

Paramedic name

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To: Cassidy John

Subject: paramedic (uf

Most likely no one gives it a thought where from the name 'PARAMEDIC' originally came, since it is common usage, may it be on an ambulance or a contemporary medical profession. The original paramedics were WWII US Army medics on a parachute status; the US Navy had WWII parachuting medics that were 'pharmacists'. One I knew was William 'Doc' Hyatt, the other is still kicking: Chester Finnegan. Both jumped in at Guadacanal (spelling?), while aboard an offshore navy ship had 'pharmacist' Joe Williams treating the wounded. Neither of them knew that they had been at the same time at the same place, until they finally met at one of the PJ reunions.

In 1961 they gave a 'cracker box' ambulance from the Selfridge salvage yard to the 305th PJs. For many years thereafter, the meatwagon was used by the 'ground party', also for field trips and whenever called upon to assist either the Michigan State Police or Sheriff departments in underwater search or tornado stricken areas or during the 1967 Detroit riots. One the side we had stenciled PARAMEDIC, until visiting friendly HQ inspectors told me that we no longer are paramedics, which went out after the Korean War. So then we simply stenciled PARARESCUE on it.

I think it was in the later 1960s, when I saw the first offbase ambulance with PARAMEDIC on it. What's this? Do they jump from ambulances? Or was it picked up from having seen it on our meatwagon and the TV coverage we had. TV2 in Detroit even made a half hour documentary about the 305thARS (before it became ARRS), with most coverage of the PJs, including a tree jump at the Huron Ntl Forest, where we treated dummy dressed wounded casualties. Yup. it's water under the bridge...

note; The attached photo was taken at Goose Bay, but we had the same type meatwagon at Selfridge.

