

# 'OLD ABE'

To those of us who have been fortunate enough to wear the "Screaming Eagle" patch, the name of Old Abe has a personal meaning. Old Abe has a history dating back to the Civil War. Old Abe was the mascot of the 8th Wisconsin Regiment and was engaged in over 20 battles. During firefights he would fly over the battlefield screeching and screaming is only an eagle can do. He became so famous that several Confederate commanders offered rewards for him dead or alive. Old Abe was wounded in action twice, but despite his wounds he lived to the venerable old age of 21. He spent his declining years in the Wisconsin State Capitol. After his death he was mounted on a perch and placed in the memorial hall. In 1904, the hall was destroyed by fire and nothing remained of Old Abe.

In July, 1939, "Young Abe" was found in the same section of the Wisconsin wilds as his celebrated counterpart. There are those who claim that because of almost identical markings, Young Abe is a direct descendant of his famous Civil War forebearer. In November, 1942, Young Abe became the mascot of the 101st Airborne Division.

The "Screaming Eagle" is ageless to the officers and men of the 101st today. He is worn proudly on the shoulder of every soldier of this Division, symbolizing the prowess of that defender of freedom, and the might of the division which he represents. He is the guiding spirit of the determination which culminated in successful operations in Europe and here in Vietnam.

The Screaming Eagle remains in our midst as a constant reminder to us of our proud heritage. With esprit de corps, he carries forward the illustrious record of the Division, linking the reputation of the past with the successes of the future.