

HISTORY - Vol. 3

238TH ENG. COMBAT BN

Binders of this volume presented
by Col. Martin Massoglia, Retired
in honor of
the 238th Engineer Combat Battalion

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

*More
Co. Dist.*



TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE:

The task which we set ourselves is finished, and the time has come for me to relinquish Combined Command.

In the name of the United States and the British Commonwealth, from whom my authority is derived, I should like to convey to you the gratitude and admiration of our two nations for the manner in which you have responded to every demand that has been made upon you. At times, conditions have been hard and the tasks to be performed arduous. No praise is too high for the manner in which you have surmounted every obstacle.

I should like, also, to add my own personal word of thanks to each one of you for the part you have played, and the contribution you have made to our joint victory.

Now that you are about to pass to other spheres of activity, I say Good-bye to you and wish you Good Luck and God-Speed.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

HEADQUARTERS, XVIII CORPS (AIRBORNE)
Office of the Corps Commander

200.6 (CG)

U. S. Army - In the Field
161820 January 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO : Commanding Officer, 1106 Engineer Combat Group
(Thru: Commanding General, VII Corps).

1. The Corps Commander desires to commend you and the units under your command for the manner of performance of their duties while under his command. Your Group came under the control of this Corps at a critical time. The work of the 238th Engineer Combat Battalion in the construction of the initial barrier in the vicinity of MANHAY was outstanding and materially assisted the Corps in holding off the attack of the enemy in that area. At the same time the presence of the 237th Engineer Combat Battalion as a Corps reserve, though not committed as such, permitted the Corps Commander to set his mind at rest on that score and devote his entire attention to the attack. In working with the 82nd Airborne Division in the vicinity of BRA, the members of the 237th Engineer Combat Battalion displayed outstanding initiative and courage in assisting that Division in the establishment of a barrier. The 94th Engineer Combat Battalion, which joined later, performed all assigned tasks in a highly satisfactory manner.

2. It was a pleasure to have these units with the Corps. I wish you continued success.

M. B. RIDGWAY
Major General, U. S. Army,
Commanding.

201-22

1st Ind.

(16 Jan 45)

HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS, APO 307, U. S. ARMY

TO: Commanding Officer, 1106th Engineer Group, APO 307 U.S. Army

It is with pleasure that I forward this commendation from the Commanding General, XVIII Corps, based upon the superior performance of duty of the units of your command while serving under his control.

J. LAWTON COLLINS,
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

202-22

2d Ind.

29 January 1945

HEADQUARTERS, 1106th Engineer Combat Group, APO 307, U.S. Army

TO: Commanding Officer, 238th Engineer Combat Battalion
APO 307, U. S. Army

I wish to add my thanks to the officers and men of your unit for the difficult work that they did during the defensive phase of the Winter Battle of the Ardennes.

R. ERLINKOTTER
Colonel, CE
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS 1ST U. S. INFANTRY DIVISION
APO 1, U. S. ARMY

22 October 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation of Merit

TO : Commanding General, VII Corps, APO 307, U. S. Army

The 1106th Engineer Combat Group, including the 237th and 238th Engineer Combat Battalions, Commanded by Colonel Rogers, relieved the 18th Infantry on 1600A, 2 October 1944, and took up a defensive position continuously until 21 October 1944. Regardless of the fact that this was the first time that this Engineer Group had been committed in the lines against the enemy, they performed their mission aggressively and boldly. Their willingness and enthusiasm was exemplary. These Engineers will be a credit to any Corps. It has been a great pleasure to work with them and to fight alongside them.

C. R. HUEBNER
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

200-6 1st Ind.
(22 Oct 44)
HEADQUARTERS, VII CORPS, APO 307, U. S. Army, 29 October, 1944

TO: Commanding Officer, 1106th Engineer Group, APO 307, U.S. Army

I take great pleasure in transmitting this tribute to the splendid performance of duty by the officers and men of your command and desire to add my appreciation to that of General Huebner for the fine assistance and cooperation given the 1st Division in the capture of Aachen.

J. LAWTON COLLINS
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

200.6

2nd Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 1106th Engineer Combat Group, APO 307, U.S. Army, 30 Oct 44

TO: Commanding Officer, 237th Engineer Combat Battalion, APO230,
Commanding Officer, 238th Engineer Combat Battalion, APO230,
Commanding Officer, 501st Engineer Light Ponton Co. APO230,
Commanding Officer, 994th Engineer Tdvy. Bridge Co. APO230,
Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company, 1106 Engr C Gp, APO307

1. Each officer and man of this Group can justly feel proud of the part he has played in earning the above commendations, commendations which incidentally are made more meaningful to us by their letterheads.

2. These commendations again remind us that the total performance of our Group is exactly equal to the summation of our individual efforts.

T. DeF. Rogers
Colonel CE
Commanding

3rd Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 238th ENGINEER C. BN. APO 230, U.S. ARMY, 31 OCTOBER 1944

TO: Commanding Officer, H/S Co., 238th Engineer Combat Battalion.
Commanding Officer, Company A, 238th Engineer Combat Battalion.
Commanding Officer, Company B, 238th Engineer Combat Battalion.
Commanding Officer, Company C, 238th Engineer Combat Battalion.
Commanding Officer, Med. Det., 238th Engineer Combat Battalion.

1. The excellent cooperation and unstinting performance of all members of this command have earned us the above commendation.

2. The splendid spirit shown by all personnel during Operation "31" helps make the 238th Engineer Combat Battalion an Organization of which we are all proud to be members.

JAY P. DAWLEY
Lt. Col., 238th Engr C Bn.
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS
104TH INFANTRY DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 104, U. S. ARMY

19 March 1945

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

THROUGH: Commanding General, VII Corps, APO 307, U.S.ARMY

TO : Commanding Officer, 1106th Engineer Combat Group, APO 307
U.S.Army.

I wish to express my appreciation for the excellent and outstanding support given the Division during the recent Roer River crossing by members of your staff and particularly the 237th and 238th Engineer Combat Battalions.

On the 23rd, 24th February, 1945, these two battalions constructed two Infantry support bridges, two treadway bridges, and a Bailey bridge across the treacherous, flooded Roer River to support the successful attack of the 104th Division.

The construction of these bridges was started immediately upon the crossing of the assault Infantry waves while all sites and approach roads were under heavy enemy small arms and artillery fire. Despite numerous interruptions due to the flooded river conditions, to enemy action and heavy casualties, the men and officers of your organization successfully completed all bridges, thus enabling the supporting arms of the Division to give early and close up assistance in the driving back of the enemy.

The mission of the two battalions was completed under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions which required extraordinary heroism and determination on the part of each individual. By the outstanding teamwork of the 1106th Engineer Combat Group, an outstanding contribution was made to the successful crossing of the particularly difficult Roer River.

TERRY ALLEN
Major General, U.S.Army
Commanding

BASIC: Ltr, Hq 104th Inf Div, Off of the Commanding General,
SUB : "Letter of appreciation", 19 March 1945

201.22

1st Ind.

(19 March 1945)

HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS: APO307, U.S.Army, 30 March 1945.

TO: Commanding Officer, 1106th Engineer Combat Group, APO 307,
U. S. ARMY

It is with great pleasure that I forward this letter of appreciation from General Allen.

J. Lawton Collins
J. LAWTON COLLINS
Major General, U.S.Army
Commanding VII

2nd Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 1106th Engineer Combat Group, APO 307, U.S.Army,
19 April, 1945

TO: Commanding Officer, 238th Engineer Combat Battalion, APO 307
U.S.Army

General Allen's letter indicates that again your units performed another swell job in the Roer River crossing. There is little I can add to what you know my staff and I feel.

R. ERLINKOTTER
Colonel CE
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS
A.P.O. 307 U.S. ARMY

20 April 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation for Construction of Bridges across Roer River.

TO : Commanding Officer, 238th Engineer Combat Battalion, APO 230,
U. S. Army.

1. I commend the 238th Engineer Combat Battalion for its superior performance in the construction of three bridges across the Roer River, in the face of heavy enemy action and difficult technical conditions during the crossing by VII Corps on 23 and 24 February 1945.

2. Your Battalion was assigned the mission of constructing three Class 40 bridges across the Roer which were essential for the security of the 104th Infantry Division made an assault crossing of the River on 23 February with great difficulty and advanced to limited objectives, expecting to be passed through by 3d Armored Division on 24 February.

3. During 23 February the locations which had been selected for the bridges were under continuous intense artillery fire and it was impossible for you to commence work without sustaining excessive casualties both in men and material. Despite the enemy fire, two of your companies commenced the construction of two bridges on the evening of 23 February. The technical difficulties connected with the construction of the bridges on the swollen stream during darkness were in themselves a great hazard to the success of the construction. Artillery fire during the construction and after completion resulted in 17 casualties among your men and damaged portions of the bridges.

4. In the meantime your third Company commenced the construction of a Bailey Bridge at daylight on 24 February and pushed it to completion in the remarkable short time of three hours and 45 minutes. By the middle of the afternoon of 24 February all three crossings were complete.

5. The courage of every individual involved was exemplary. The displayed determination of the men to complete their task in the face of enemy action and extremely difficult conditions is a high tribute to the state of discipline and moral within the Battalion.

/s/ J. Lawton Collins
/t/ J. LAWTON COLLINS
Major General, U.S. Army,
Commanding

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, 238th Engineer Combat Battalion, APO 230, U. S. Army, 26
April 1945.

TO: All companies and Medical Detachment, 238th Engineer Combat Battalion,
APO 230, U. S. Army.

1. The Battalion commander takes pride in making known to his men the basic communication.

JAY P. DAWLEY
Lt. Col. 238th Engr. C. Bn.
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS
Office of the Engineer
APO 307 U.S. ARMY

11 June 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO : Lt. Col. Jay P. Dawley, CE
Commanding Officer,
238th Engineer Combat Battalion
APO 339, U. S. Army
THRU: Commanding Officer, 1106 Engineer Combat Group.

Every member of the 238th Engineer Combat Battalion will be happy to read the following commendation of the VII Corps Engineer Units.

HEADQUARTERS VII CORPS
Office of the Commanding General

4 June 1945

Colonel Mason J. Young
Commanding Officer, VII Corps Engineers
APO #307, United States Army

Dear Colonel Young:

With the cessation of hostilities in Europe, I wish to convey to you and to the officers and men of the VII Corps Engineers my great appreciation for the splendid job done by you and your engineers throughout our European campaigns.

The need for military engineer support reached new heights in this war. The demand for accuracy and speed of performance has been greater than ever before. This has been particularly true of campaigns of the VII Corps, whose varied operations have called for every type of engineering skill.

The VII Corps Engineers distinguished themselves from the first moment when they landed with the initial waves on Utah Beach, and with the assistance of naval demolition parties began the removal of the beach obstacles and the preparation of passages through the sea-wall that ran the length of the beach. So well was this done, that the assault troops received no check from these obstacles, and the invasion was off to a flying start. Other engineer teams assisted in the demolition of pillboxes and defensive works, the clearing of mines and the opening of causeways across the inundated area back of the beach.

Thereafter, throughout the Cherbourg Campaign and the subsequent operations of the VII Corps across France, Belgium and Germany, the VII Corps Engineers played a vital role. This was particularly true following the breakthrough at St. Lo -- Marigny, when roads had to be cleared quickly of the debris from the heavy bombardment

and the way opened through devastated villages in order to permit rapid exploitation by armored columns and motorized infantry. Five divisions, including two of the big armored divisions, were passed through this narrow gap without a pause in record breaking time, thanks to the superb work of the VII Corps Engineers. A somewhat similar condition developed as we drove through the Siegfried defenses, east of Aachen, and fought our way to the Roer; and again following the crossing of the Roer-River when Duren and its environs had to be opened rapidly to permit the movement of the 3d Armored Division.

Perhaps the most spectacular achievement of the Corps Engineers came in their many river crossings, commencing with the first such operation in Europe by our forces, the crossing of the Douve near Carentan and Etienneville. The Sienne, Mayenne, Siene, Aisne, Marne, Meuse, Roer and finally the Rhine and the Weser, all had to be bridged, usually under fire, with the restless speed demanded by the pace of modern operations. This was exemplified in the bridging of the Rhine in the remarkable time of 10 hours 17 minutes with a Class 40 bridge. But the toughest of all these river crossings was that over the Roer, where the VII Corps Engineers proved that they could not only build fast but could do so with steadfastness and courage under devastating fire.

After the initial penetration of the Siegfried Line when the corps was dangerously extended over a great frontage in the vicinity of Aachen, the Corps Engineers were called upon to do service as infantry in the Hurtgen Forest and in the hills south of Aachen. Here again they demonstrated their well rounded training and versatility by holding extensive fronts in this difficult terrain, thus permitting the concentration of infantry combat units for the assault on Aachen.

It is one of the unfortunate characteristics of war that those who labor in unspectacular roles frequently do not receive the proper recognition that they justly deserve. Thus you have assimilated yourself so smoothly into the operations of the VII Corps that we have come to accept exceptional engineering performance as a normal routine. The quiet efficiency, skill, and devotion to duty of yourself and the officers and men of the corps engineers under you have contributed greatly to the success of this corps in its European campaigns. I wish to express not only to you, but to every officer and man under you, my great admiration and appreciation for what you have done and extend to you all the very best wishes for the future.

Faithfully yours,

/s/ J. Lawton Collins
/t/ J. LAWTON COLLINS
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

The 238th Engineer Combat Battalion has made many fine contributions to the successes of the VII Corps. I am mindful, particularly, of the construction of the difficult treadway bridge northeast of Carentan on D/4 and D/5, the crossing of the Seine River at Corbeil, the crossings of the Sambre and Meuse Rivers at Namur, the successful participation as infantry in the capture of Aachen, and the crossing of the Roer River under heavy, continuous German fire. The battalion has executed every mission with precision and high courage.

I add my personal commendation to that of General Collins for the splendid record made by the 238th Engineer Combat Battalion throughout the campaign in Europe.

/s/ Mason J. Young,
/t/ MASON J. YOUNG,
Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Corps Engineer.

1st Ind.

RE/waf

HEADQUARTERS, 1106th Engineer Combat Group, APO 307, U S Army,
13 June, 1945

TO: Commanding Officer, 238th Engineer Combat Battalion, APO 230,
U. S. Army.

Let me add my thanks for the splendid performance of your battalion during the entire period of combat.

/s/ R. Erlenkotter
/t/ R. ERLENKOTTER
Colonel, CE
Commanding.

2nd Ind.

JPD/acm

HEADQUARTERS, 238th Engr. Combat Bn., APO 752, 26 June, 1945.

TO: All companies and Medical Detachment of 238th Engr. C. Bn.

1. The foregoing commendations help to justify the great pride we of the 238th Engineer Combat Battalion take in our unit.

2. I feel we are determined to continue in further battle or peacetime living to exert our strong influence for the betterment of mankind. We started that influence in a victorious life-and-death struggle against powerful tyranny. We shall finish it as alert and useful citizens of the mighty United States of America.

Jay P. Dawley
JAY P. DAWLEY
Lieut. Colonel, 238th Engr C Bn.
Commanding.

