a memo from

GINNY FOREMAN

~~Nicholas Doge~~

James Unman – wounded
– put in large warehouse on
litters – Cherbourg – 2 wks.
home on Liberty Ship.

Taunted in bar
too green to go, too
yellow to fight -

Mr Kane

36th Div 104th Inf
Fought at Fort Jackson,
up to Siegfried line, met
here - again -
We're sure glad to see you.

Sgt Etheridge - Paul Feeney - Maj. Gunther G-2
Home

12-14 2 squads - got off at Lebanon
Lt. Anderson alopy (only hope he was on)

29th or Lebanon - 3 men

1 5th Div / 1st Cav (2)

Dismounted what's ahead - went a
ways ahead - 100 yds beyond
returned 5 1/2 - 6 miles before
daylight - encountered nothing

Armies were coming from SW
toward Tillet

Lt. Campbell took a patrol in to Hartford
encountered ~~Counter~~ party of soldiers

note: Paul was assigned & reported to Maj.
Gunther Christly - Sgt. Etheridge headed platoon

Chuck Foreman

Des Aine from
Upper Darby, Pa
~~from~~ I & R Reg. 345th

Lawrence

Private - Bag on 87th Lt. boy

Tony Lovell - driver Anderson
6018 E. Phillip
Norfolk, Neb. 68701

Ambrose

Paul Feeney - Room 561
140 Robin Rd
Glastonbury, Ct. 06033
203-633-9103

Reg. I & R Platoon

(Originally H Co)

Bob Jenkins home
Reg't Q Co.
~~P.O.~~ Pennsylvania

Shilz / Davis / Sterbolein / etc

"Selling Murder" Discovery Channel 1/18/92

200,000 insane & mentally disturbed destroyed in mid 30s by mass murder

Hereditary ill — both phys & mentally disabled

Beginning with Compulsory sterilization 1933 with 1/3 million sterilized — Later — eliminate the weak during summer of 1939 in 6 asylums in "shower" rooms (CO gas) then cremated & fake death certificates sent to relatives

Philip Bulor - (SS) Killing at Hadamar near Limburg

Ypé Jew "Existance without life" The theme of caring for the "sick" as too "costly" — even more contemptuous of disabled people — "how cruel it is to keep the spiritually dead until old age"

~~Those of our state~~ Peace of a gentle death — "Smoke up the chimney" — Bishop of Cath Ch. said it was wrong to kill in 1941 — they Hitler & Nazis - did nothing to him

Confusal sotherogin with state murder - then killing them with MS

From Hadamar the killing techniques were exported to the Feral Solution Camps

Ordruf - 60 Km SW of Buchenwald - labor subcamp, known as Hitler's underground HQ
12 ~~miles~~ Km from Ohrdruf, huge underground mountain tunnels housed V-weapon factory built by 10,000 prisoners of a total of a factor surviving. All prisoners lived in animal quarters, stables; no beds - no covers - no straw - just a concrete floor. No dump & 50% of the food ration for "well" prisoners, They died by the thousands

Buchenwald - page 108

Fate of Commandant page 457

87th INFANTRY DIVISION

STALWART AND STRONG

GOLDEN ACORN

AUGUST, 1989 ETO TOUR
OF
BELGIUM
LUXEMBOURG
FRANCE
WEST GERMANY

*BATTLE OF THE BULGE-ARDENNES
*RHINELAND
*CENTRAL EUROPE

Simple white marble cross cleaned - pumice stone

Hamm - Patton - not killed in conflict.
Wife's ashes?
22 pairs of brothers
101 unknown soldiers
Majority return of to states (bodies)
G & R - Intelligence & Reconnaissance
Patton red white blue jeep - artillery coming in
Red guy
General Culin
Infantry up front good
Patton day in Ettelbruck understanding.
every year. Did he send Bradley behind in Luxembourg
men to rescue Lux. in - Lux? upa town, Cost shelle, not lair
Patton - - -
prince killed
Kill or be killed - turn into animal -
Malmedy massacre
- understanding of Vietnam -
Stone house hugh on hills
Towns are old; Town cream concrete,
Church steeple dominates. 3 stories rather, always aimed at.
Homers in Europe around home area log & g

St. Hubert - Sense of age
Cathedral - 6 shelle - smell. Sarg. streets.

Bloody Cobrade - anti tank
Tiebell the stone only the letter
you go to build the house, barnes attack

Pic. Normandy
Battle Lux. Jan 4-8
no trees
no grass of Portela
no dump.
no belgh cows
mother hot chocolate

Moisey - Trucks, jeeps
arrived to give us tour.
(Chesapeake)

Hoover - no wars reduced

Mammade Forests
Just the wagon "Worked", but 2nd harvest
no daisies
ate Swans on pond near Baronie manor
"We came down over that hill."

