

**HEADQUARTERS 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION**  
Office of the Division Commander

Camp Clairborne, Louisiana  
August 16, 1942

**GENERAL ORDERS**

**NUMBER 1**

**ACTIVATION OF 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION**

1. Pursuan to instructions contained in letters, Head-quarters Army Ground Forces, 320.219 (AB Cmd) (R)-GNGCT (7-30-42), Subject: "Activation of 82d and 101st Airborne Divisions", dated July 30, 1942, and August 5, 1942, and General Orders Number 86 and Number 88, Head-quarters Third Army, dated August 8, 1942, and August 10, 1942, the 101st Airborne Division is activated at 0001 this date, and will be composed of the following units:

Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division  
Headquarters Company, 101st Airborne Division  
327th Glider Infantry  
401st Glider Infantry  
502d Parachute Infantry, Fort Benning, Georgia  
(without change of station)  
Headquarters and Headquarters Battery,  
101st Airborne Division Artillery  
377th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion  
321st Glider Field Artillery Battalion  
907th Glider Field Artillery Battalion  
101st Airborne Signal Company  
326th Airborne Engineer Battalion  
426th Airborne Quartermaster Company  
326th Airborne Medical Compony

2. Haedquarters 101st Airborne Division is opened at Camp Clairborne, Louisiana, at 0001 this date.

3. Under the provisions of paragraph 4, AR 600-20, the undersigned hereby assumes command of the 101st Airborne Division.

**DISTRIBUTION**

"1"

**DON F. PRATT**  
Colonel, Infantry,  
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION  
Office of the Division Commander

Camp Clairborne, Louisiana  
August 19, 1942

GENERAL ORDERS )

NUMBER 5 )

The 101st Airborne Division, which was activated on August, 16-1942, at Camp Clairborne, Louisiana, has no history, but it has a rendezvous with destiny. Like the early American pioneers whose invincible courage was the foundation stone of this nation, we have broken with the past and its traditions in order to establish our claim to the future.

Due to the nature of our armament and the tactics in which we shall perfect ourselves, we shall be called upon to carry out operations of far-reaching military importance and we shall habitually go into action when the need is immediate and extreme. Let me call your attention to the fact that our badge is the great American eagle. This is a fitting emblem for a division that will crush its enemies by falling upon them like a thunderbolt from the skies.

The history we shall make, the record of high achievement we hope to write in the annals of the American Army and the American people, depends wholly and completely on the men of this division. Each individual, each officer and each enlisted man must therefore regard himself as a necessary part of a complex and powerful instrument for the overcoming of the enemies of the nation. Each, in his own job, must realize that he is not only a means, but an indispensable means for obtaining the goal of victory. It is, therefore, not too much to say that the future itself, in whose moulding we expect to have a share, is in the hands of the soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division.

DISTRIBUTION  
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W. C. LEE,  
Major General, U.S.A.,  
Commanding.