Sept 19, 1986

Dear 238th Veterans,

After having spent two weeks in the Plattsburgh vicinity, I'm happy to report that the area is alive and doing well. The old Post has been cleaned up and is extremely well kept, and some of the old landmarks are still there. However, much of the past has given in to progress. Sad to say, our old stamping grounds, the Witherall Hotel, and it's ground floor bar, the Fife and Drum are no more. It has been demolished, in it's place is a modern Savings and Loan. The Fife and Drum is only a memory. Gone also is the Cumberland Hotel, now a vacant lot, the Knights Tavern near the bridge, now a garage and repair shop, and Geru's bar, a residence. Still going strong is Meron's, the neighborhood bar on the outskirts, the Monopole, now a ratty midtown dive, and the old bar just above the bridge, now a nondescript name and patrons to match. On the corner of Bridge and Margaret street, a new bar, "Mothers Place" advertises "an All Male Chorus Line". The city fathers have action thru the District Attorney to close it up. The American Legion is still in the same place with parties nightly, the Elk's club is going strong, and the Delaware and Hudson Depot is a restaurant. However, there are many new places which have replaced our old hangouts. Margaret Street has taken a nosedive, with most businesses relocated to several major shopping marts on the outskirts of town. The Italian place across from the late Fife and Drum is still operational, but few others are.

Margaret Street is one way, and in need of repair, suffering from the results of Urban Renewal and relocation to the outskirts. The old homes are beautiful, well kept, and in excellent condition, albiht 44 years older. The road out to the base, U.S. street, is unchanged, but the main gate to the old Post has been relocated about a quarter of a mile south. The main entrance to the old and new posts are about where we used to turn on our weekly trek to Macomb. The Post is almost exactly as we knew it, but with a few new buildings. The barracks have been refurbished inside and out and look like they did 44 years ago. They are now offices and service areas for the airbase, with some converted into training schools. The EM barracks are now in the new Post across U.S. Ave., and to the south. The wooded area south of the old Post along the lake where we trained, has been developed into married NCO homes. The old military cemetery is there, well maintained, and now containing graves of the WW II, Korean and Vietnam veterans. To the north of the chapel, above the point of the oval road in the old Post, new BOQ's and a new Officers Club have been built. The Officers quarters are in excellent shape, with no ranks below Lt. Colonel in residence. The NCO barracks to the south on the old post have been refurbished. A new NCO club has been built on the new Base near the gate. Across the street is a new PX, theater and bowling alley. The old Post looks much as we left it.

Plattsburgh Airbase is just across the main highway to the west, and is about 20 minutes march towards Macomb wide, with the landing strip NNW to SSE. A beautiful nine hole golf course has been built in the swampy area about a mile south

(OVER)

PLATTSBURG BARRACKS, N. Y. Then and now---1943-1986.

A return visit by Ernest James.

of the Post to the west of the highway.

You would all recognize the road to Macomb, it hasn't changed except for a few new homes along the way and a new paving job. The red house and General Store at Schuyler Falls on the Peru road are unchanged, as is the old church further along the road. I swear our sweat, blood and tears from those double time hikes are still there. The total distance from the Barracks gate to Macomb is almost exactly 15 miles.

Macomb has been transformed into a beautiful State park and camp grounds. The cleared area near the dam is Park Headquarters, and the beach near the dam, where we swam is a sandy swimming area. The dam and bridge on the lake are unchanged. Our bivouac areas are covered with trees, reforested. Across the lake, where we had infantry maneuvers, is a beautiful campground overlooking the lake. I located the small stream just above the lake where we built the cable suspension bridge for foot traffic using truck winchs and cables. The rifle range and infiltration course reverted to an Indian Reservation, and is off limits. The once thriving town of Athol is in it's last stages of decay, according to the local Forest Rangers. They told me the old rails at the range and many fox holes are still in evidence. One Ranger stated that for years, in the 1950's and 1960's, an old retired soldier lived in a shack near the dam, and would wander around in uniform, talking to all who would listen about the old days when he was stationed in Plattsburgh. I'm not sure if he was an Engineer veteran of the 238th or 51st, or from the infantry who preceeded us. He could have been one John Wong left there to learn how to fire bazookas.

I took a roll of pictures which will be at the 238th meeting in Nashville, including one at the Salmon River site of the Bridge we built on ice in Febr. 1943. Also I've photos of the Post, the bridge across the Saranac River coming into town and a few of the watering hole sites we used to frequent on our off duty hours, and Macomb. I have two of the present day local talent at Meron's. Things haven't changed.

We are but a legend to the people in Plattsburgh and the military now occupying our old Post. The Infantry is remembered as a vignette of history, and the Navy as a school for 2000 ensigns. Our 238th and 51st Battalions are only vaguely recalled. I suggest we encapsule a brief history of our exploits in Europe, crediting the training we recieved in Plattsburgh, enclosing a few photos and statistics, and sending them to the newspaper and Air Force Command in Plattsburgh. They could include a bit on us in the information bulletins and museum on the post. I'll try for a draft at the next 238th meeting in Nashville. See you there.

Sincerely,

Ernest James
Ernest James,
Major, USA Retired



ASSOCIATION NEWS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

BY

238TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION ASSOCIATION

"VICTORIA PER CONSTRUERE"

MARCH EDITION

20 MARCH 1951

NUMBER 8

Well folks, another month has rolled around and the news is mighty scarce. First of all, I would like to apologise for being so late with the letter this month. A relative of mine died recently and I have been doing a lot of running around, trying to get his affairs in order.

Had a mighty nice letter from Mrs. Jack Goodfellow recently and she tells me that Jack is working at the Naval Air Station at Norfolk. He likes his work very much and Elizabeth says he is getting to the place that he actually wants to fly the planes. Jack is too good an Engineer to get mixed up in the Air Force. The Goodfellows are having a hard time in finding a suitable place to live since they moved back to Norfolk.

Hey fellows, it looks like the first platoon of Co. C did themselves proud during the war. Major Massoglia sent me quite a few copies of the extracts to be passed out to the members of the 1st Platoon of Co. C. If any of you fellows know of any former member of this Platoon, please let me know, so I can send them their extracts. Major Massoglia asked that I put a reproduction of the extract in the News so the boys of the 1st Platoon can contact me for their copy of the General Orders from me.

"238th ENGR COMBAT BN, 1st. Platoon, CO. C.

FRENCH CROIX DE GUERRE WITH PALM, awarded under Decision No. 267, 22 July 1946, by the President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, with the following citation:

A fine combat unit spirited and animated by exceptional courage. It distinguished itself particularly during the operation in Normandy, near Grimesnil, on 29 and 30 July 1944. Its mission was to capture a road by which the German forces were withdrawing. It withstood without weakening, the attack of an enemy column of 2,500 men and 90 vehicles, during more than 6 hours of fierce hand-to-hand fighting. In spite of the enemy numerical superiority of 4 to 1, it destroyed this enemy force, killing 450 men and taking 900 prisoners. This brilliant action contributed to the annihilation of the enemy forces in Normandy and success of the Allied landing."

Our Sincere thanks to Major Massoglia for this splendid gesture. He would have sent the orders to the men himself, except for the fact that he has misplaced his list of addresses. The Major still has hopes of attending this years reunion in Chicago, Ill. if his duties will permit him to do so. We all hope he can make it and are looking forward to meeting him there.

Fellows, the Major would like to enter a suggestion for consideration from all of you. He suggests that we invite members of the whole 51st. Regiment and our Group Headquarters to be our guests at our coming reunion in Chicago. They will, if favored, pay their own way, of course. I have had this subject mentioned to me several times before in the letters I have received from the members. As all, or most of you know, we all were part of the 51st. Regiment at one time, before it was made into two separate units. Of course, I think the 238th. was much the better outfit, but the 51st. was pretty good too. How about thinking this over and letting me know what you think of the idea so I can let the Major know what your wishes are about the matter. This is you Association and each of you have a right to say how it should be carried on. Major Massoglia extends his respects to all members of the 238th. Thanks again Major, for the letter and extracts.

I guess all you boys and girls are aware of the fact that time is drawing near for us to congregate at our annual reunion in Chicago, Ill. LETS TRY AND HAVE A LARGE NUMBER PRESENT. The more we have present, the better time we will have, as you all know. I will start taking registration fees anytime you folks want to send them in.

Any of you good people who know the addresses of any former member of the outfit, I would appreciate your sending them to me, so I can compare them with the addresses I have. There are still a lot of addresses I do not have, and some I do have are incorrect, due to the fact that the fellows move around and do not send me their change of address.

DON'T FORGET: START NOW TO MAKE YOU PLANS TO ATTEND THIS YEARS REUNION TO BE HELD IN CHICAGO, ILL. ON JULY 21st and 22nd.

Very sincerely yours,

George M. Oakley

George M. Oakley
1110 1/2 W. Chapel Hill Street
Durham, N. C.

The design of the Crest is based upon the military service of the 238th Engineer Combat Battalion. The colors are red and white, those of the Corps of Engineers. The principal theme shows a streak of lightning breaking a chain, symbolizing the Combat engineer's fast work to smash the Nazi chain of Oppression. A small shovel on a Fleur De Lys represents engineering work the unit did in France when it landed D-Day, 6 June 1944. In the other quadrant a pick superimposed on a triangle signifies engineer contribution to armored force, as the unit was in direct support of the Second Armored Division during the Marigny-St. Gilles breakthrough (26 July 44 to 31 July 44).



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE INSTITUTE OF HERALDRY, UNITED STATES ARMY
CAMERON STATION, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22304-5050

August 13, 1986

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Office of the Director

Mr. Martin F. Massoglia
1314 LeClair
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Mr. Massoglia:

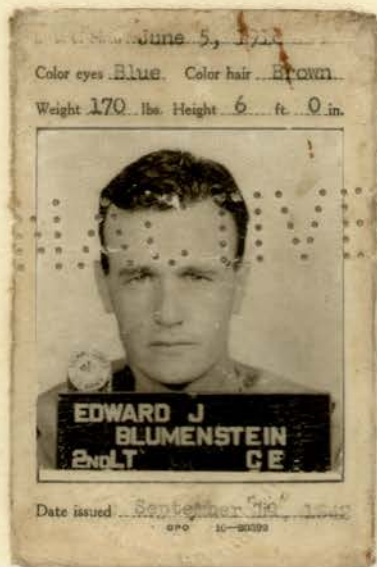
This letter is to thank you for forwarding a copy of the history of the 238th Engineer Combat Battalion to this Institute via Mrs. Richey.

We appreciate your spending the time to do this. The history will be a welcome addition to the library.

Sincerely,

Gerald T. Luchino
for Gerald T. Luchino
Colonel, GS
Director

EDWARD J. BLUMENSTEIN



Officer's Identification card



Lt. Blumenstein and friends,
Fort Bragg, N. C.



Ed Blumenstein,
High School English Teacher
1958



Major Blumenstein
Fort Gulick, C. Z.
1955, taught combat engineering
to Latin Americans.



Elkins, W. Virginia
September, 1943



Korea or Africa





Lt. Park, Captain Ed Blumenstein



First Platoon, Company B



Second Platoon, Company B



Front row, left to right,
Smith, Blumenstein, Dawley, Browne, Wong,
Second row,
McArthur, Geffken, James, Knapp, Wilson, Worth
Third row,
St. John, Cloberidge, Chalfont.



Third Platoon, Company B

**238TH
ENGINEER
COMBAT
BATTALION**



WORLD WAR II HISTORY



COMPANY A

FRONT ROW: Lt. Ernest C. James, Berkeley, Calif.; Cpl. Carlyle E. Wilkerson, Staunton, Va.; Pfc. Jesse L. Kelly, Slippery Rock, Pa.; Pfc. Amello A. Fiore, Boston, Mass.; Pfc. Paul Vitale, Boston, Mass.; T/5 Haywood L. Simpson, Reidsville, N.C.; S/Sgt. Marion P. Davis, Sheffield, Ala.
 SECOND ROW: Pfc. Alexander Guido, Philadelphia, Pa.; Pfc. Harold W. Purgason, Ropville, Ga.; Sgt. Joseph E. Creel, Egan, Ga.; Pfc. John R. Herning, Hazel, Ky.; Pvt. William M. Waggoner, Naogdoches, Tex.; Pfc. Clark D. Maxey, Elk City, Okla.
 THIRD ROW: Pvt. Gillis P. Gaudet, Raceland, La.; Pfc. Myron A. Palmateer, Fort Johnson, N.Y.; Pfc. Gerald R. Minion, Yakima, Wash.; T/4 Jackson W. Rollins, Charlotte, N.C.; T/5 Edgar T. Ward, Kannapolis, N.C.; Pvt. James W. Jacobson, Riverside, Calif.
 FOURTH ROW: Pfc. Edward F. Jelinski, Nanticoke, Pa.; Pfc. George R. Jones, Richmond, Ky.; Pfc. Amburst W. Reid, Calvert, Ala.; Pfc. Henry C. Attaway, Hollywood, Fla.; T/5 Everett C. Atkins, Binger, Okla.; Pfc. John R. Leone, Jeffersonville, Ind.; Pfc. Charles C. Morgan, Nashville, Tenn.; Pfc. Walter S. Pickarz, Chicago, Ill.; Pfc. Charlie M. Calvert, Staunton, Va.; Pfc. Richard L. Griffin, Jeannette, Pa.
 FIFTH ROW: T/4 Telford N. Fink, Tyrone, Pa.; T/5 Johnny O. Bryant, Milan, Tenn.; Sgt. William C. Malugen, Nashville, Tenn.; Pfc. Roy D. McGinnis, Huntingdon, Tenn.; Pfc. Elijah J. Robinson, Kershaw, S.C.; Pfc. James H. Brown, Morgan, Ga.; Pvt. James H. Self, Rome, Ga.; T/5 Lawrence E. Gelnett, Ebsenburg, Pa.; T/5 William H. Tilley, Durham, N.C.; Pfc. Herman L. Blevins, Richmond, Va.



THE "V-13" SPECIAL. This explosive laden trolley car received wide publicity in the United States as a "secret weapon". Actually it did very little damage

COMPANY A



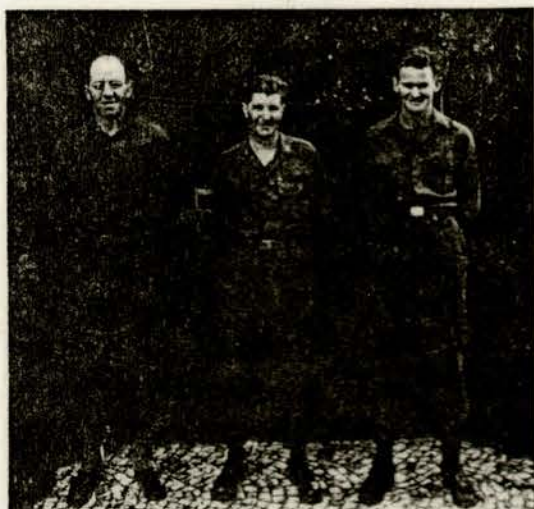
FRONT ROW: Lt. Henry D. Knapp, Buchanan, Mich.; Cpl. Wiley V. Owens, Junction City, Ark.; Pfc. Harold W. Reimer, Collinsville, Ill.; Pfc. Herbert L. Flippen, Tobaccoville, Va.; Pfc. William J. D'Alonzo, Philadelphia, Pa.; Pfc. Douglas H. Totter, Martinsville, N.J.; Pvt. Refugio H. Castillo, San Antonio, Tex.; Pvt. Paul P. Durrett, Houston, Tex.; Pvt. Albert I. Dickey, Savannah, Ga.; S/Sgt. L. E. Black, Jonesboro, La.
 SECOND ROW: Cpl. Warren C. Bryan, Marshall, N.C.; Pfc. Pete E. Cassidy, Ponce De Leon, Fla.; Sgt. George J. Gutowski, Nanticoke, Pa.; Pfc. Santana R. Morales, Jr., Lawton, Okla.; Pvt. Willard E. Abbott, Conneaut, Ohio; Pfc. Mike Salata, Conemaugh, Pa.; Pvt. Thomas A. Dunahoo, Rutherford, Tenn.; Pfc. Stanley L. Richards, Tullahoma, Tenn.; Pfc. Allen M. Combs, Oak Groves, Va.; T/5 Santiago N. Saavedra, Albuquerque, N.M.; Pfc. Gordie D. Hall, Apalachicola, Fla.
 THIRD ROW: Sgt. Ralph L. Weisen, Sharon, Pa.; T/5 Walter A. Van Horn, Omaha, Nebr.; Sgt. Glenn R. Campbell, Staunton, Va.; T/5 Gordon T. Adams, Cherryvale, Kans.; T/4 Joseph Spadafore, Charleroi, Pa.; Cpl. Robert J. Materkowski, Benwood, W. Va.; Pvt. Richard B. Addison, Moreland, Ga.
 FOURTH ROW: Pvt. Emery J. Thibodeaux, Church Point, La.; T/5 William F. Davidson, Byron, Ga.; Pfc. Daniel Rivera, Costello, N.M.; Pfc. George W. Finney, Decherd, Tenn.; Pvt. Arthur R. Hurley, Chicago, Ill.; Pfc. Roy D. Luster, Guthrie, Okla.; T/5 William E. Howell, Pikeville, N.C.; Pvt. Adolph Kaufman, Monticello, N. Y.; T/5 Arthur C. Lott, Santa Rosa, N. M.; Pvt. James F. Redford, Mobile, Ala.; Pvt. Jerome F. Queen, Maiden, N.C.