Golden Acorns are silver-haired. They were

have made of the same white Italian Marble as the great art of the Italian Renaissance. Thousands of them stand in perfectly measured concentric arcs as if to deny the unreasonable chaos and horror in which the men died. Although the 23' statue of an Angel of Peace dominated the front of the Chapel, but despite the green grass and red rose gardens, it was not peaceful to us. All the unlived years of all the young lives ended too soon were suspended in a painful time. There. We had a special mission ~~at the Ardennes~~ another military to another Cemetery. ~~We had promised~~ The day before we left home my husband took the front door screen to be repaired. When he said he didn't need it for two weeks the young office girl asked why. When he told her that he was going back to his WW II fighting area. She said that her uncle had been killed ~~there~~ ~~also~~ in Europe and the family never knew ~~what~~ where ~~happened to him~~ he was buried. Her grandmother had never talked about his death so far away and her mother had always wondered where her brother died ~~he was~~. ~~He~~ My husband promised to try to find his grave and he did. The computer at Hanam Cemetery gave his resting place in the Ardennes Cemetery and one week later we took pictures of it for the family. That soldier had fought in the 4th division "Ivy" 12th Reg all the way from ~~Normandy~~ Utah Beach on D-Day through France Normandy, liberated Paris, and died December 8th in the terrible Hurtgen Forest in the northern part of the Ardennes. His 12th infantry had fought

~~Corp~~ Cpl Mitch Kaidy recalled a similar Bonneme episode ~~to~~ as Kleefeldo, which affected a squad from his D Company ~~in Bonneme~~

"One morning a Tiger tank drew up & poked its heavy gun into a large hole in a brick wall of a house occupied by our troops. After attempting from 2 angles to launch a bazooka shell, a GI from my Co. crept to the door of the house & aimed his weapon. By this time he had been observed, and the tank fired at him. Some of the machinegun bullets which struck him are still (today) in his body. In this firefight, 12 members of D Company were taken prisoner.*

Tillet

Kaidy - p 9 - 2nd paragraph

13
.6
7.8 or less than 8 miles out

Kaidy - p 10 - last paragraph.

Mitch Kaidy of D Company would become a professional writer after the war and would later write, "we" 2nd par

p. 10 - Closing the book

* The ~~total~~ men & officers captured ~~from 1st Bn~~ in Bonneme ~~also~~ was the largest total of ~~87th~~ 1st Bn men captured in any battle. ~~It may have been the the largest total~~ now loss for the ~~87th~~ Division.

✓ 100 # 88 mm

page 25 - Siegfried

✓ Volkssturm - Home Guard

✓ TD's firing point blank at doors or embrasures
Germans wounded in different places for pieces of concrete & steel

✓ Hemingway with Col Lanham (Sept 18, 1944) dining at his CP near Brandscheid following a 88 going through the house one wall to out the other! (Letter to Mary Welsh - to be his 4th wife)
"This country is all a succession of wooden hills & rolling country with some bare heights from which you can see anything that moves ... Sometimes there is thick forest like home or in Canada and it seems as odd to be killed as it would be in Upper Michigan."

✓ Common German soldier called MPs "chaindogs"

✓ black-clad troops - turned silver shield & crossbones & runic double letter SS.

✓ 4th & Prüm - see page 27 - Siegfried

✓ Gen. Maurice Rose CO 3rd Armored, son of E. European rabbi - p 31
rise from Pvt to Gen, served under Patton - first Am. senior officer to enter Germany (Aachen) & only decorated gen. to be KIA in Europe in WWII

✓ Hide your officer insignia - attracts snipers of all kinds, inc. trenchfoot

✓ 1st Army suffered 10,000 casualties on the initial assault on the Siegfried by Oct 1st

✓ A trench is dug just wide enough for the shoulders, as long as the body and as deep as there is time

✓ Canteen Commandos - Pen Eddon - part of the 10 people behind the lines to support the one combat soldier

✓ Paris - Leone p 52-3

✓ Houffalize – page 145 – description – end of Bulge within patrol of ?

✓ $50 fine – for not wearing steel helmet – p 157

Killing at Tambach

Apr. 7, 1945

3rd BN was in position "outside the village of Tambach in this mountainous part of Germany. "E" Company had been riding the tanks & TDs on the the road snaking through the high hills & deep valleys while ~~and when~~ "F" Co. encountered the roadblock and joined them ~~in~~ "digging in for the night", a familiar order by now.

Canadian Company shelled Tambach throughout that night, hurling some 650 high explosives over the heads of the men of 3rd BN as ~~[illegible]~~ in the town, SS officers were instructing the Hitler Jugend of Tambach's military school in their responsibility to defend their village and the greater homeland. The 14-17 year old boys, clad in bits & pieces of uniform & carrying their weapons ~~and~~ ~~[illegible]~~ approached the dug-in ~~2nd~~ BN men during the darkness & were met by a hail of fire. A total of 44 young boys lay dead as others were wounded & captured and mothers arrived ~~from the town~~ to cry over their sons bodies.

