the 'nitty griddy' of history!

And so, unique in the narrative portion of this book is that most of the related incidents are composed by those who actually lived them! There are few 'second-hand' accounts—what you read is what is remembered by *'those who were there and done that'*! And, for this reviewer that is the 'bottom line' of getting your history from the 'horse's mouth'!



But, of what certainly is of equal importance is that almost two-thirds of the book is devoted to a listing of the then (when formatted) active members of the 101st Airborne Division's Association! And, as well, a listing of deceased members of the Association. The reviewer assumes these listings are inclusive of all who once did, or currently do, belong to the Association.

In any event, the sheer magnitude of the number of names suggests the forgoing. And, it is in the reading of their individual 'bios' that the essence of the men who served therein, gives substance to the fact that the 101st is 'second to none' in the minds of those who wore the 'Screaming Eagle'! Of course, that is a 'truism' for every 'trooper' who ever served in any of our family of 'airborne' from 'day one'!

Whether you jumped, rode a glider, air assaulted from a 'chopper' or, humped' your way to the 'sound of the guns' your outfit was the best, your war or conflict the worst -- and your 'foxhole buddy'—your brother!

If you're a 101st vet—get this book! If you've ever been 'airborne'—you may find a buddy in these pages!