COMPANY A

FRONT ROW: Lt. Philip A. Geffken, Deep River, Conn.; Pfc. Arthur O. Oatman, Marfa, Tex.; Cpl. Claude O. Childers, Oneco, Fla.; Cpl. Carl M. Gafford, Fort Myers, Fla.; Pfc. Frank R. Thompson, River, Va.; S/Sgt. Raymond E. Hagele, Darby, Pa.
 SECOND ROW: Sgt. Travis B. Culpepper, Marquez, Tex.; Pfc. Mike A. Regina, Claridge, Pa.; Pfc. Raymond J. Shanholts, Hagerstown, Md.; Cpl. John Kischler, Erie, Pa.; Pvt. James H. Norrington, Los Angeles, Calif.; Cpl. Woodrow W. Plexica, Union, S.C.; Cpl. Clarence E. Span-tiko, Evanston, Ill.
 THIRD ROW: Sgt. Charles S. Jones, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; T/5 Willie F. Wheeler, Bloomington Springs, Tenn.; Pfc. Swan E. Carlson, Jamestown, N. Y.; Pfc. Albert G. Kohan, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Pvt. Joseph Catanzaro, Ambler, Pa.; Pfc. Joseph A. Kosson, Chicago, Ill.; Pfc. Ramon R. Duran, Las Cruces, N.M.; Pfc. William H. Godfrey, Dalton, Ga.; Pfc. Hubert H. Collins, Hendersonville, N.C.; Pvt. Trinidad F. Vielma, Mogolian, N.M.; Pfc. Winston J. Richard, Elton, La.; Pfc. Ezra E. C. Jordan, Shreveport, La.; Cpl. Olven E. Kelly, Arab, Ala.
 FOURTH ROW: Pfc. Thomas M. Quintero, Sinton, Tex.; Pfc. Lee A. Shavers, Lewisburg, Tenn.; Pvt. George Wolfen-barger, Baltimore, Md.; Pfc. Raymond C. Shepherd, Berry-ville, Va.; Pfc. Logan C. A. Jackson, Newbern, Tenn.; Pfc. Arturo Carmona, Detroit, Mich.; Pvt. Sabooy Michaelian, Springfield, Mass.
 FIFTH ROW: Sgt. Frank L. Swanner, Decatur, Ala.; Cpl. Thomas F. Dickens, Union City, Tenn.; Sgt. Tyre L. Nicholson, China Grove, N.C.; Sgt. Jack Harrison, Mt. Pleasant, Tex.; Pvt. J. C. Harrell, Vicksburg, Miss.; Cpl. John Martin, Philadelphia, Pa.; Pfc. Garvin L. Sawyers, Reidsville, N.C.; Cpl. John W. Dorsey, Caddo, Okla.



H & S



Sgt. Harold B. Gordon, Bartlesville, Okla.; Capt. George W. Cline, Columbia, S.C.; Pfc. Henry D. Parks, Bretton Woods, N. H.

H & S



FIRST ROW: S/Sgt. Russell Paulk, New Port Richey, Fla.; Pfc. John C. Anderson, Chicago, Ill.; Pvt. Pete C. Marchetti, Lexington, Mo.; Pfc. Lowell D. Prater, Monument, N.M.; T/5 Albert C. Molica, New York, N.Y.; T/5 Edward Q. Campbell, Jay, Fla.; T/5 John Buynak, Farrell, Pa.; T/Sgt. William H. Carmine, Fort Myers, Fla.
 SECOND ROW: Pfc. Philip P. Pfeffer, New Orleans, La.; T/5 Carl R. Grause, Randleman, N.C.; Pvt. Gebbart Provinsky, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Pfc. Earl E. Bailey, Jersey Shore, Pa.; T/5 Percy A. Simmons, Okeechobee, Fla.; Pfc. Devon Post, Salt Lake City, Utah; T/5 Clarence R. Vestal, Winston Salem, N.C.; T/Sgt. John W. McIntyre, Hendersonville, N.C.; T/5 Charles Elliott, Guthrie, Okla.; T/4 Robert E. Bradley, Nashville, Tenn.
 THIRD ROW: T/5 Edward G. Brel, Erie, Pa.; Pfc. Percy E. Nash, White Bluff, Tenn.; Pvt. Lewis C. Marden, San Mateo, Fla.; Pfc. George B. McLean, Live Oak, Fla.; Capt. William S. Sweitzer, Chicago, Ill.; WOJG Thomas T. Jackson, Norristown, Pa.; Pfc. Maylin C. Parslow, Huntsville, Ala.; T/5 Joseph L. West, Benson, N.C.; T/5 Jack D. Calhoun, Miami, Fla.; Pvt. John Roth, Bellwood, Pa.

H & S



FRONT ROW: Pfc. Donald J. Hover, Albany, N.Y.; Pvt. Charlie Lott, Douthan, Ala.; T/5 Joseph Renda, Pittsburgh, Pa.; T/4 Raymer L. Pry, Pittsburgh, Pa.
 SECOND ROW: Pfc. Julius Gorofsky, Brooklyn, N.Y.; T/4 Willard P. Greenawald, Allentown, Pa.; T/Sgt. Wendell E. Dunkin, Vine-mont, Ala.; T/4 Carl E. Farmer, Kansas City, Mo.
 THIRD ROW: Pvt. Henry A. Tedrick, Philadelphia, Pa.; Pfc. Wil-liam R. Cronoque, New Haven, Conn.; T/5 Raymond Mittenthal, Baltimore, Md.; T/4 John L. Mathis, Winston Salem, N.C.; Pfc. Max Oravec, Vintondale, Pa.

H & S



FRONT ROW: T/5 Lawrence E. Beaty, Tampa, Fla.; S/Sgt. Edward E. Dil-lon, Norfolk, Va.; Capt. Thomas C. Browne, Lakin, Kans.; 1st Sgt. Char-les J. Casazza, Miami, Fla.; S/Sgt. Wilson F. Stasney, Houston, Tex.
 SECOND ROW: T/4 Charles R. Trim, Davenport, Fla.; T/4 James E. Mc-Bride, Chipley, Fla.; Pfc. William D. Morrison, Darlington, Fla.; Pfc. Sanford B. Poston, Quincy, Fla.; T/5 Linton L. Smith, Yulee, Fla.; "Ivan" (The Russian).
 THIRD ROW: Pfc. John J. Stein, New York, N.Y.; Pfc. Andy G. Bailey, Cedartown, Ga.; Pvt. William R. Mobley, Quincy, Fla.; Pvt. Frank R. Allen, Covington, Ga.

COMPANY A



FRONT ROW: Sgt. Charles L. Burkett, Jr., Salisbury, N.C.; T/5 David L. Berryman, Williamsville, N.Y.; T/5 Robert H. Cole, Rutherfordton, N.C.; Pfc. Odas H. Wicks, Lawton, Okla.; Pfc. Robert L. Bush, Dothan, Ala.; T/4 George W. Harris, Concord, N.H.; S/Sgt. Norman R. Roberts, Palmetto, Fla.; Pfc. Frank Davis, Blackshear, Ga.; 1st Sgt. Frank R. Frech, Philadelphia, Pa.
 SECOND ROW: T/4 Earl B. Bonds, Martin, Tenn.; T/5 Ney W. Starks, Anarene, Tex.; Pfc. Paul W. Campbell, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; T/5 Jack Potter, Wesleyville, Pa.; T/4 Seferino H. Gomez, Ballinger, Tex.; Pfc. Alvin H. Geary, Palmer, Tenn.; Pfc. Ruth J. Rimmer, Tilghman, Md.; T/4 William G. Nelson, Lenois City, Tenn.; T/5 Charles H. Sheridan, Cambridge, Md.; T/5 Thomas H. Ponder, Jr., Greer, S. C.; T/5 Robert C. Kreager, Cromwell, Ind.
 THIRD ROW: Capt. Leo J. Smith, Vallejo, Calif.; S/Sgt. Paul F. Hedrick, Beech Grove, Ind.; Pfc. Loyal Walker, Tate, Ga.; T/5 Marvin L. Grindle, Guthrie, Okla.; Pfc. Carroll O. Pickins, Rutland, Ohio; Pfc. Lauris P. Nichols, Daytona Beach, Fla.; T/4 Edward Mohn, Dear-born, Mich.; T/5 Harry Boswell, Castlewood, S.D.; T/5 John B. Snell-grove, State Line, Miss.; S/Sgt. Thomas G. Newton, Canadian, Tex.; T/4 Raymond M. Stanford, Sulligent, Ala.; Lt. Loy A. Trowell, Oliver, Ga.

H & S



FRONT ROW: T/Sgt. John F. Bauer, Mannville, Fla.; Pfc. Henry D. Parks, Bretton Woods, N.H.; T/4 Harold B. Gordon, Bartlesville, Okla.; T/5 Paul Kish, Bridgeport, Conn.; M/Sgt. Kenneth G. Stonehouse, Breckenridge, Texas
SECOND ROW: Pfc. Royce E. Walker, Jacksonville, Fla.; T/4 Steve Nogra, Bentleyville, Pa.; Major William N. Poe, Greenville, S.C.; 1st. Lt. Stanley Bass, New York, N.Y.; Pfc. Curtis Lowery, Jay, Fla.; Sgt. Edward G. Baisch, Afftan, Mo.

COMPANY B



1st Lt. Walton L. Shepherd, Wichita, Kans.; Pfc. Franklin H. Bryant, Phoenix, Arizona.

H & S



1st Lt. William F. Rule, Elyria, Ohio; M/Sgt. Andrew J. Herkalo, Freeland, Pa., and Plattsburg, N. Y.

H & S

FRONT ROW: T/4 Stanley Nadler, Miami Beach, Fla.; Capt. Arvo J. Ryoti, Owen, Wis.; 1st Lt. Lawrence Cane, New York, N.Y.; Pfc. Erich Hoffman, Brookline, Mass.
SECOND ROW: Pvt. Charles F. Lauper, Houston, Texas; M/Sgt. Russell J. Belanger, Duluth, Minn.; T/5 Harold D. Huffman, Albuquerque, N. M.



H & S

FRONT ROW: T/5 Charles E. Elliott, Guthrie, Okla.; T/5 Edward Q. Campbell, Jay, Fla.; Pfc. Eugene Brito, Tampa, Fla.; S/Sgt. Chester J. Tyson, St. Cloud, Fla.; Pfc. Pete C. Marchetti, Lexington, Mo.; T/5 Tommy Witten, Raceland, Ky.; T/5 Percy A. Simmons, Okeechobee, Fla.
 SECOND ROW: T/5 Alfred Y. Lux, Miami Beach, Fla.; Pvt. John Roth, Bellwood, Pa.; T/5 Jack D. Calhoun, Miami, Fla.; Pfc. Lannis Bland, Jacksonville, Fla.; Pfc. Maylin C. Parslow, Huntsville, Ala.; Pfc. Curtis Lowery, Jay, Fla.; T/4 Harold B. Gordon, Bartlesville, Okla.; Pfc. Andrew M. Knight, Bushnell, Fla.
 THIRD ROW: Pfc. Thomas A. Flake, Quincy, Fla.; Pfc. Lowell D. Prater, Monument, N.M.; Pvt. Franklin J. Bowman, Napa, Calif.; Pfc. Royce C. Walker, Jacksonville, Fla.; Pfc. Arthur D. Akers, Indianapolis, Ind.; Pfc. Robert D. Anthony, Tampa, Fla.; T/5 Alfred W. Yankow, Tampa, Fla.; Pvt. Otto E. Krampetz, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Pfc. William D. Morrison, Darlington, Fla.
 FOURTH ROW: Pvt. Carter A. Scott, Pulaski, Penna.



C COMPANY



FRONT ROW: Lt. Dudley A. Clobridge, Council Bluffs, Iowa; S/Sgt. William G. Jameson, Karns City, Pa.; Sgt. William H. Mickler, Lee, Fla.; Pfc. Raymond Mull, Selingsgrove, Pa.; Pvt. William G. McKennon, Paris, Tenn.; T/4 Richard L. Griffin, Jacksonville, Fla.; T/5 John A. Reed, New Castle, Del.; Cpl. Raymond H. Pinson, Madison, Fla.; Pfc. William J. Fuller, Portage, Wis.
 SECOND ROW: Pvt. Louie W. Ryder, Warmsprings, Va.; Pfc. Robert E. Conry, Ainsworth, Iowa; Pvt. Percy R. Green, Starke, Fla.; Pfc. James L. Eslinger, Owassa, Okla.; Pfc. Bob H. Smith, Gunterville, Ala.; Pfc. J. A. Newbill, Huntingdon, Tenn.; Pfc. Ralph C. Thursby, Quincy, Fla.; Pfc. Roland G. Kamoda, Charleroi, Pa.; Pfc. William H. Wells, Marlow, Okla.; T/5 Daniel W. Whitley, Charlotte, N.C.; Pfc. Harold Alexanderson, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Pfc. Albert D. Gouldner, Frackville, Pa.; Pfc. Joe E. Barrett, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

THIRD ROW: Pfc. James M. May, Portson, Ga.; T/5 James E. Arrendale, Marble Hill, Ga.; Pfc. Ralph E. Marshall, Newton Centre, Mass.; Pfc. Frank J. Mascari, Baltimore, Md.; Pfc. Robert H. Preston, Urichsville, Ohio; Pfc. Altan C. Johnson, Crawford, Ga.; T/5 William H. L. Scott, Milan, Tenn.; Pfc. Ervin M. Bradford, Ringling, Okla.
 FOURTH ROW: Cpl. Otto F. Harnening, Chicago, Ill.; Sgt. Lloyd L. Bowser, Smithsburg, Md.; T/5 Norman B. Smith, Charleroi, Pa.; Pfc. Alexander Joziatis, Nashua, N.H.; T/5 Ben F. Propst, Milan, Tenn.; Pfc. Russell L. Miller, Elkhart, Ind.; Sgt. Robert D. Rogers, Pittsburg, Kans.; Pvt. Joseph Abranovich, Worthington, Pa.; Pfc. Ernest C. Weeks, Palmetto, Fla.; Pvt. Floyd A. Whitley, Middlesex, N.C.; Pvt. Russell V. Pruitt, Memphis, Tenn.; Pfc. Joseph G. LeBlanc, St. Martinsville, Fla.; Cpl. Joseph J. Kotelnicki, Nanty Glo, Pa.; T/4 James C. Prady, Sylva, N.C.