At the roadblock an SS officer rose up out of the loop to shoot the ~~F.O.~~ unsuspecting artillery F.O. right through the eye. The forward observer ~~F.O.~~ was a ~~[illegible]~~ friend of 1st Lt. Thomas, the new CO of E Co. The F.O.s had the respect of the rifle in the artillery and were well regarded by the line companies for their ~~[illegible]~~ near precise & their surgical direction of ~~close support~~ of shells, sometimes just yards in front of our troops. More than once this accurate close-in shelling had stopped enemy counter-attacks and turned the tide of battle. Occasionally, the "friendly fire" would be too close & our own troops would be caught in the shrapnel. A F.O. would quickly radio a phone a correction or a "cease fire" in this case.

The balance of 2nd BN had hit the enemy, including the ~~a~~ strong SS presence in the rear and finally taken the town, ~~although~~ liberating an assortment of soldiers ~~to assemble~~. Sixty-two Canadian Commandos, captured in the 1942

Dieppe raid and 20 ~~estimated captured~~ Americans captured during the ~~early~~ mid-December day of the Bulge from the 684 F.A. of the 106th's ill-fated Division, plus some 101st Air Borne from the same Bastogne battle all found freedom. Not so the SS. officers and German Soldiers who now stood with hands on heads awaiting their fate.

It was this column of POWs filing past G Company that prompted ~~the~~ Lt. Scuento, a replacement platoon leader of two months to holler, "Let's kill some of these Sons of Bitches. Do I get volunteers?"

His actions caused Thomas to turn his back and shake his head "no" while the other nearby officers looked away. Scuento, ~~an~~ apparently ~~other~~ grandstanding, received the support of 6 or 7 G Company men and marched the first 10 of the German POWs off into a glade in a circle of trees. They quickly shot the prisoners, causing the remaining 8 observing 8 Germans to run away screaming. They were killed also, mostly ~~from~~ by Scuento's grease gun AK 47.

This episode would evoke an investigation & a court trial as the bodies were discovered by General Ford during a jeep ride the following day. The ~~bodies~~ corpses had been piled as cord wood next to the road and in full view of the artillery general & his driver as he headed to Tambach. Ford started the process whereby the Inspector General some weeks later & while 3rd Bn was in Pilsum asked the members of the battalion:

"Did you see anyone (German POWs) killed"? Also, "~~Did~~ you know anyone who killed a German POW?

The answers to the Major conducting the inquiry was "No, sir" by each man in the BN. Unknown to most of the BN, a trial was held during which Lt. Thomas had an attack of appendicitis: fell out of his chair & ~~left the~~ woke up in the hospital & the culprit. Lt. Scuento, given an overseas pass to avoid

a political embarrassment to the 87th's higher echelon was picked up by MPs some 40 miles away & returned for the trial. Results of the trial procedure were kept by the sergeant instructed to make 6 copies. He* made a 6th copy for himself & kept it with him until the ~~[illegible]~~ Bream dinner inspection, one item at a time, was called as our returning troops aboard the Westpoint were two days out from NY harbor. At this point he threw his copy of the trial transcript overboard — and apparently the matter, handled "in house", was over & done with & no one would know the results of the trial or verdict.

Lt. Acuntz vaporized from the 87th Division & memories remained in the minds of the men of G Company that would dog them after the war — including the man who asked for a transfer saying "I don't want to serve with murderers." Lt. Thomas spent money on psychiatrists, as he anguished over his "failure" to answer Acuntz with a "Don't do it!" and turning his back in silence instead. Thomas became a teacher in Virginia, married & got well. His thoughts that day had focused on his friend, the Artillery FO who was ambushed by the SS officer and shot through the eye at point blank range.

* Stenographer — from Columbia, Ga — "We put you under oath to never reveal this trial — make 5 copies — he made a 6th & kept it in the seat of his pants

On April 8th, 1st Bn set up their CP in Tambach, ~~Ger~~ ~~many~~ ~~the~~ a mountainous, pine forested section of Germany. An "incident" involving F Company of ~~the~~ Second Battalion had occurred (before our entry into the village) ~~and~~ while the battalion ~~was~~ was in position outside the town the previous night.

Tambach

The SS instructed the Hitler Jugen at ~~boys of~~ the military school in Tambach to take up weapons and attack the ~~entrenchments of their homeland~~ company from 3rd Pln who were ~~in~~ outside ~~the edge of~~ Tambach that evening. The next day ~~boys~~ that ~~[illegible]~~ 14-17 yrs of age, clad in pieces of uniforms lay scattered dead while their mothers wept and the SS who "inspired" their futile effort marched toward our lines with their hands on their heads.

Lt. Thomas, ~~newly made~~ the new CO of G. Company was still considering ~~another matter~~ the incident at the road block ~~of boys had~~ where the concealed ~~the~~ SS officer ~~who~~ had popped up & shot Thomas's friend, the F.O. ~~lieutenant~~ artillery forward observer, right through the eye. He ~~was thinking of this when~~ and turned his back to Lt.? Scuento, ~~the~~ replacement officer of 2 months as he announced for Thomas & ~~the~~ other officers to hear as the Jerry prisoners were filing "~~the line company boys sure are getting tough~~ by with hands on heads.

