



## Fighting Fox Company: The Battling Flank of the Band of Brothers

By Bill Brown, Terry Poyser

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**Fighting Fox Company: The Battling Flank of the Band of Brothers** By Bill Brown, Terry Poyser

Easy Company of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division has become one of the most famous small units in U.S. history, thanks to Stephen Ambrose's superb book *Band of Brothers*, followed by portrayals in film. However, to date little has been heard of Fox Company of that same regiment—the men who fought alongside Easy Company through every step of the war in Europe, and who had their own stories to tell.

Notably this book, over a decade in the making, came about for different reasons than the fame of the “Band of Brothers.” Bill Brown, a WWII vet himself, had decided to research the fate of a childhood friend who had served in Fox Company. Along the way he met Terry Poyser, who was on a similar mission to research the combat death of a Fox Company man from his hometown. Together, the two authors proceeded to locate and interview every surviving Fox Company vet they could find. The result was a wealth of fascinating firsthand accounts of WWII combat as well as new perspectives on Dick Winters and others of the “Band,” who had since become famous.

Told primarily through the words of participants, *Fighting Fox Company* takes the reader through some of the most horrific close-in fighting of the war, beginning with the chaotic nocturnal paratrooper drop on D-Day. After fighting through Normandy the drop into Holland saw prolonged ferocious combat, and even more casualties; and then during the Battle of the Bulge, Fox Company took its place in line at Bastogne during one of the most heroic against-all-odds stands in U.S. history.

As always in combat, each man's experience is different, and the nature of the German enemy is seen here in its equally various aspects. From ruthless SS fighters to meek Volkssturm to simply expert modern fighters, the Screaming Eagles encountered the full gamut of the Wehrmacht. The work is also accompanied by rare photos and useful appendices, including rosters and lists of casualties, to give the full look at Fox Company which has long been overdue.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

The authors have done meticulous research and have been fortunate to still be able to gain first hand accounts from those who 'were there and did that'! The detailed research and accessibility to the actual participants and circumstances of events covered, verify that what is documented is factual, and not embellished by 'what ifs'!...For this reviewer the story of 'Fighting Fox' is again a definitive reminder and proof that, for every infantry rifle company be it airborne, glider, or straight leg, each becomes a 'band of brothers' during and forever following the first engagement with an equally determined and as well led and equipped enemy infantry unit. The uniforms and weaponry may differ?the 'why we fight' be diametrically opposed. But, the love of country will be equal, and, as well, the fear of death! (*Airborne Quarterly*)

Fighting Fox Company is a superb book and should be the new model for small unit histories. Terry Poyser and Bill Brown have done an outstanding job of research and have included an incredible amount of detail about the personnel, organization, and operations of the company, while integrating it into the narrative in a way that doesn't interfere, but enhances it. The quality of the photographs are first rate and compare with those of Mark Bando's fine works. Through the photographs you get to put faces with the names of the officers and men in the book. The maps are plentiful and well done. There is a fine balance of first person accounts woven into the narrative, which is particularly good considering that this was their first published work. I hope that historians and authors will use this book as a model and a template for similar books. The only negative thing I can find about this book is the tag line of the title, The Battling Flank of the Band of Brothers. Fox Company nor this book should take a backseat to Easy Company and Band of Brothers. This book is a must read for readers of World War II and airborne history. I highly recommend it. (*Phil Nordyke, Author and Historian*)

Poyser and Brown, utilizing so many first-hand accounts, have produced a captivating history of a battle-tested unit and its young American soldiers. The natural rhythm and drama of their experiences, as told many years later, makes a fitting and impressive memorial sure to attract many readers. (*Stone & Stone Second World War Books*)

Everybody knows Easy Company. But until now, few knew Fox. This tick-tock account is beefed up with first-person reminiscences about events and exploits from D-Day and from Holland to Bastogne that are chunked into the narrative à la a video documentary. (*World War II Magazine*)

"The writing is fresh and intense and paints a good picture of World War Two front line combat...an excellent book for anyone who wants to understand the bigger picture of company level combat within the 101st Division of WWII. Also anyone familiar with the Band of Brothers story will want to read this book."  
MILITARY REVIEW (*MILITARY REVIEW*)

Viriathus & the Lusitanian Resistance to Rome is an excellent work, reading this will prove rewarding for anyone interested in Roman history. (*Strategy Page and NYMAS*)

#### About the Author

Terry Poyser is a police officer and parachutist who began researching Fox Company in 2000. He has made numerous trips to the battlefields in Europe and traveled throughout the United States to interview veterans for his research. He currently lives in Northern California. William "Bill" Brown was born in Belleplane,

Kansas in October 1927, and is a retired air traffic controller and private pilot. Bill also served in the US Navy in WWII. He lives in Southern California.

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