COMPANY B



FRONT ROW: Sgt. Cleatus C. Carter, Bay Harbor, Fla.; Pfc. Leo Kapec, Farrell, Pa.; Lt. Edgar G. Wilson, Spartanburg, S. C.; Sgt. Peter W. Pekera, Conemaugh, Pa.; Cpl. Robert B. Reed, Conemaugh, Pa.; Cpl. Willard E. Lawson, Standardville, Va.; S/Sgt. Enos L. Armstrong, Seneca, Mo.
 SECOND ROW: Pfc. Lewis M. Harter, Colon, Mich.; Pfc. Jay B. Hoffman, Kansas City, Mo.; Pfc. Lannie M. Bolt, Kimball, Va.; Pfc. Joseph H. Weiner, Malden, Mass.; Pvt. Allan E. Reeser, Norman, Okla.; Pfc. Morris Levy, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Cpl. Lloyd E. Woodall, Dahlgren, Ga.; Sgt. Ronald F. Callen, Nanty Glo, Pa.
 THIRD ROW: Pfc. William E. Davidson, Clewiston, Fla.; Pfc. Edward J. Purlong, Philadelphia, Pa.; Pfc. Frank J. Carroll, Salem, Va.; Pfc. Raymond H. Smelser, Celina, Ohio; Pfc. James F. Druck, Mt. Wolf, Pa.; Pfc. Ralph W. Hollinger, Dover, Pa.

Cpl. Hugh R. Crow, Charleroi, Pa.; Cpl. Albert O. Anderson, Kannapolis, N.C.; Cpl. William E. Bjorn, Grant, Mont.
 FOURTH ROW: Pfc. Asbury W. Kinney, Whiteville, Tenn.; Pfc. Joseph J. Balko, Chicago, Ill.; Pfc. George R. Gossard, Conemaugh, Pa.; Pfc. Ben McCoulough, Wartrace, Tenn.; Cpl. Omer W. Roll, English, Ind.; Pvt. Frank H. Cameron, Tekamah, Neb.; Pvt. Paul G. Lloyd, Plant City, Fla.; Cpl. Edgar O. Holder, Humboldt, Tenn.
 FIFTH ROW: Cpl. Colon L. McNeill, Steeds, N.C.; Pfc. Gilbert G. Walker, Bunnell, Fla.; Pvt. James R. Booze, Tobaccoville, N.C.; Pvt. Ivan S. Hazelwood, Martin, Tenn.; Cpl. Arthur F. Carlward, Vero Beach, Fla.; Pvt. Burt Miller, Kannapolis, N. C.; Pvt. Joe P. Harmon, Jr., Greenville, Miss.; Pvt. William E. Roberson, Bluff City, Tenn.; T/5 Alton R. Ray, Coleman, Ga.; S/Sgt. Charles L. Secord, Battle Creek, Mich.

THE ROER RIVER CROSSING. Will the Roaring Roer ever be forgotten?? This bridge, constructed by Co. "B", required 36 hours of freezing, wet hell to construct. Co. "C" put their bridge in to the right of this photo and Co. "A" to the left



COMPANY B



ALLES KAPUT !! This Panther tank is one of five destroyed by a 238th mine field near Manhay, Belgium during the HWLL OF THE BULGE

FRONT ROW: S/Sgt. Frederick M. LeFevre, Shreveport, La.; Pfc. William F. Jones, Richland, Ga.; Pfc. Joseph H. Conley, Rutherfordton, N. C.; S/Sgt. Harry L. Smith, Carnegie, Okla.; Lt. Thomas C. Griffiths, Dickson, Pa.; Capt. Edward J. Blumenstein, Westville, N.J.; 1st Sgt. Arthur A. Strauch, Minneapolis, Minn.; Cpl. James M. Tannehill, Shreveport, La.; Pfc. William H. Maupin, McKenzie, Tenn.; Sgt. Warren P. Cole, Albany, Ky.
SECOND ROW: Pvt. Murrell E. Harris, Silvis, Ill.; Pvt. Grover Donagricha, Baton Rouge, La.; Pfc. Rayford G. Holt, Newberry, Fla.; Pfc. Franklin H. Bryant, Phoenix, Ariz.; Pfc. William H. Cronoque, New Haven, Conn.; Cpl. Charles G. Fromm, Sharpsville, Pa.; Pfc. Elwood L. Forry, Sunbury, Pa.; Sgt. Alex D. Broll, Yorktown, Tex.; Sgt. Clarence O. Rosser, Spring Garden, Ala.; T/4 Roy H. Westberry, Daytona Beach, Fla.; Pfc. Nello Maniccia, Belsano, Pa.
THIRD ROW: S/Sgt. Vernon G. Martin, Winston Salem, N. C.; Pfc. William W. Jones, Staunton, Va.; Cpl. Bruce E. Brown, Knoxville, Tenn.; Cpl. Teamon E. McCulley, Montevallo, Ala.; Pvt. Russel F. Sirmons, St. Petersburg, Fla.; Cpl. Magron G. Hollinger, Millport, Ala.; Cpl. Gaetano D. Fiumara, Cambridge, Mass.; Pfc. Edwin Hardt, Richmond Heights, Mo.; Pfc. Harold S. Pendley, Fairmount, Ga.; Sgt. Thomas M. Crysel, Deridder, La.; Cpl. Elmo H. Powell, Pothokee, Fla.; Cpl. Thomas V. Noah, Pierce, Fla.; Cpl. Anthony J. Kapella, Conneaut, Ohio.

FRONT ROW: Sgt. George K. Waits, Minor Hill, Tenn.; Sgt. Donald W. Ray, Edmond, Okla.; Lt. George A. Worth, Valdosta, Ga.; S/Sgt. John J. Kochan, Nanticoke, Pa.; Sgt. Hyland T. Wells, Danville, Va.; Sgt. Jessie R. Winkles, Sharpsburg, Ga.
SECOND ROW: Cpl. Maxwell A. Rush, Bradley Beach, N. J.; Cpl. Ferlin H. Moore, Indian Valley, Va.; Pfc. Alexander Buckus, Mineral Point, Pa.; Cpl. James J. Clifford, Johnson City, N. Y.; Sgt. Mitchell Gunter, Point Peter, Ga.; Pfc. Walter T. Smith, Reidsville, N. C.; Pfc. Daniel T. Ardis, Atmore, Ala.
THIRD ROW: Pfc. Harry W. Haver, Cleveland, Ohio; Cpl. Royce C. Maxwell, Winston Salem, N. C.; Pfc. Thomas E. Owens, Porterdale, Ga.; Pfc. Devron G. Jones, Martin, Tenn.; Pfc. Willie H. McGraw, Concord, N. C.; Pfc. Jimmie J. Wallace, Sparta, Tenn.; Pfc. Evelyn B. White, Salem, Va.; Pfc. Edward Long, Irons, Mich.
FOURTH ROW: Pvt. Nesbit C. Wilson, Spencer, N. C.; Pfc. Harlan E. King, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Pfc. Jewel D. Minix, Prestonburg, Ky.; Cpl. William E. Byrd, McMinnville, Tenn.; Pfc. Michael D. Pistaki, Portland, Me.; Pfc. Edward A. Beatty, Jr., Baltimore, Md.; Pfc. Robert W. Clifton, Stoneville, N.C.; Pfc. George S. Berkner, Baden, Pa.; Cpl. Patrick H. Coleman, Fort Myers, Fla.
FIFTH ROW: Pfc. Michael M. Esler, Joliet, Ill.; Pvt. Clarence A. Vadino, Verga, N. J.; Pfc. Chester Stringfellow, Holdenville, Okla.; Cpl. Dallas E. Carlton, Unionville, Tenn.; Pvt. Ralph C. Throckmorton, Salem, N. C.; Pvt. William B. Loper, Tampa, Fla.; Cpl. George T. Long, Sharon, Pa.; Pfc. Thomas J. Richardson, Lonaconing, Md.; Pfc. Oscar B. Bertilson, Bridgeport, Conn.



C COMPANY



FRONT ROW: Lt. Stuart C. McArthur, Weidman, Mich.; Sgt. William L. Anderson, Norfolk, Va.; Pfc. Willie M. Brewington, Morriston, Fla.; Pfc. James G. Kaczorowski, Baltimore, Md.; Pfc. Jessie Lyerly, Blytheville, Ark.; Pfc. Edward Boyd, Scottsboro, Ala.; Cpl. John C. Schmidt, Larenton, Pa.; Pfc. Joseph J. Smolkowicz, Indian Orchard, Mass.
SECOND ROW: T/5 Joseph A. Alleman, Napoleonville, La.; Pvt. Jorma J. Huhtanaki, Marlboro, Mass.; Pvt. Henry J. Lawson, Tracy City, Tenn.; T/4 Claude H. Cowen, Coyle, Okla.; Pvt. Owen A. Harrison, Mt. Holly, N.C.; Pfc. Theodore R. Fanning, Corveta, Okla.; Pfc. Aubrey L. Sullivan, Haworth, Okla.; Pvt. Ross Franks, Russellville, Ala.; Pvt. Edgar J. Morris, Florence, S.C.; T/5 Harvey A. Collins, Panama City, Fla.; T/5 Gordon T. Bell, Day, Fla.; Pfc. Benjamin S. Quintero, Los Angeles, Calif.; S/Sgt. Warren B. Godwin, Hastings, Fla.

THIRD ROW: Sgt. Maurice E. Johnson, Tampa, Fla.; Pfc. Walter W. Ingram, Greensboro, N.C.; Pvt. Carnice S. Ivey, Barnesville, Ga.; Pfc. Clarence E. Violet, Rohrerstown, Md.; Pfc. Melvin J. Osburn, Depeu, Okla.; Pfc. Roy Clift, Scottsboro, Ala.; T/5 Ray W. Transau, Winston Salem, N.C.; Pfc. Maurice J. Con-siglio, Worcester, Mass.; Pfc. Wesley W. Butterworth, Roanoke, Va.; T/5 Anthony J. Matusik, Erie, Pa.
FOURTH ROW: Sgt. John F. Brice, Chicago, Ill.; Cpl. William F. Gruller, Manty Glo, Pa.; Pvt. Wilson R. McMullen, Chester, Pa.; T/5 Theodore J. Denley, Greenwood, Miss.; Pfc. Nick Lalac, Johnstown, Pa.; Pfc. Jessie R. Thomas, Jacksonville, Fla.; T/5 Herbert G. Ledford, Ravenscroft, Tenn.; Pvt. Lawrence P. Cox, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Pvt. Patrick J. Warren, West New York, N.J.; Pfc. Delbert C. Robinson, Guthrie, Okla.; Pfc. Nesbitt C. Huntsinger, Jacksonville, Fla.; Pfc. Harry W. Grube, Manoilville, Long Island, N.Y.

C COMPANY



FRONT ROW: T/5 James C. Layfield, Salisbury, Md.; Sgt. Norman V. Semrau, Erie, Pa.; T/5 Lawrence J. Reed, Eunice, La.; Capt. John B. Wong, Oakland, Calif.; Lt. Nicholas A. Caputo, Jersey City, N. J.; T/5 Benny C. Panney, Norfolk, Va.; T/5 George L. Simpson, Clifton Forge, Va.; Pfc. James Cambra, Fall River, Mass.; T/5 Lee R. Edmunston, Gleason, Tenn.
SECOND ROW: T/5 Raymond C. Miller, Butler, Pa.; Cpl. Harold Asnin, Bronx, N.Y.; S/Sgt. Frank E. Pruitt, Shreveport, La.; T/4 Charles E. O'Steen, Jacksonville, Fla.; T/5 Ruble Vineyard, Maryville, Tenn.; Pfc. Herman G. Essman, Wellington, Tex.; Pvt. John N. Turner, Sylvia, Tenn.
THIRD ROW: 1st Sgt. Harry W. McKee, Lewistown, Pa.; T/5 Arthur D. Weeks, Lake Worth, Fla.; Pfc. Charles S. Adams, Shelbyville, Tenn.; T/5 James P. Miller, Roscoe, Pa.; T/5 Claude V. Cranford, Troy, Tenn.; T/4 John W. Martin, Idabel, Okla.; S/Sgt. William C. Collier, Shreveport, La.
FOURTH ROW: T/4 Roy F. Chatham, Skyland, N.C.; Cpl. Chester W. Miller, Conemaugh, Pa.; S/Sgt. Mark S. Carter, Frankfort, Ky.; T/4 Casimer D. Rohon, Nanticoke, Pa.; T/5 Ray H. Townsley, Drumright, Okla.; Pfc. Clement Chickaway, Philadelphia, Pa.; T/4 Edward C. Green, Wanchese, N.C.

C COMPANY

FRONT ROW: Sgt. Thaddeus J. Swigonski, Nanticoke, Pa.; Sgt. Bowen B. Qualls, Jasper, Ga.; Pfc. Carl E. Rivers, Hampton, Ga.; T/5 William A. Kirby, Sparta, Mo.; Pfc. Joseph C. Giebel, Butler, Pa.; Lt. George W. Chalfont, Maywood, Ill.
 SECOND ROW: S/Sgt. Glenn R. Faus, Hughesville, Pa.; T/4 Noel E. Wentworth, Union City, Tenn.; Pfc. Kelly B. Combs, Abshers, N.C.; Pvt. Carl E. Harper, Omaha, Texas; Pfc. John T. Gardner, Hillsville, Va.; Cpl. Albert C. Herman, Jr., Pelham, N.Y.; Pvt. Henry F. Prichard, Chattanooga, Tenn.
 THIRD ROW: T/5 Burley A. Sullivan, Arkinda, Ark.; T/5 Leonard A. Campbell, El Paso, Texas; Pfc. Louis Lasorsa, New York, N.Y.; Pfc. Domenic M. Bosso, East Boston, Mass.; Pvt. Bruno Held, Bridgeport, Conn.; Pfc. Grover H. Loyd, Guthrie, Okla.; Cpl. James D. Spoons, Mt. Vernon, Ga.
 FOURTH ROW: Pfc. George F. Jerousek, Cicero, Ill.; Cpl. Joe R. Walker, Russellville, Ky.; Sgt. Charles D. Underwood, Nashville, Tenn.; Pfc. Leonard D. Sanders, Westport, Tenn.; Pvt. Frank L. Lewis, Stanley, N.C.; Pfc. Harold L. Johnson, Wood River, Nebr.; Pvt. Wilmer W. Beck, Arnold, Pa.; Pfc. Willie E. Sasser, Kellyton, Ala.; Pfc. James L. Howell, Eclectic, Ala.
 FIFTH ROW: Pfc. Eilert Pederson, Brooklyn, N.Y.; T/5 Gilbert Sutton, Reidsville, N.C.; T/5 George W. Hedrick, Arcadia, Fla.; Pfc. James R. Foust, Paris, Tenn.; Cpl. Joseph E. Santus, East Butler, Pa.; Pfc. Alejo Barajas, El Paso, Tex.; Pvt. O. B. Bean, Jasper, Tex.; Pfc. Roger A. Plante, Constable, N. Y.