"Let's kill some of these sons of bitches. Do I get volunteers?"

Lt. Thomas shook his head and looked away as did the other officers in the group as the grandstanding replacement officer and ~~a few~~ G Co company men ~~following his example~~, marched 10 of the German POWs to a glade in a circle of trees & quickly shot them down. The remaining 8 prisoners screamed & ran and were also killed — mostly by Scuento's grease gun (AK47?)

Tambach

On Apr 5th 1st BN had been ~~assigned~~ deployed to the rear of 2nd & 3rd Bns to "mop-up" behind the advance of the Regiment towards Tambach. We had ~~reached~~ left the town of Oberschel ~~and on that date~~ and the next day reached Waldfinch at 1250 hours, Arnvallberg at 1605 hours to overnight at Schnelbach ~~which~~ where we arrived by 1800 hours or 6:00 PM.

~~The Regiment~~ April 7th the 2nd BN moved ahead with Company F riding tanks and TDs with the other companies on foot. Third BN had a similar formation & 1st BN was still to the rear "mopping up".

The terrain of high hills & deep valleys channelized our approach to the Germans log road blocks attended by occasional snipers. Big Ed Hayes of C Company recalled, "We moved along at a pretty good pace with only an occasional slow down for a "40-30 road block" – 40 hours to build, 30 seconds to burst through."

Resistance increased up ahead for Co. F riding the tanks & TDs as they encountered a road block supported by SS troops and forced the Schulz staffel Troops into ~~the city of~~ Tambach as Companies F & G dug in for the night at the edge of the woods ~~nearest the city~~ and facing the open fields between themselves and the twin city of Tambach-Dietharz.

The Hitler Jugend, inspired by the SS, attacked across the open fields on the morning of Apr. 8th. They were young, not in full uniform, recruited from Tambach or a military HS ranging in age from 13 to 17 and under the regular army troops which were in turn, controlled by the SS.

F Company was waiting as the young fanatics threw themselves into their line of fire in the pre-dawn darkness. The company's ~~rifles~~, machine guns, automatic weapons & rifles took their toll. When the attack ended, 44 dead remained where they fell in the field and the wounded joined others who surrendered as POWs. ~~The~~ An enemy tank was destroyed during this action.

C Company of 1st BN moved into Tambach behind 2nd Bn and assisted 3rd BN at the last road block strongly defended by SS troops. They struck at the enemy's rear allowing entry to the city at 1700.

Various allied POWs were happy to see our forces arrival as it meant their liberation. The ~~men included~~ liberated included 62 Canadian commandos, prisoners since August of 1942 and 23 enlisted men & five officers captured early in the Bulge from the 106th Inf ~~Div~~ & the 101st Airborne Division & the 684th F.A. Bn. Meanwhile the newly captured German POWs, including the SS were marched out of Tambach in column to the rear and an "incident" occurred about a half hour after clearing the road block.

A recently field commissioned 2nd Lt., standing near other line company officers of 3rd BN. shouted, "Lets' kill some of these son of bitches! Do I get any volunteers?" The company commander shook his head as other officers looked away as 6 or 7 I&R "volunteered". The massacre of the 156 POWs in the column followed. It was twice that of the American POWs ~~at~~ at the atrocity Malmedy in Dec. during the Bulge by Peifers Panzer's troops. ~~SS~~

The evidence was ~~piled up~~ strewn along the road to Tambach

as General Ford's jeep traveled the route the next day. Included, ~~among the~~ were the corpses of American GIs killed during the attack on Tambach. Ford relayed what he had witnessed and the Division Inspector General would later question the men of 3rd BN, when they reached Plaueem and were lined up by companies.

"Now, I'm going to ask you men the following two questions and I'm going to place you individually under oath. Did you see any German prisoners killed at Tambach? Do you know any man who killed prisoners at Tambach? Now, I don't want to know what you heard of what someone told you."

The men were taken in groups of five, raised their hands and swore on the open Bible, "I do."

As to the ~~two~~ questions, each group in turn answered, "no sir." to each.

+

[Killing at Tambach] mentioned in "Private" — p 107

Apr. 7 —
3rd BN
"G" Co. story — riding tanks & TDs
high hills / deep valleys — snake like road
encountered
F Co. Roadblock —
" & G dug in for night of 4/7
Common Co. shelled Tambach with 650 high explosives
— early (night line) Apr. 6 — encountered Hitler Jugend as they
dashed across fields at F Co — 44 "r" dead, + wounded
& prisoners

3rd BN — dug in for the night after forcing new roadblock
rescuemen 0630

3rd BN (again) counter attack on K Co.
last roadblock at 1330 — strong SS
"C" Co. (1st BN?) hit enemy rear — so 3rd BN entered town
62 Canadian Commandos (Dieppe raid 1942) freed
at Tambach + ~~recently~~ Dec. 44 captured Americans 5 officers &
30 enlisted from 424th F A. of the 106th Div. & 101st Airborne

Shooting may have been Apr. 8th

Page 393 — Private — ~~2nd Lt. Anthony Ar~~ ~~Vincent Acente~~ boys 14-17 not in complete uniform
Lt. Seriates "the line-co. boys are getting tough" Took
16 Jerry prisoners out in the woods, right out there, & shot 'em down.
Killed every F---- in one open. They're not taking any S--- from
no one!" — happened 1/2 hour after clearing road block
Lt. MacKenzie newly made C.O. of C Co., Lt. Moore, replacement officer
"Let's kill some of these snapbeliers. Do I get volunteers?" McKenzie shoots "3"
his head (no.?) ~~off~~ other officers look away — Moore halts line of young prisoners
& with 6-7 volunteers, marched the first 10 to glade in circle of trees
& shot them down. Returned for remaining 8 — who screamed & ran
were shot down — mostly by Moore's grease gun

over

wasn't "C" Co. it was "A" Co. – No said "A" Co.
man, it was the goddam Yankees – no one wanted any part
of it

Jerry prisoners come in to Aid Sta. carrying 6-8 of their
wounded – 3rd Army photographer arrives – BN surgeon *
makes a "big deal" of treating defore camera & stays
when camera man left

* Capt Stettner

– next the Ordruf story – week later (Cmdr 4/3 m)

"When the burgomeister led his townfolk to the camp, saw what it
was like, led through the torture chambers, past the ovens, men &
women screamed, fainted, led away crying hysterically –
all swore during the past years "no idea of what had been going
on in the camp next to their town. [The greasy black smoke
& odor of burning bodies could be detected for miles around
concentration camps]

Awards – BN formation – Bronze & Silver Stars – mostly to
officers & 1st Sgts. – not deserved (?)

Tanbach

not here

Diamond - NY - wounded
R. Harvey - Cum Cty NY - 15 bodies
Branning 306
Doyle 1418
Elion 931
Smith 2210
Phillips 1626

L Co.
Tanbach
Apr 8th

5-7 older - 65+ not in uniform
outlying wood a dead wood
expected by L Co.
Lt from Recon - reported bodies
more (13) people KIA & 19
wounded - record for 1 day / L Co.

312th Engineers lost 25 - Jan 11
mines blew up by Japanese
combatants -

Jan 29, 1995

Philips, George 908 548 5164

George was one of the people at Louisville KY reunion who was discussing Apr 8 and 45 L.

We went over the battle again. He remembered a building and a fire near it. He remembered firing at civilians hiding behind the trees.

He thought the action was on a hill overlooking Tambach. Tambach came into view after they came down the hill into a clearing.

He remembered details the tank commander or Lt was Jewish. The tank blsted the two germans who came to get the tank.

He slept by a woodpile that night.

The people at the reunion were Doyle, and Branning. Doyle has had a heart attack and had difficulty going up the steps after the paddle wheel trip.

The road was on the left, and the road turned to the right and came to a clearing. It was the seven on the left who were killed. Phillips was a BAR man and ran out of ammunition.

Doyle's injury was to the face that day. Diamond to the nose and one eye.

There was a road block on the left flank on the road. The jeep coming up with ammunition had a flat bed trailer.

Govorchin received a battlefield commission some time prior to then.

Harvey gave me several names, some with phone numbers.

Mallory, Ken	818 445 5189	Arcadia CA
Cassino, Tony		Brooklyn
Philips, George	908 548 5164	NJ
Gargas Buddy		
Garger, Wilbur		WV Huntington (once)
Tremont, Rollin	798 544 5865	Berkeley IL

FLUSHING - (A) 718-497-8954
Pitts 412-824-3570
BN 516-623-0749

CASSINO TONY

Hayes

Discharged Indiantown Gap Military Res.
20 Sept 45 - Longevity. 4yrs, 10mo, 25days
Married Helen Wurmlinger 24 Nov 45
4 children - 4 grand children
Worked sheetmetal Trade 1 Oct 45 - Nov 48
Firefighter City of St. Clair Shores MI 1 Jan 49 -
30 April 54 Arrived Tucson Az 31 May 54
with wife and 3 children took job on Airport
Fire Dept for 30 days left because of low wage
$250. gross per month. Got chance to join
Sheetmetal Wkrs Local 426 late July 54
worked until July 75 retired disabled
served as Trustee, Vice President and
President
Helen served in WAAC/WAC approx 3yrs.
Met her in Kansas City May 44 while being
rotated out of the Aluttian Is. Was
already assigned to 87th Div but had
a 30 day delay en route to visit family
in Detroit. Reported to "C" company
345 July 1 44 at Ft Jackson

A E
B F
C G – Lt. Thomas, new CO of G Co. 2nd Lt. Vincent Acunto, Brooklyn. Replacement
D H

(1)

Jim Atwell's Private

3-4 wounded men in the Aid Sta gave the account

Artillery barage shortly after daylight & small arms joined in mowing down advancing Germans. Barage lifts & streams of Germans come forward to surrender. When they are close to the fox hole dug in around the road block, some snipers in their midst open fire killing the FO & his sergeant & wounding the GIs who are reporting this story. After the snipers fired, they then dropped their weapons & raised their hands to surrender. The irq shot them down without hesitation.