COMPANY B

FRONT ROW: Pfc. Francis P. Hildebrand, Philadelphia, Pa.; Pfc. George M. Harris, Dedham, Mass.; S/Sgt. Forest C. Key, Evergreen, Ala.; Lt. James P. St. John, Valdosta, Ga.; Pfc. Paul J. Ando, Nettleton, Pa.; Cpl. Granville O. Layne, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; Cpl. Ralph E. Ingraham, Remlap, Ala.
 SECOND ROW: Pfc. Marvin V. Jones, Branford, Fla.; Sgt. Roy N. Williams, Gladiola, N.M.; Pfc. Elbert S. Davidson, Guthrie, Okla.; Pfc. Mike G. Hayduk, Charleroi, Pa.; Cpl. Lundy P. Eley, Shelbyville, Tenn.; Pfc. Kenneth C. Spain, Cedar Grove, Tenn.; Pfc. Alvin E. Moore, Macon, Ga.; Pfc. Thomas W. Sullivan, Mahanoy City, Pa.
 THIRD ROW: Sgt. Robert N. Pendaz, Tampa, Fla.; Pfc. James T. Pennington, Norfolk, Va.; Cpl. Jose Dozal, Juarez Chihuahua, Mexico; Pfc. James L. Champion, Fairmount, Ga.; Pfc. Stanley

P. Morris, Charleroi, Pa.; Pfc. David R. Jones, Grenshaw, Miss.; Pfc. Porfirio R. Vigil, Espanola, N.M.; Sgt. Andrew J. Lukasik, Jeanette, Pa.
 FOURTH ROW: Pfc. Juan J. Silva, Socorro, N.M.; Pfc. Roman Coronado, Fort Sumner, N.M.; Cpl. Louis G. Mastronardi, Chicago, Ill.; Pvt. Metro M. Brinzo, Nanty Glo, Pa.; Pfc. Benito Suazo, Tesuque Pueblo, N.M.; Pfc. Thomas Milazzo, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Pvt. Max A. Pitney, Portland, Ore.; Cpl. Roy D. Malone, Chattanooga, Tenn.
 FIFTH ROW: Sgt. Robert E. Wells, Danville, Va.; Cpl. Harvey M. Cron, Maud, Okla.; Pfc. Leonard R. Stout, Allentown, Pa.; Pfc. Ernest E. McCay, Stockdale, Pa.; T/5 George V. McClain, Hagerstown, Md.; Pvt. Chester J. Oleszewski, Bridgeton, N.J.; Pfc. Willis W. Scott, Deer Lodge, Tenn.; Cpl. Elisha J. Miller, Roanoke, Va.





FRONT ROW: T/5 Herbert G. Ledford, Ravenscroft, Tenn.; Capt. Sidney M. Allinson, New Haven, Conn.; Capt. Raymond D. Zimont, Constantine, Mich.; S/Sgt. Norbert F. Jurgens, Davenport, Iowa; T/5 William K. Ravis, Dresden, Tenn.
SECOND ROW: Cpl. Rufus B. Emerson, Nashville, Tenn.; Pfc. John R. Herning, Hazel, Ky.; Cpl. Alton R. Ray, Coleman, Ga.; T/4 Noel E. Wentworth, Union City, Tenn.; T/4 Walter E. Anderson, Nashville, Tenn.; Pfc. Frank R. Mitchell, Brainerd, Minn.; T/5 George V. McClain, Hagerstown, Ind.; Pfc. Joe B. Barrett, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; T/3 George Short, Fountain Head, Tenn.; T/5 Willie F. Wheeler, Bloomington Springs, Tenn.; Pfc. Frank J. Quatromani, New York, N.Y.

FRONT ROW: T/Sgt. Anthony P. Giusti, Nanticoke, Pa.; 1st Lt. John G. Draganza, Rochester, Pa.; S/Sgt. James H. Hendry, Tampa, Fla.;
SECOND ROW: Thomas A. Flake, Quincy, Fla.; Pfc. Andrew M. Knight, Bushnell, Fla.



FRONT ROW: Cpl. Edward Schabert, Jr., Tampa, Fla.; Cpl. Harold Freedman, Philadelphia, Pa.; T/4 Wilfred H. Glasgow, New York, N.Y.; T/4 Jesse E. Wolff, Sayreville, N.J.; Pvt. Lawrence M. Matheney, Jacksonville, Fla.
SECOND ROW: T/4 Clifford H. Jobe, Kansas City, Kans.; T/5 James R. Stevens, Detroit, Mich.; T/4 George F. Walsh, Kulpmont, Pa.; T/4 Amos D. Bridges, Catherine, Ala.; T/5 Robert L. Webb, Newbern, Tenn.; T/4 Douglas G. Frenya, Lowell, Mass.
THIRD ROW: Cpl. John J. Taylor, Jackson, Miss.; T/4 Drayton C. Robb, Ambler, Pa.; T/5 William C. Berrier, Jacksonville, Fla.; Pfc. Ottis P. Tucker, Louisville, Ky.; Pfc. Roland R. Dossey, Colorado City, Tex.; W/Sgt. R. B. Ryan, Hartselle, Ala.; 1st Lt. David H. Gruver, Augusta, Kans.



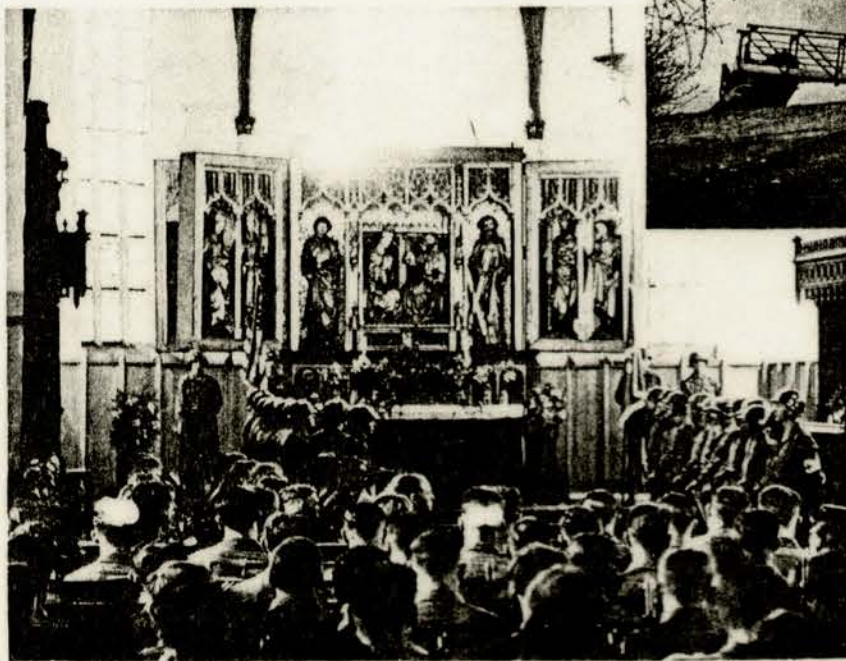
FRONT ROW: Cpl. James W. Cline, Pfafftown, N.C.; T/Sgt. Christopher L. Gambon, Boston, Mass.; T/5 Charles S. Tullis, Dunnellan, Fla.; Cpl. Bruce E. Brown, Knoxville, Tenn.
SECOND ROW: Pfc. Lester Bellone, Jeannette, Pa.; T/5 Earl L. McKinney, Dade City, Fla.; T/5 George M. Oakley, Durham, N.C.; Cpl. Chester W. Miller, Conemaugh, Pa.; T/4 Cyril F. Hoorman, Gretna, La.; Cpl. Harold Asnin, Bronx, N.Y.

FRONT ROW: Capt. William S. Sweitzer, Chicago, Ill.; Maj. Martin F. Massoglia, Laurium, Mich.; Lt. Col. Jay P. Dawley, Shaker Heights, Ohio; Maj. William M. Poe, Greenville, S.C.; Capt. Arvo J. Ryoti, Owen, Wis.
SECOND ROW: Capt. George W. Cline, Columbia, S.C.; Capt. Raymond D. Zimont, Constantine, Mich.; Lt. William F. Rule, Elyria, Ohio; Capt. Sydney M. Allinson, New Haven, Conn.; Lt. Lawrence Cane, New York, N.Y.
THIRD ROW: WOJG Thomas T. Jackson, Norristown, Pa.; Lt. Stanley Bass, Brooklyn, N.Y.



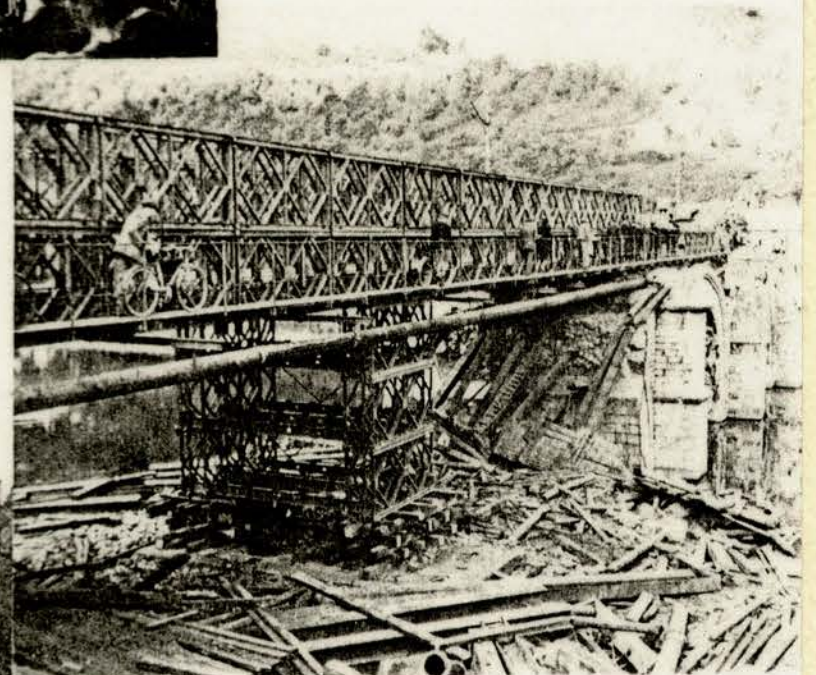
FRONT ROW: Capt. Leo J. Smith, Vallejo, Calif.; Capt. Edward J. Blumenstein, Westville, N.J.; Lt. Col. Jay P. Dawley, Shaker Heights, Ohio; Capt. Thomas C. Browne, Lakin, Kans.; Capt. John B. Wong, Oakland, Calif.
SECOND ROW: Lt. Stuart C. McArthur, Weidman, Mich.; Lt. Philip A. Geffken, Deep River, Conn.; Lt. Ernest C. James, Berkeley, Calif.; Lt. Henry D. Knapp, Buchanan, Mich.; Lt. Edgar G. Wilson, Spartanburg, S.C.; Lt. George A. Worth, Valdosta, Ga.
THIRD ROW: Lt. James T. St. John, Valdosta, Ga.; Lt. Dudley A. Clobridge, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Lt. George W. Chalfont, Maywood, Ill.

THE RHINE RIVER BRIDGE. By artificial moonlight and fog the Rhine was crossed and the Fortress Europe was on its last leg toward destruction



EISLEBEN MEMORIAL SERVICE. In the Church of Martin Luther at Eisleben, Germany, the Memorial Service for the heroic dead of the battalion was held on V-E Day. The war was over and the battle of peace began

THE MEUSE RIVER BRIDGE. The triple-double Bailey bridge across the Meuse River at Namur, Belgium. Note the pier in the center



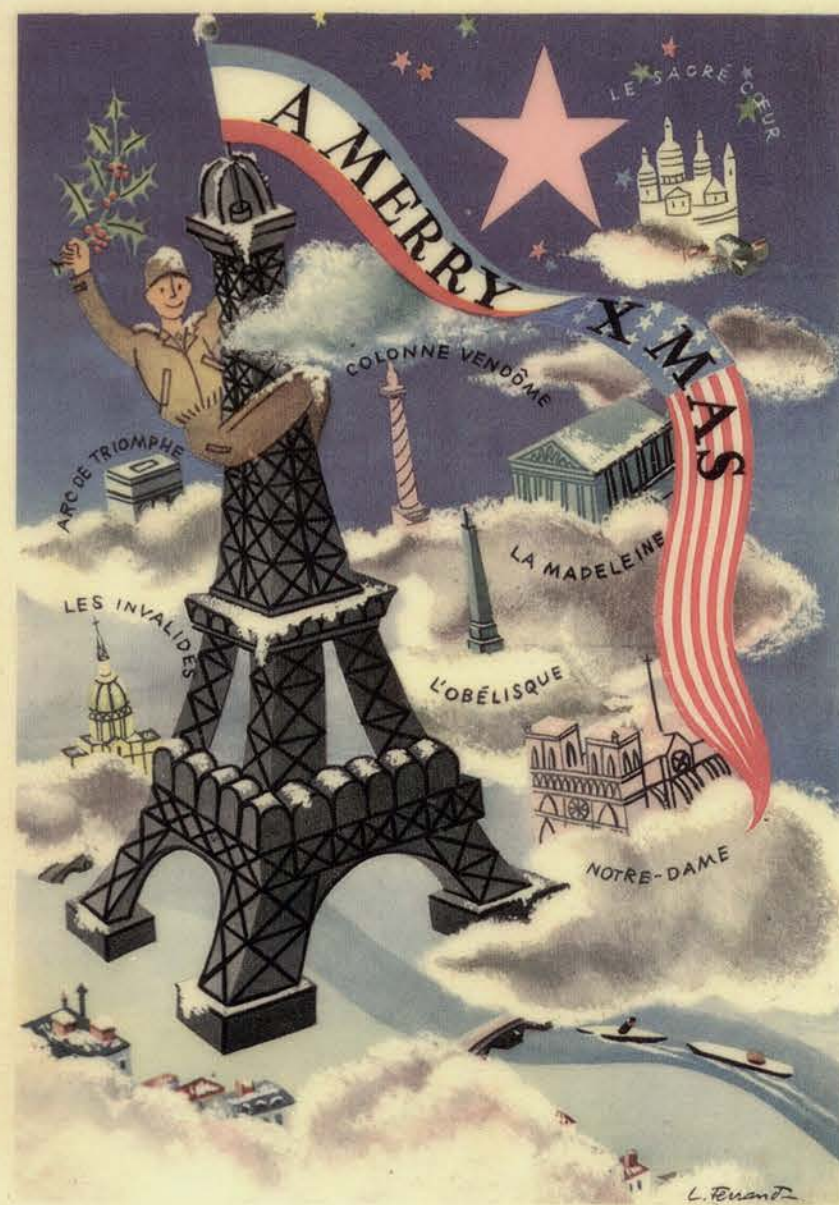
A HITLER PROMISE. This sign posted near Aachen, Germany, caused many wry looks from the Kraut civilians. Hitler's promise was fulfilled but in a different way from which he had intended it to be

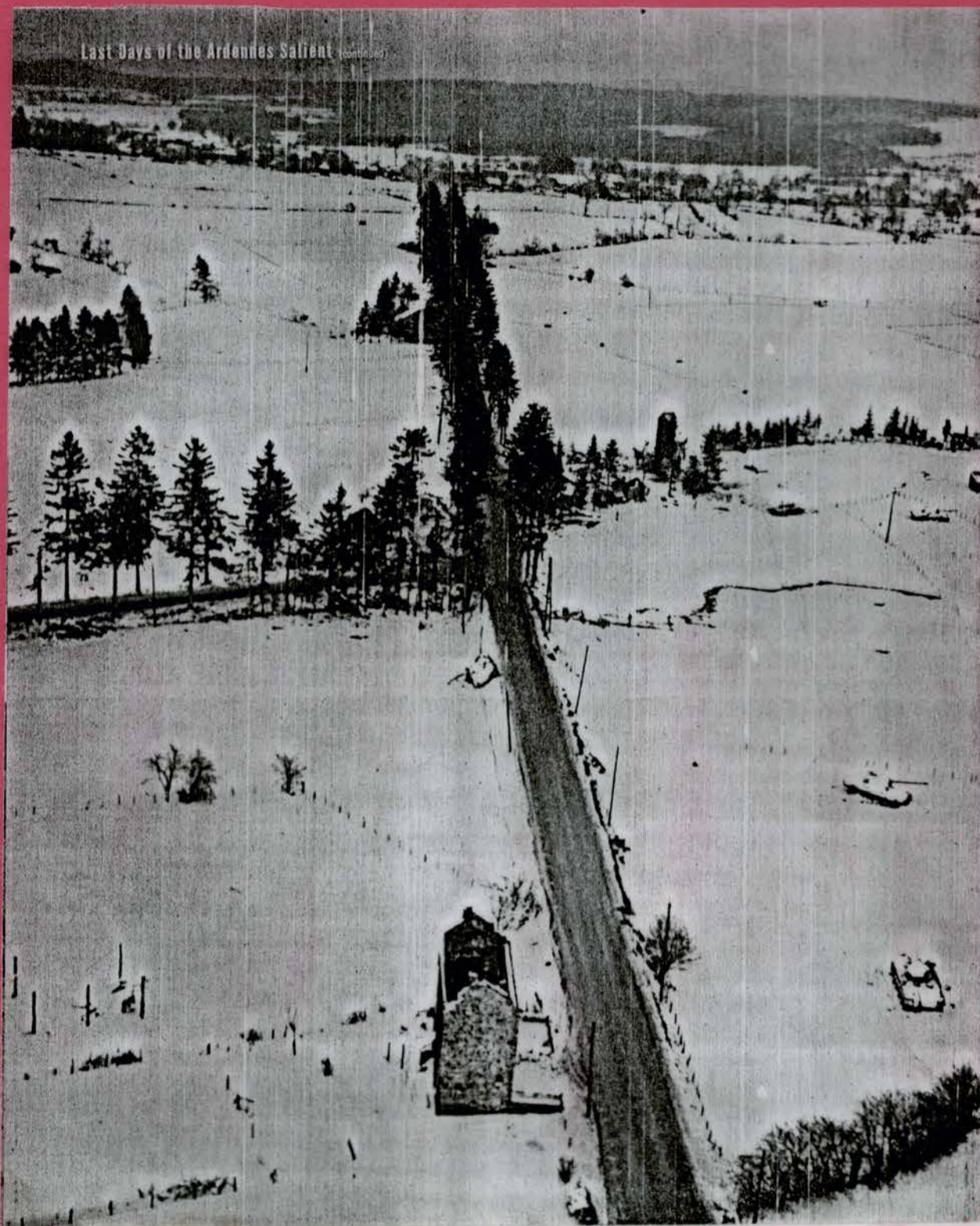
This card is an authentic reproduction of the official U.S. Army Christmas Card of 1944, which was given to troops in Europe to send home to family and friends.