A half hour goes by & more Germans are surrendering & being rounded up. 1st Lt. Haley Thomas (Cheraw, SC) had just been made CO of G Co. following the death of 1st Lt. James Dowd & a replacement officer, 2nd Lt. Vincent Acunto stood watching the prisoners stream in. A short distance away " other officers. Lt. Acunto suddenly said, "Let's kill some of these sonofbitches. Do I get any volunteers?"

Many hands went up. Lt. Thomas shook his head but said nothing. The other officers, within hearing distance, looked the other way & remained silent. At that moment a file of young prisoners was being led past. Lt Acunto halted the line, and, with his six or seven volunteers, marched the first 10 prisoners out of sight into a little glade formed by a circle of trees, and shot them down. Returning for the remaining eight prisoners, they marched them into the glade. The 8, seeing their comrades lying dead, let out screams & started to run. All were shot down. Lt. Acunto, with a grease gun, killed most of them.

Other walking wounded came in to the Aid Station, ~~carried~~ helped by their friends. At first boastful, they completely reversed their feelings saying, "It wasn't G Co. guys that done it. It was E Co."

"No!" said an E Co man. "It was the goddam Yankees, that's who it was!"

Suddenly no one wanted any part of it and those who at first boasting were now denying it at the top of their lungs.

Ordrup was just outside the ~~2nd Bn~~ sector, but some of the 2nd BN saw the concentration camp. "They were pukin' and said it was awful. There're gonna let everyone see it, if you wanna go. They say you ought to see it before they clean any of it up."

An officer from Regimental HQ came through the knee-high, bleached weeds. ~~He~~ said, "I've just come from Ordrup, from the concentration camp."

"I hear they're going to let us all go over & see it."

"Don't. Don't go. Do yourself a favor - stay away! It's the most horrible thing - worse than anything you ever heard of. Bodies all over the place - women, kids, men - all heaped together, half-burned. They must have been living skeletons. God, what bastards to do things like that! I'll tell you, I'm sick! Take it from me, it's all there; none of it's exaggerated, but don't go."

Some of the medics from 2nd BN did go, reporting to the rest. "You're lucky you didn't go. God it was awful. Honest, I'm sick." They skipped supper that night. "A week later while some rear element of the 87th were in Ordrup, the bürgomaster was made to lead his townsfolk out to the

concentration camp for a burial ceremony. By then the place had been considerably cleaned up. The starved & half-consumed bodies had been gathered & placed in coffins, and there were a few floral offerings. When the townsfolk saw what the camp was like ~~they had been~~ large led through the Torture chambers & past the ovens, men & women screamed out & fainted; others were led away crying hysterically. All swore they had no idea of what had been going on in the camp outside their town.

The greasy black smoke & the odor of burning bodies could have been detected for miles around

May

2nd Lt. Vincent Acunto, who had asked for volunteer in Tambach, stopped by at the aid station to have a breaking-out on his leg dressed. Beaming widely, he said he was to be flown back to the States for a 45 day leave of absence. It was an attempt to spirit him away before the search into the Tambach killings became too hot. He drove off at full speed toward the airport & had been gone 30-40 miles out of Plauen when the Inspector Generals' order stopped his jeep & the Lt. was held for further questioning. He & his C.O. Lt. Thomas were placed under arrest to await court-martial proceedings; one for perpetrating the murders, the other for standing by & permitting them.

Point system

"Stars & Stripes" - every year over 30 - add 2 points

Each kid, each battle star, each Bronze, Silver or Purple H 5 points

Each month in service is worth 1 point

Sunday - 1st day of rest since leaving England - Mass in a big shattered factory - midday meal seemed larger & better than usual - details of

personal lives flowed between the men – business, marriage, family

May – Private

Atwell went to Jossnitz to Personnel (Div) worked on Service Records
thick wet flakes of snow landed on the cherry blossoms
radio announced Hitler's suicide in Berlin – "In his bunker

Stars and Stripes news that the Russians were to occupy our sector as well as the rest of Thuringia. The 87th was named as one of the first divisions to be sent back to the States; and then, following a 30 day recuperative furlough at home, we were to be given a brief but intensive training in jungle welfare & the technique of assault landing, and then were to be shipped to the East

Men who were wounded as far back as the Battle of the Bulge were returned from the hospitals to make the trip home with the division – among them, Dear Felix (odd story – one Felix catching up on "what happened to them"

June: Atwell & 3rd Bn in Schleiz
Going home – newly issued Eisenhower jackets
new shirts, pants & new combat boots
two-and-a-half-ton trucks to the 40 & 8's – clean
straw & not crowded in the box cars – click-click-clack
wooden
June sunny view of German countryside: its towns, streams,
woods, waterfalls & dark-green mountains – boys looking out of
the doorway or the one high barred window

When darkness came, we spread our blankets on the straw, took off our combat boots & by exercising care, each could find room to stretch out.

Memories flashed by as did the country side as the men took their turn at the wide doorway the next morning — others slept on or began ~~ragging~~ or playing cards. Many thoughts were in the minds of some as they contemplated their future while others stayed in the present — ragging those they had ragged the past 6 months and comfortable in the process.

Twice a day, for 15 mins., the box cars halted & the men swarmed down onto the cracked blue stone of the roadbed to relieve themselves & to get water in large 10 in 1 cans a helmet to wash & shave, walking for exercise or to visit friends in another car. The whistle blew & it was a scramble back to the car marked "40 Hommes and 8 Chevaux" chalked with American names, dates & towns beginning to finish their second World War.

On adjacent tracks passing in opposite direction were cars containing former Russian slave labor & POWs enroute to the Russian zone. The women were in native costume with full skirts & babushkas. The sound of a balalaika, an accordian & voices in song were the prelude to a return to home & homeland and FREEDOM. Russian soldiers in other cars who had been POWs were dressed in new green American fatigues & GI shoes — some astonishingly old-looking in their uniforms. Some Russians looked like fat eskimos, others like elongated Chinese, others like Turks, others the same as Americans

The following day we crossed the French border & the countryside assumed the individuality of the people replacing the German neatness & regimentation - the occasional rusted truck or tank destroyer left lopsided in a field. There were other signs of the earlier war in pitted walls of buildings & broken windows & an repaired roofs. Damaged trees would take a generation to repair (thought), but the farmers were in their fields, not bothering to wave, turning from the war & those who had returned their way of life to them - no gratitude here. We did not care to be ingratiated. We were alive & going home and the weather was beautiful.

Our thoughts were returned to our bivy time in France in the December before we bloodied in the Saar ~~to what we knew of~~ TO small towns enroute to Metz & a rainy dismal cold French countryside. It was cheerful by comparison to the wet misery of the apple orchard.

Tambach

Lt. Thomas on Tambach - "That damned 44 Squants was making a grandstand play. This friend of mine, the Artillery officer, the FO who was directing fire had just been killed by the sniper ~~who had run (concealed) in the surrendering Germans and shot him~~ Not Gen. Ford - but an artillery Col was chewed out by Gen Collin about his men's conduct - stealing rope & the Artillery Col. exploded saying at least his men were not cold blooded killers - killing little high-school boy. Collin demanded to know what he meant & the colonel told him to look into what happened in Tambach. He called a full-scale investigation using the IG & someone at Bn tipped me off & I called had 10 men to get ready. I called a formation in a hurry & told the men they saw &

knew nothing. Not a damned thing. Everybody stuck together. The officers of 3rd Bn became worried about repeated questioning of Acuntz & his ability to stand up to it & when there was a lull granted Acuntz a 45 day furlough to return to the State.

When they picked him up on the way to the airport they told him that I had confessed - which of course, I hadn't - & Acuntz broke down & spilled the whole thing. He was arrested & put in the stockade. They took me in & the trial began. I repudiated everything Acuntz said & became ill during the trial, collapsing out of the chair & was carried out of the room on a stretcher to a field hospital. I had my appendix out. I was guarded day & night while recovering. I during the time remembered the sniper was brought in for killing a medic & the General was present at Lissendorf. Cullen ordered that sniper to be taken out, dig his own grave & then be shot down into it. And he said, "That's the way to treat these sons of bitches." I got the word to the 1st Sgt of that company - a good friend of mine - who was standing there at the time (& hated Cullen's guts) if he'd mind swearing to what he saw & heard that day at Lessendorf. The 1st Sgt had 15 of his men sign with him & I had his paper in my possession & rested easy.

When the trial resumed, the statement signed by the men of that company was handed to the General with the suggestion that his actions that day with the sniper in Lessendorf had been taken as an example faithfully copied by his men. The general ordered the investigation dropped.

The Farm, the Frau & the black chickens

Early March - Medic on tank shot thru head at River Kyll town Lessendorf - E Co. ?

I think perhaps these notes and quotations might be useful in an epilogue.

From this day to the ending of the world,
But we in it shall be remembered
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers
For he today that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother;

W. Shakespeare, Henry V iv iii 35
Battle of Agincourt, 25 October, 1415

We who fought and survived the chaos of that awful 1944-45 winter in Ardennes know of what Shakespeare speaks in Henry V. We too are a band of brothers, swiftly fading into the recesses of history. We are a band of brothers who became a great militia.

W. R. D.

A figure of speech among Veterans of The 1864 Battle of Chickamauga said,

"I have been to the mountain
"I have seen the elephant
I have heard the owl, call my name"

O Death where is thy sting-a-ling-a-ling
O Grave, thy victoree?
The bells of Hell go Ting-a-ling-a-ling
For you but not for me.

British Army 1914-18

No man is an island, entire of itself.