This reproduction has been commissioned exclusively for Charter Members of The U.S. Committee for The Battle of Normandy Museum.



The U.S. Committee for The Battle of Normandy Museum
1730 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036





Article featured in Life Magazine, February 5, 1945.

Five wrecked German tanks mark the scene of a bitter battle by a fork in the road. Moving north from Houffalize, the tanks were spotted by American observation planes and knocked out by artillery. Two tanks are at lower right. Two others are off to the right of the fork in the middle distance. The fifth has been turned over beside the road to clear the way for traffic.

Last Days of the Ardennes Salient.



This is what really happened.

The number finally is up for Army's VII Corps

Celebrated fighting unit will disband

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — From D-day at Normandy to G-day in the Persian Gulf, the Army's VII Corps compiled a celebrated war record. Yesterday, it lost the battle of time.

The VII Corps is pulling up stakes in the sector of Germany it defended for more than 40 years, folding its flag and disappearing into the history books.

The Army announced that as part of a plan to reduce by half the size of the U.S. force in Europe by 1995, the VII Corps will disband next year. That leaves its sister unit — V Corps — as the central fighting outfit on the continent.

The VII Corps, commanded in the Persian Gulf war by Lt. Gen. Frederick Franks, delivered the knockout blow to the Iraqi Republican Guard in a 100-hour ground offensive that included the largest tank battles in the history of warfare.

To be withdrawn with VII Corps by the end of September 1992 are two of the four American combat divisions in Europe: the 3rd Armored Division at Frankfurt, Germany, and the 8th Infantry Division at Bad Kreuznach, Germany.

The two combat divisions that survived the cutbacks are the 3rd Infantry Division and the 1st Armored Division. Other combat units — including one of the Army's two armored cavalry regiments — also will be withdrawn, but no decisions have been announced.

The VII Corps, with more than 71,000 soldiers, 2,200 combat vehicles and 300 helicopters, has defended a 30,000-square-mile section of Germany along the former Iron Curtain since the end of World War II. Now that the Cold War is over, the Bush administration sees less need for a large military presence in Europe.

"We need a force that makes sense for the evolving threat" rather than one tailored almost exclusively to handle a Soviet-led invasion of Western Europe, said Col. William Foster, chief of the Army's war plans division at the Pentagon.

Foster said that where the U.S. military previously planned for global war, it now is structuring its armed forces to respond to as many as two major "regional contingencies," such as the Persian Gulf crisis, simultaneously.

The story of VII Corps began in 1918 when it was assembled in France to train doughboys for com-

bat in World War I.

On D-day, June 6, 1944, the VII Corps led the bloody allied assault on German positions along Normandy's beaches. Under the command of Gen. J. Lawton "Lightning Joe" Collins, the VII Corps rolled east through France and later fought in the decisive stages of the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes.

Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is a former commander of V Corps. Gen. John Galvin, commander of NATO forces in Europe, is a former commander of VII Corps.

November 1991

IN RETROSPECT
by
G. A. "Brick" Worth, President
South Carolina Chapter, VBOB

The 10th VBOB Annual Reunion is now history. The 180 veterans of Ardennes and 130 registered guests who graced Charleston with their presence have scattered to 31 states. The VBOBers were from 113 different military units to which they were assigned during the period December 18, 1944-January 23, 1945. Ironically, 113 deceased veterans were memorialized as an important element of the reunion.

South Carolina Chapter VII was honored to host the reunion. Over 500 hours were devoted to planning the numerous aspects of the entire reunion. The plans were executed in 72 hours. First, I thank the members of the South Carolina Chapter who composed the REUNION TASK FORCE and others who pitched in to help in so many ways.

My deep gratitude to the entire staff of the Sheraton Airport Inn for their untiring actions in making everyone comfortable and welcome "Southern Style." Special meals, decorations, notes, and setting up arrangements for all scheduled events required devotion to duty not usually received.

To the National Officers, my sincere appreciation for the support given to carry on affairs of the reunion. The "glitches" that happened were rapidly handled and the VBOBers continued with their reunion. The fact not a name has been mentioned in this article should speak volumes.

From the date last December when we learned our bid to host the reunion was accepted, one concept was followed. That concept was to provide attendees with comfortable surroundings, delicious food, entertainment, interesting tours, and ample opportunity to rest and talk. The SC Chapter Logo contains the words TNT-CHAT. The reunion brought the opportunity to Then we remember the past, Now we act and live, and Then we plan for the future. We CHAT a lot of three eras of life.

Yes, the reunion was an experience. South Carolina Chapter members invite you all to visit us again sometime.

SPECIAL THANKS...
...FROM VBOB'S PRESIDENT

President Darrell Kuhn has extended a special "thank you" to all those who were instrumental in making our recent Reunion a success and particularly to the members of the South Carolina Chapter; Brick Worth, President of the South Carolina Chapter; John Dunleavy, VBOB's Executive Vice President, whose bailiwick includes responsibility for reunions; and Will Cavanagh for coming all the way from Belgium to speak at our banquet.



Photo by Sam Silverman

CHAPTER REPS. AND PRESIDENTS, 10th ANNUAL VBOB REUNION, CHARLESTON, SC. (Back, L to R) PP William Greenville, Pres. Darrell Kuhn, VP, Chapter Coordination Robert Van Houten, Pres. Delaware Valley, Stan Wojtusik. (Front, L to R) Pres. Northern VA, Dean Fravel, Pres. FL, Tom McFadden, Rep. of Golden Gate, Ernest Figueira, Pres. SC "Brick" Worth.



December 7, 1987--Monchs Corner, SC
G. A. Worth, Charter Master of Travel
Triangle Chapter No. 187, National
Camping Travelers.

Placing Memorial Wreath for "D-Day
Veterans."
Left-G. A. Worth, Co-Founder and
Coordinator, Right-Chaplain Tip Siler.

ACTIONS OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING CHARLESTON, SC - SEPT. 6, 1991

The meeting was called to order by G. A. "Brick" Worth, President of the South Carolina Chapter. The colors were posted by the 63rd AFJROTC Squadron of Berkeley High School, Monck's Corner, South Carolina. The National Anthem was played by trumpeter O'Neal Clamp. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Gene Drouillard. The invocation was given by Monsignor William F. O'Connell.

North Charleston Mayor Bobby Connor welcomed VBOB members to his city and wished them an enjoyable stay.

VBOB President Darrell Kuhn then proceeded with the following orders of business:

Reports - Reports from VBOB Officers had previously been distributed to all those attending. These reports cover the activities of the officers during the preceding year.

Goals - The following goals were outlined as ideal objectives to be accomplished in the coming year:

1. To affirm and forward the four original purposes of VBOB.
2. To establish a more efficient system of communication within VBOB.
3. To enroll 15,000 members by September 1, 1992.
4. To establish one or more chapters in each state.
5. To adopt a complete, flexible, and educational budget.
6. To streamline our administration through the Bylaws.

Annual Dues - The members voted to accept the recommendation that annual dues for VBOB be increased to \$15.00 per year, effective December 1, 1991.

Bylaws - The Bylaws were presented to the membership for acceptance along with four housekeeping amendments. One of the amendments was not accepted.

Election of Officers - Chairman of the Nominating Committee Chairman Bill Greenville presented the slate for 1992 officers, as follows:

President: Darrell Kuhn

Executive Vice President: John J. Dunleavy

Vice President for Membership: Neil B. Thompson

Vice President for Military Affairs: Peter G. Dounis

Vice President for Regional Coordination: Robert J. VanHouten

Treasurer: William R. Hemphill

Recording Secretary: Frances W. Doherty

Corresponding Secretary: Beverley VanHouten

The officer slate was approved unanimously.

Monsignor O'Donnell gave the closing prayer, giving thanks for the many favors and blessings received; remembering the nation's unified effort forty years ago and the sacrifices made; asking for wisdom and strength to handle difficult situations; and remembering those who have gone on before.

President Kuhn declared the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.



VBOB Monument - Arlington Cemetery

Photo by
Sam Silverman

THE 10TH ANNUAL REUNION OF VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE WAS...

●TERRIFIC!!!

●Held at the Sheraton Inn, Charleston, South Carolina (September 5-7) and was hosted by the South Carolina Chapter of VBOB.

●Co-chaired by John J. Dunleavy, VBOB Executive Vice President, and Brick Worth, South Carolina Chapter President.

●Attracted the largest attendance of any VBOB Reunion convened--there were over 300 veterans and family members present from 31 states and 75 different World War II military units.

●An exciting 3-day event to "find old friends and make new ones."

The Reunion was officially opened with a mixer Thursday evening, September 5; however, the hotel lobby remained the "Site of Action" throughout the reunion as the guests registered, signed the Unit Books, searched the membership rolls for old friends' names, and found familiar faces.

On Friday, September 6, the day started with the General Membership Meeting. After lunch the attendees traveled by bus to the historical Citadel for a memorial service in the beautiful Summerall Chapel. The veterans had time to visit the Citadel Museum before being seated at the parade grounds to enjoy a most stirring and memorable parade by the nearly 2,000 Citadel Cadets. Following the parade the attendees returned to the Sheraton Hotel for a tasty buffet and an evening of musical entertainment.

Saturday, September 7, was a bright, sunny day that enhanced the enjoyment of the tours available: walking through the unique and beautiful old city of Charleston, or a tour of historical Fort Sumpter, or a visit to the interesting Patriots' Point (Harbor).

The gala banquet that evening was an impressive conclusion to the reunion. The banquet program included the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to Past President William Greenville. Many were most surprised and pleased to find the speaker for the occasion to be a dear friend, Battle of the Bulge historian, and tour guide, Will Cavanagh, of Belgium. He had made the trip from that country especially to spend the evening with the veterans. Mr. Cavanagh told of the article about Charles MacDonald in the recent issue of the magazine *After the Battle*, as well as of the effort by the Belgian citizens to continue the search for the remains of World War II soldiers missing in action. Ruth Puryear (nurse, 107th Evacuation Hospital) probably spoke for many of the veterans when she said, "He was so interesting I could have listened to him for another hour."

Since many had driven their own vehicles, Sunday morning, September 8, proved to be a beehive of activity, farewell embraces, and cars/vans departing in all directions.

As you continue to reminisce about the memories of this past gathering, don't forget to check *The Bulge Bugle* for the location and exciting plans being developed for the upcoming 11th VBOB REUNION--1992!

Jesse: What an experience I had in hosting the 10TH ANNUAL VBOB Reunion!! Ed Greene from Manteo, N.C. was the ONLY other 238 ECB member present. In my second term as President of the S.C. Chapter VBOB, one of my goals is to increase from 62 to 100 our Chapter memberships.

George 9-25-91

The State

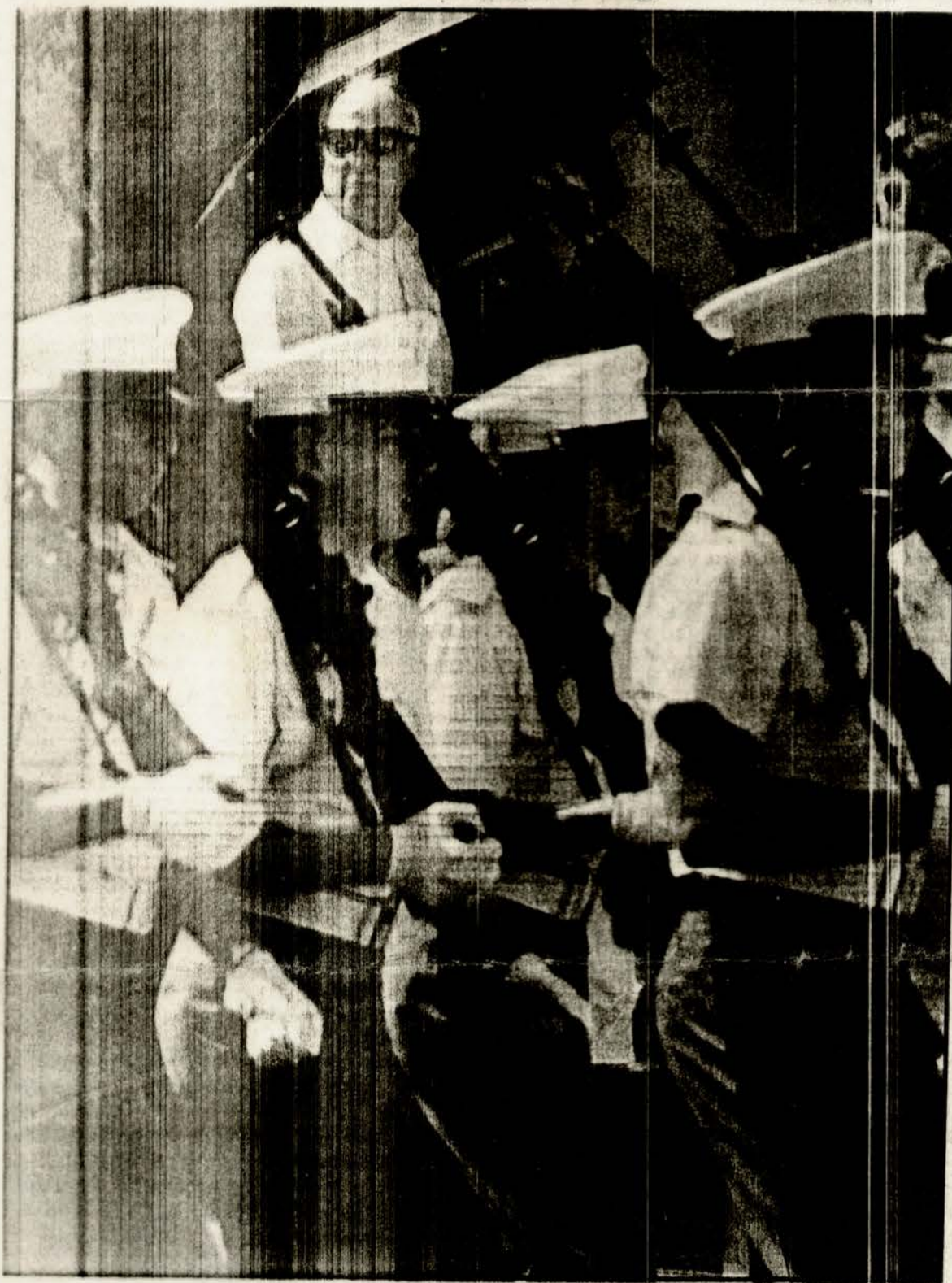
South Carolina's Largest Newspaper

Saturday

September 7, 1991

Columbia, South Carolina

47 years and a lifetime ago



Photos by Linda Stelter, The State

World War II Retired Army Col. Charles Gentile and his wife, Dorothy, visiting from Maryland, heard about the gathering and stopped by for the cadet parade.

'Through hell and back'

Bulge vets reunite to share more than just war stories

By DAVE MONIZ
Staff Writer

CHARLESTON

Nobody said it, but you should have seen these guys 47 years ago, in their Army olive drab, God and M-1 rifles on their shoulders.

Shivering, praying, toting cold steel through Belgium, they thwarted the German army's last gasp at world conquest.

And here they are now, bellies soft and round, cigars a half-size too big for their faces, wives in floral prints and Panama hats, carrying cute little Japanese cameras.

For the 300 veterans and spouses attending this year's national Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge reunion, time that once ticked too slowly now hurtles too quickly.

Of the 600,000 Americans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge in 1944, half are dead.

On Thursday, veterans of the last major land battle

See Bulge, 7A



R.R. Linkous of Virginia, John McCord of South Carolina are Bulge veterans.

of World War II trickled in from 31 states to attend the 10th annual national reunion of Bulge veterans.

The Battle of the Bulge — so named because of the "bulging" shape of the battleground on maps — took place when German troops surprised American forces in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium and Luxembourg. But the German assault fizzled, and after intense fighting, the Americans choked the Germans' advance.

The reunion, which lasts through Sunday, was the first national Battle of the Bulge reunion in South Carolina. Thirty-one states have Bulge organizations, and some traveled from as far away as Oregon to attend.

For many Americans who lived through World War II, the coming year promises to tug emotions. Dec. 7 marks the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, and dozens of important anniversaries will follow, many likely marked by nostalgic celebrations.

For guys like Bob Wheeler, a 70-year-old retiree from Durham, N.C., such rituals are important. An infantry soldier wounded in Belgium, he later met his future wife, Bernice, while recuperating at a hospital in Framingham, Mass.

He still has nightmares from the war, and rarely talks about the battles he fought.

"We were at the reunion last year in Valley Forge, and you could tell these men had been through hell and back. They were all crying," Bernice Wheeler said. She thought that was a good thing, and she doubted any silly yarns would come spinning out of her husband's friends.

"At this age, they're in touch with their emotions. They don't have the machismo anymore," she said.

William F. O'Donnell certainly doesn't. Once an Army platoon leader, O'Donnell is now a Catholic monsignor in Bethesda, Md. Tall, silver-haired and barrel-chested, he nearly cried at a memorial service at The Citadel Friday afternoon.

His memories of the battle are still vivid, and he smiles as he recounts helping end the war during a frigid December in Belgium.

"I made a resolve after the battle. I'll never be cold in my life again," he said, pointing an index finger at a scrap of paper. "We were lighting little pieces like that to keep warm."

J.B. Richardson, a 71-year-old Columbian, sat contentedly in a hotel lobby Friday morning as he waited for the right moment.

"Hey, you want to hear about my afternoon with General Patton?" he asked.

Patton, the legendary and mercurial Army commander, stopped by Richardson's observation post at Pont-A-Mousson during the climactic battle. He fired some artillery with Richardson's men, then pointed to a hill Joan of Arc had once defended.

"It was a very interesting afternoon," said Richardson, one of 48 South Carolinians at the reunion.

There were a handful of Army nurses, and two of them seemed to have the most stories to tell. Janice Goers-Reilly landed at Omaha Beach four days after D-Day, then worked her way toward Germany. After the war, she learned that relatives in Berlin had hidden Jews from the Gestapo.

Ruth Puryear, 80, an Army nurse from Richmond, Va., has been to five Bulge reunions. She stays in touch with a Belgian man whose life she helped save after he was hit by shrapnel. "He was 7 years old when I met him," she said, "and he just sent me red roses in June."

Puryear met 28 Belgian soldiers during a reunion in Washington, D.C., last year.

"The Belgians couldn't speak English, but God, could they dance. I was sore for two weeks," she said.

For O'Donnell, the group's "national chaplain," the gatherings are more subdued. "We used to share war stories when we were younger. Now, it's 'Good to see ya,'" he said.

"Anderson Independent News"

Sept 9, 1991
Anderson, S.C.

Battle of Bulge veterans reunite

The Associated Press

CHARLESTON - About 300 veterans of the Battle of the Bulge gathered this weekend to remember December 1944, when they shivered, prayed and fought on a Belgian battle field half-way across the world.

About 600,000 soldiers participated in the battle, a key conflict in thwarting the German army's last efforts at world conquest.

Some of the survivors trickled in from 31 states this week to attend the 10th annual national reunion of Bulge veterans.

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The German assault fizzled, and after intense fighting, the U.S. forces choked the Germans' advance.

This year's reunion is the first national Battle of the Bulge reunion in South Carolina and has attracted Bulge veterans from as far away as Oregon.

Bob Wheeler, a 70-year-old retiree from Durham, N.C., still has nightmares from the war and rarely talks about the battles.

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The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION • VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.

VOLUME X NUMBER 4

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

NOVEMBER 1991



Ruth Puryear, Bob Martin and Dorothy Davis share light-hearted repartee at VBOB's 10th Annual Reunion, Charleston, SC.

46 years later . . .

WOUNDED REMEMBER THEIR NURSES

On February 1, 1945, in snow and extreme cold, a small detachment of the 57th Field Hospital moved, on icy roads, in ambulances and trucks from Saverne, France to Ribeaupville, France to set up a hospital in a partially bombed out building with the 75th Inf. Div. Clearing Station.

The 5 nurses, doctors and enlisted men worked through the night setting up wards, operating rooms and other facilities to care for the constant flow of wounded.

The next day, February 2, 1945, Robert Martin, Co. B, 289th Infantry, 75th Division was severely wounded in Horburg, France and became one of the constant flow of wounded admitted to the 57th Field Hospital.

After extensive surgery, Bob remained a patient there for 9 days and was then transferred to a General Hospital to begin a long 2 years of recovery in Military Hospitals.

It wasn't, however, until 46 years later, at the VBOB Reunion in Charleston, SC (Sept. 1991) that Bob met one of the 57th Field Hospital nurses, Dorothy Steinbis Davis, and was at last able (as he said) "to plant a 'Thank-You' kiss on the cheek of one of his nurses".

Sharing in the excitement of meeting a "War Wounded" patient, was Ruth Puryear, 107th Evacuation Hospital, which had been stationed outside of Bastogne, Belgium. David DeLaney, 90th Inf. Div., had been wounded on January 26 and remembered very vividly his stay in the 107th Evacuation Hospital—he remembered his nurse, Ruth Puryear, and recalled his conversations with her.

David DeLaney now lives in Charlotte, NC; Ruth Puryear resides in Richmond, VA and participates in VBOB activities; Bob Martin, despite severe injuries, lives an active life in Fort Wayne, IN and Dorothy Davis continues her nursing career with the American Red Cross.

My God, we simply have to figure a way out of this situation. There's no point in talking about "winning" a nuclear war.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

IN RETROSPECT

by

G. A. "Brick" Worth, President
South Carolina Chapter, VBOB

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South Carolina Chapter VII was honored to host the reunion. Over 500 hours were devoted to planning the numerous aspects of the entire reunion. The plans were executed in 72 hours. First, I thank the members of the South Carolina Chapter who composed the REUNION TASK FORCE and others who pitched in to help in so many ways.

My deep gratitude to the entire staff of the Sheraton Airport Inn for their untiring actions in making everyone comfortable and welcome "Southern Style." Special meals, decorations, notes, and setting up arrangements for all scheduled events required devotion to duty not usually received.

To the National Officers, my sincere appreciation for the support given to carry on affairs of the reunion. The "glitches" that happened were rapidly handled and the VBOBers continued with their reunion. The fact not a name has been mentioned in this article should speak volumes.

From the date last December when we learned our bid to host the reunion was accepted, one concept was followed. That concept was to provide attendees with comfortable surroundings, delicious food, entertainment, interesting tours, and ample opportunity to rest and talk. The SC Chapter Logo contains the words TNT-CHAT. The reunion brought the opportunity to Then we remember the past, Now we act and live, and Then we plan for the future. We CHAT a lot of three eras of life.

Yes, the reunion was an experience. South Carolina Chapter members invite you all to visit us again sometime.

SPECIAL THANKS... ...FROM VBOB'S PRESIDENT

President Darrell Kuhn has extended a special "thank you" to all those who were instrumental in making our recent Reunion a success and particularly to the members of the South Carolina Chapter; Brick Worth, President of the South Carolina Chapter; John Dunleavy, VBOB's Executive Vice President, whose bailiwick includes responsibility for reunions; and Will Cavanagh for coming all the way from Belgium to speak at our banquet.

Liberation by U.S. troops is artist's inspiration



DEAR ABBY

Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby: I was born in Brussels, Belgium, in 1939. The war came, and my father died at the hands of the Germans.

In 1944, when the Americans, British and Canadians liberated Belgium, I was 5 years old. The date, Sept. 3, is forever engraved in my memory.

We had GIs at our house constantly — the excitement they created is hard to describe. The American soldiers had that contagious joy of living. They were more than generous, and they were enthusiastic about everything. I remember being driven to school in their jeeps, and being showered with chocolates, gum and candy. I recall my grandmother saying, "It's like having a house full of adorable, well-behaved sons!" She cried each time they left and a new group came.

I was so impressed by those extraordinary men that I decided I would become an American when I grew up. Not a fireman, not a streetcar conductor, not an engineer — no, I would become an American!

It took me 35 years, but at age 40, I became a U.S. citizen. My daughters married wonderful American men, and my career as an artist is devoted to the history of the U.S. Army in World War II.

I thought that only you, Abby, could convey my admiration and gratitude to those

young men by publishing this letter. In my memory, they will forever be those generous Americans who gave us back our liberty in 1944.

— JEAN-LUC BEGHIN,
LOS ANGELES



Jean-Luc Beghin



238th Engineers Combat Battalion Association



JEAN

Abby
P. O. Box 69440
Los Angeles, CA 90069

Dear Abby:

CAN YOU HELP ME FIND ONE OF YOUR CORRESPONDENTS? May 29th, Decoration Day, in our York paper was published a letter to you by Jean-Luc Beghin of Los Angeles. He lived in Belgium during World War II and remembered the GI's. His career as an artist is devoted to the history of the US Army in World War II.

Our 238th Engineer Combat Battalion helped liberate the portions of Belgium where he lived. We, as an Association, are having our 49th reunion in San Francisco July 20, 21, and 22nd 1995. We think it would be wonderful if Mr. Beghin could be invited to join us during our reunion.

One of our members who lives in Los Angeles, tried different methods to locate him, but was not able to do so. Time is short to get in touch with him, but, if possible, I would appreciate if you could forward me his address or, if this is out of the question, forward this letter to him. He could contact me at the address listed below or contact James Norrington, 4436 Sinova St., Los Angeles, CA 90032 (Phone: 213-221-0417)

WILL YOU PLEASE HELP THIS BUNCH OF SENIOR CITIZEN GI'S??????????

Sincerely,

Jesse L. Miller, Secy./Treas.
756 Greendale Rd.
York, PA 17403
Phone: 717-854-5169

Los Angeles, 6 May 1996

Dear Jesse, dear 238th :

It is always with great interest that I read the 238th monthly newsletter. I don't know many of you but, in a sense, I know you all. All the G.I.s, and the 238th Engineers among them, played such an important role in my life that whenever I read something about the heroes of my youth, I feel that you were all around me, back then, in 1944, in Brussels. We have been in the States for twenty years now and my admiration for the men of the very democratic Army of the United States has only been growing, if that's possible. It is being here that made me realize the sacrifices accepted by the American people in the forties when this country sent its fathers, its sons, its husbands and its daughters all over the world because Liberty is inscribed in capital letters in the American Constitution. No later than yesterday I was reading a French magazine dated May 1996. In it I read this : **" A lot of French people dream about a time when the U.S. Army olive drab was the symbol of their newly restored liberty "**.

And it is so true. It is a time that will never come back. It is , as one U.S. Army surgeon put it in his book, *" on the other side of time "*. Millions of people over there in Great Britain, in France, in Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg ... go back to that other side of time to relive that **Great Crusade**, as General Eisenhower so aptly put it. Nothing , absolutely nothing can replace memories like that. They are priceless. And when I read in the 238th Newsletter about , let's say, John Persinger, Maurice E. Johnson or Marvin Grindle, just to name a few mentioned in the latest newsletter, I think that they must be in their seventies and I wonder if they realize that *over there* , there forever is a twenty year old John or Maurice or Marvin in the memories of the liberated Belgians, French, Dutch etc ... And those priceless memories are passed down from one generation to the next. The snapshots showing the Belgian grandma with Willie or Joe are treasured. Quite often the little picture has been enlarged by the grandson and put in his living room. And grandma likes to tell her grand kids about her first ride in a jeep or about that nice "soldat américain qui s'appellait Frank et qui était si gentil, si bien élevé " [*that nice American soldier whose name was Frank et who was so nice, so well behaved*]. And the grandchildren start dreaming about America ! And if they can not go to America, they will bring America to them: the music, the movies, the hamburgers, the Coca-Cola, the chewing gum ... As my grandmother would say to me : " Enjoy your liberty, you owe it all to the Americans ... "

I was lucky enough to live those days of the Liberation of Belgium. I was five then and clearly remember the extraordinary ambiance of September 1944, the happiness on everybody's face, the energy , the "Joie de vivre" [*the joy of life*] that the G.I.s brought wherever they were. And then, suddenly, they all disappeared. I couldn't grasp that fact. Where did they go ? I clearly remember deciding, when I was six years old, that I would find them ! Thirty years later we left Belgium. It was difficult . It is always difficult to leave your country, especially when life treats you well but that quest of mine to find the G.I.s of 1944 was too strong. We came and I found them.

Thank you 238th Engineers .

Jean-Luc Beghin



Los Angeles, July 29, 1995

Dear Jesse,

Just a few words to tell you again how much I enjoyed our brief meeting. I finally met those wonderful G.I.s again. Would you please convey my feelings to all of those who were there, if you write something in your Newsletter about the reunion.

By the way, I forgot to ask you for one or two good photographs of you when you were in Belgium in 1944, 1945. I would have them enlarged. The originals will be returned to you with the copies for you to sign to me. You would then send the copies back to me in a prepaid envelope. I would like to have that in my studio.

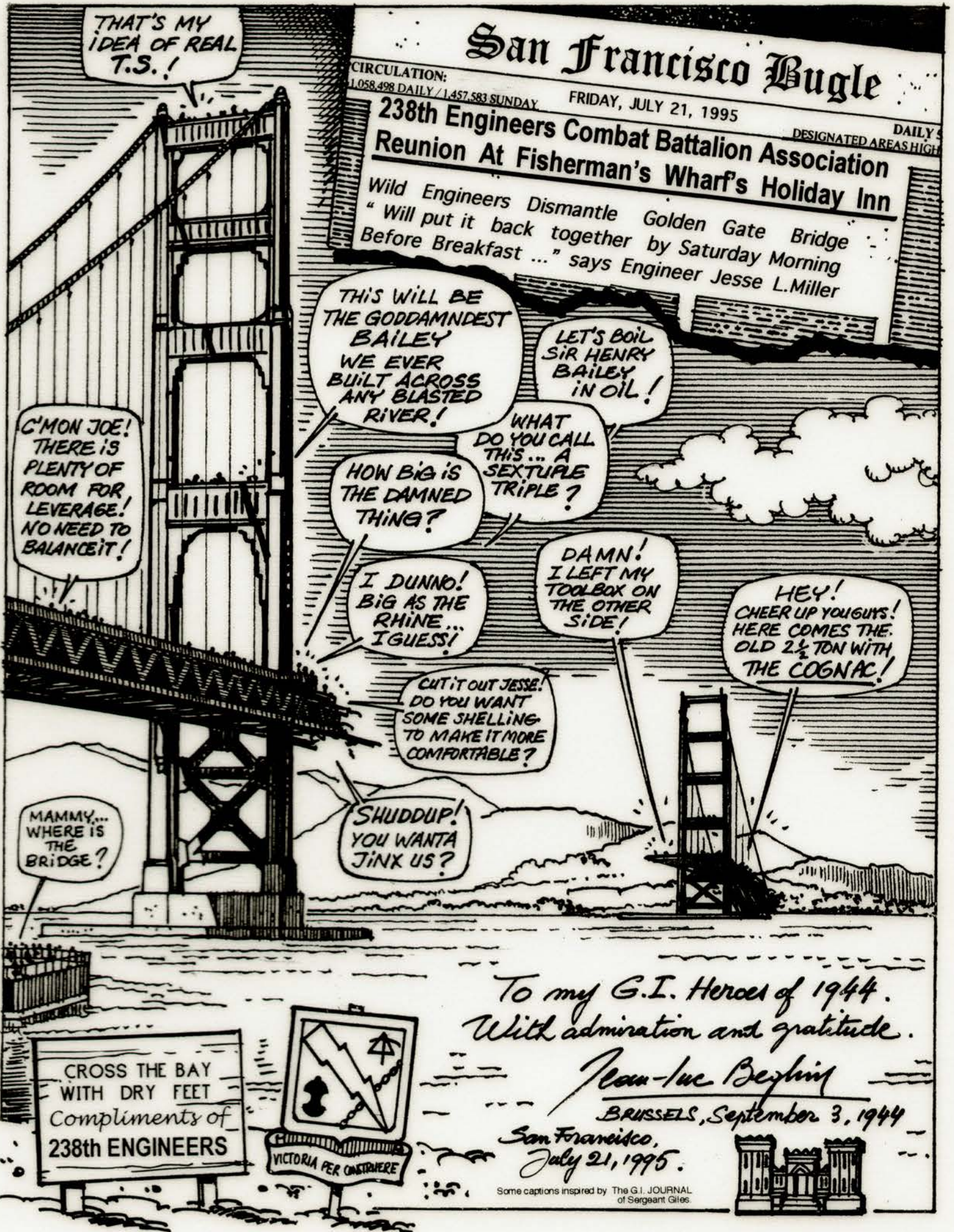
Thank you in advance.

All the best.

Jean-luc



← I didn't draw this but I like it very much.



No.9: B-24 LIBERATOR WITCHCRAFT II

It's all over now; the Huns and Tojo have been licked. The big bombers are ready to go back to the States but today it's OK to invite that sweet British friend onto the base. The B-24 *Witchcraft II* lends its wing to the romantic encounter. Years later, a grandmother by then, she will remember that day, the smiling Yank, the taste of the Hershey bar, the caramel in the Charms candies... The **Liberator** was just flown back to England from Paris where she was part of the USAAF exhibition depicting every phase of the aerial warfare in the conquest of Germany. It opened Aug. 1, 1945 on the Champ de Mars, under the Eiffel Tower. Representing the Consolidated B-24, this one was painted in the 467th Bomb Group and 790th Squadron colors carrying on its nose the *Witchcraft* caricature and named *Witchcraft II*. The original *Witchcraft*, a B-24H, Serial Number 42-52534 of the 790th Bomb Squadron [H] flew on the first group mission and on the next to last, a total of 130 missions without once failing to reach its assigned target, the record for the 8th Air Force Liberators. *Witchcraft* received over 300 flak holes, had 13 engine changes but in her remarkable career, not a man was injured or killed in her. She returned to the United States in June 1945. *Witchcraft II* followed a few months later.

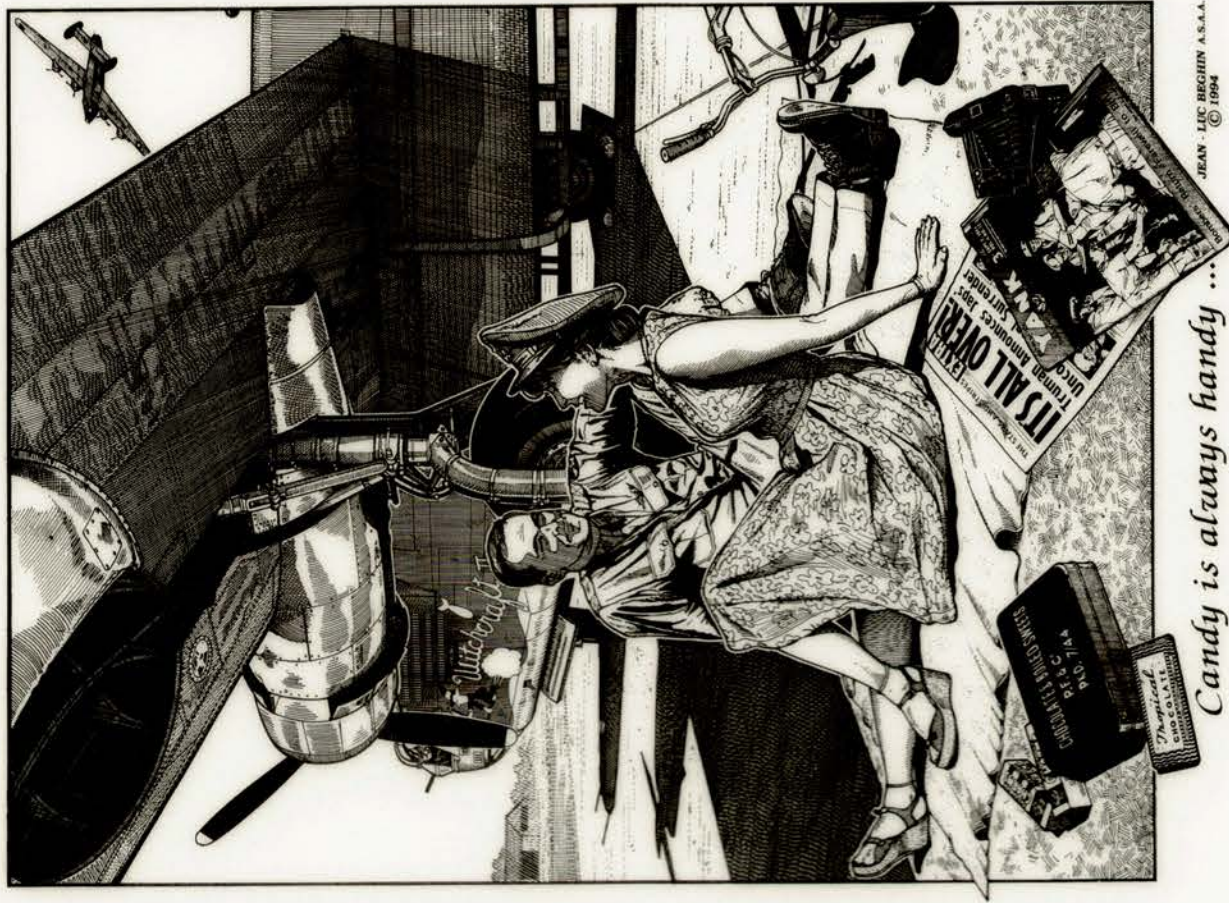
[The Stars and Stripes & Second Air Division]



No.9 in a Series : B-24 Liberator
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Manufactured in the U.S.A.

X-009N

Lithograph [18x24] available
at your Dealer, or write to :
JLB Aviation Art -
P.O.Box 4805 Arcata, CA 95521



JEAN - LUC BEGHIN A.S.A.
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Red, white & true Man's deeds reflect pride

By DORA DEVERA
Of The Post and Courier staff

MONCK'S CORNER — A visit to George A. "Brick" Worth's house is like a civics lesson in patriotism.

Day and night, the American flag flies high from a metal pole in his front yard "and it is properly lighted at night," said the 77-year-old Georgia native.

Worth won't let his all-weather flag fly at night or in the rain unless a spotlight shines on it.

Before it begins to fade or tear, he plans to take it down and change it with one of the other 10 American flags waiting to fly above his front yard.

As he travels throughout the town and Berkeley County, he keeps a watchful eye on tattered, faded flags and those flying after dark without proper lighting.

He's not afraid to approach people to tell them their flags are flying incorrectly.

"They're dishonoring the flag," he said.

"When you fly it till it's pink, white and blue, no longer red, white and blue, that's as much a dishonor as you spitting on it."

Like his nickname "Brick" describes him, Worth is a staunch patriot.

"Without a doubt, he is a gung ho kind of American," Berkeley Museum Director Mark Butler said.

He received his nickname during his boxing career that spanned from 1930 to 1946, when he fought 104 amateur fights and 61 professional bouts before and after he enlisted in the Army.

Within two years after he enlisted with the Corps of Engineers, he said, he became the youngest regimental sergeant major in the Army in 1941.

He was commissioned as an officer in 1943 and served as a combat engineer commander on three continents. He is a recipient of two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star with a "V" for valor and two Purple Hearts.

As a veteran of World War II and the Vietnam War and a member of numerous military organizations, Worth believes he has every right to ensure that the flag he fought under receives respect and honor.

Throughout his home, numerous American flags are on display.

Miniature flags and stickers can



Staff Photo by Brad Nettles

Brick Worth holds a photo of Company B, 238th Engineers Combat Battalion taken Sept. 11, 1943, at Fort Dix, N.J., before the company left for North Africa.

'Without a doubt, he's a gung-ho kind of American'

Mark Butler
Berkeley Museum Director

be found above doorways and on the family cars. Coffee mugs adorned with flags rest on the kitchen counter. A flag window sticker with the words "American and Proud of it" greets visitors on his front porch.

But his most cherished flag is one made on foreign soil more than 50 years ago.

When U.S. Army Lt. Worth landed in Normandy for the "D-Day" invasion on June 6, 1944, a young French girl gave him a hand-sewn flag. The makeshift flag was actually a white pillow case covered with red cloth strips, a field of blue felt and 48 white paper stars.

He thanked the girl for the flag, folded it and tucked it into his uniform, where it was forgotten for half a century.

He remembered it two years ago when Butler came to his house in search of items for a Fourth of July display at the Berkeley Museum. Worth was surprised to find the flag tucked among his war memorabilia.

Butler used the flag in the museum display, along with old uniforms and knives Worth confiscated from German soldiers during the war.

As a Christmas gift, Butler encased the flag in a protective shadow box, which hangs in a prominent spot along the stairwell in the Worths' living room.

After living in Moncks Corner for more than 33 years, Worth has left his thumbprint on other flags and patriotic displays.

At the Centennial Memorial Plaza on Library and Main streets, a monument was dedicated to the memory of the men and women

who serve and have served in the armed forces.

The monument was completed in 1985 after Worth designed and raised funds for it.

Veterans and community members gather at the monument for flag ceremonies and speeches on Memorial Day.

This year, Boy and Girl Scout troops participated in the annual celebration and then visited veterans' graves at Berkeley Memorial Gardens, where they placed flags beside grave markers.

"This is the first time in Moncks Corner that we've ever had a flagging of a veteran's grave," he said. "I've had phone calls from three different cemeteries asking 'Please, will you do this next year?'"

Worth is glad to see the growing interest in the "flagging" of veterans' graves.

Throughout the nation, patriotism is definitely on the decline, he said.

He is actively involved in other organizations aimed at promoting patriotism. He recently finished serving as chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9509.

He is a lifelong member of numerous military organizations, including the American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the 82nd Airborne Division Association.

Two years ago, Worth established the Casket Vigil for recently deceased members of the VFW or the American Legion.

On the night of visitation at a funeral home, Worth and VFW or Legion members dress in the organization's uniform.

One man stands at the head of the casket during the entire visitation, and members change shifts.

On the day of burial, members present a folded American flag to the deceased's next of kin.

How does he want to be remembered?

"That I was a patriot to the end."

Reunion of 5 D-Day veterans

By **DICK POPLIN**

Recently, five veterans of D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge met for lunch at Shoneys along with three of the veterans' wives and three widows of deceased veterans of the platoon.

Those present were Maj. George A. Worth, their platoon leader, of Moncks Corner, SC; Bill Byrd of McMinnville, TN; Owen and Josephine Layne, of Murfreesboro; Ernest and Ophelia Driver, of Wartrace; Dallas E. (Earl) and Lavada Carlton of Rover in Bedford County; Beulah Howell, Haroldine M. Shavers, and Irene Eley Nash, whose veteran husbands of the platoon were Ray Howell, Archie Shavers and Lundy Eley. Also present were John C. Carlton, brother of Earl and Dick Poplin.

Ernest Driver was appropriately named because he was a truck driver of Co. B. 2nd platoon. Byrd and Layne were truck drivers of the first platoon. Carlton was assigned as Jeep driver for then Lt. Worth, but was also qualified for driving the heavier trucks. Carlton said Worth had eyes like a cat and did the driving at night because his eyesight was better than his driver. The later four were 1st Platoon, Company B, of the 238th Engineering Combat Battalion of the 7th Corp of the 1st Army.

Worth stayed in the service after the war and retired as Major after 20 years of service. His business card shows G.A. "Brick" Worth, Military Order of

the Purple Heart and Past Commander,

Historic Charleston, Chapter 1670. He said he holds life membership in 16 such organizations. Worth, the spokesman of the group, said there were no finer soliders in the service than those in his platoon, and credited the Tennessee soldiers with great patriotism.

They had just received word that one of their number, James C. Warmath of Milan, Tennessee, had recently died. He was also a truck driver. The group left Ft. Patrick Henry, Hampton Road, VA, on a Liberty ship and stayed together until the end of the war. Worth said they have a reunion somewhere every year.

Since the war, Carlton has been a merchant in the general store at Rover. Byrd was a machinist and since retiring has pursued his hobby of building miniture gasoline engines. Worth asked him what the engines did. He said, "They don't do anything, they just run." Driver has been a timber cutter, and Layne continued to be a truck driver until retirement.

A few war stories were told as expected from such a gathering. One concerned the radio man who lost his truck when landing on the beach, but saves his radio equipment. Worth and Carlton were the first off the landing craft. The radio man was second and his vehicle either drowned out or his equipment floated out. When Worth asked if all vehicles made it, he was told taht all but one. "Where is the driver?" he

asked.

"He's swimming down the English Channel after his radio equipment," he was told. The equipment was retrieved in its waterproof bag and both equipment and operator landed safely on the beach.

The group parted hoping to meet again next year.



Photo By Dick Poplin

WWII veterans

From left are five WWII veterans, William Byrd, Owen Layne, Ernest Driver, Earl Carlton and George Worth.