Any man's death diminishes me, Because I am involved in mankind;
and therefore never send to know for Whom the Bell Tolls; It tolls for thee.

John Donne

Ye are better than all the ballads
That ever were sung or said
For ye are living poems
And all the rest are dead.

Longfellow, Children

Pulled the trigger? "F" Co. 3rd BN, 345th
Battlefield Commission
Chuck Foreman
2nd Lt. John L. Conklin - mexican Compton, Calif.

[redacted]

~~"G" Company~~ HQ Capt. Berquist Capt. R.A.
— " — West Manashe?
Driver for HQ Co. Cmdr. - Most freedom
to Anti-tank from South —

— " — "
1st New
Lt. Johnson had "Private" —
Fontana, Calif.
to Lt. — Idaho

Lyons - was platoon sgt. —

Maj.
Vince Osera - was separated out of
HQ Co. 1st BN

Who was who in Med. Detachment
p 82-3

~~was Anti-tank also a platoon in~~
~~HQ Co.~~ of officers —
Lt. Acuito (replacement - came to Lonato for attempt joined us in March over

moved out of there — didn't do anything to stop — [CO was who didn't do anything

Lt. Thomas] Stenographer at court trial — we put you under oath to never reveal the trial — make 5 copies — he made 6 — kept them in the seat of his pants — Westpoint — alerted to "breakdown inspection" — one thing at a time — afraid they see action — threw into ocean 2 nights before we landed" — threw it into ocean — soul man from Columbia —

Trial ended Lt Thomas mental fightin agedip — fell out of chair unconscious — awoke to surgery — field hospital —

2 55 were told the surgeon to defend Thomas head matter

A to B

Virginia Foreman's Notes

When the details about the Battle Star Tour of Europe came in the mail in March my husband said, "We're going", and I thought "Oh, no!". I knew that he wanted to go back to put together the puzzle pieces of his war, but I didn't want to leave home August when the grandchildren visit and Lake Superior is finally warm enough for swimming.

I took a quick look at the trip itinerary and it mentioned seeing Bruges, the "Venice of the North", and a short cruise on the Rhine as well as visiting battle sites, cemeteries, and war museums. So I decided to go along. He sent in the check, ordered the passports, and we ~~flew to met~~ the ~~87th Division~~ group at JFK Airport on August 9. I wasn't prepared to have the time of my life and to be bitten by the "Bulge bug".

We flew to Luxembourg City in eleven hours. (Cin) (1944) he was seasick for 5 days about. His ~~young~~ U.S. Army Division, the 87th Infantry, was made up of ~~consisted of thousands~~ of young men who came of age (18) just in time to fight in World War II. They went through basic training and maneuvers in the southern United State ~~in the early~~ in the early months of 44 ~~months of 1944~~ The troopship ~~Queen Elizabeth~~ transported them to Europe in October. They landed at Le Havre, France, in November. ~~and~~ By December 1st they were in combat near the the Ancient French forts near Metz: They had advanced to ~~were in~~ Sequeeler Germany (by December 23rd) reached the Siegfried Line, the German wall of pillboxes first into Germany.

10 Oct
By train troop
Had trained there all Sept.
11 Oct. Lennie went into Newark with
Sgt. Osterhaus A&P platoon to see sister Lil (Steve Rucbuts)
was late after midnight (2 AM) sneaky maneuvers
Chuck went to Trenton where Geo. W. Drew dollar
had Sun. dinner Presbyterian Church.
15 Oct. First people (345th) on board Queen
Arnett 1st Sgt first Lennie 6th person up
gangplank. Carried pack on back & duffle bag
Watching Murphy to see if he would fall.
Section B4 (Level B). Banks 6 high discussed
being on top discussed if they would fall. Pulled
duty, Chuck peeled 8 lbs carrots, Stunk. 2 meals a day
Oct. 7 Gibson & Co. got sick - lost 10-15 lbs
Oct. 22 ate with crew so ate 3rd meal, lot of bread.
Walked, got on train, another town before Bradulph.
Any Foremans in Grennock? Rock wall fences &
it was green & beautiful
Oct. 24 - Hikes, had on runaway bicycle (Eighth) didn't
know how to use handle brakes. Older guys cattering
around & Eng. girls who walked from far away.
(Black Amer. dreadnaut) Guys had rough time finding way back. Army truck
hit corner store. Dances - hokey pokey. Pubs
light and dark beer. Went to dance at Hanley Hanley, set
up dates, Quonset hut, straw mattress on metal bed
24 Nov Get ready to move out. Early Thanksgiving, over
Southampton, saw dogfight. Sgt. Lt. Thompson
had to crawl up net - c bags. Crawl down net
steelwalls of LST. caramel pulled off one gold crown
fixed dentist reset lasted year after war.

saw no destruction in Eng. but in France saw
28 Nov bombings. Bunked together in clay mud, got to
barn, going to get hay from barn, Put apples on
~~floor~~, mud, straw "beats wet cold mud!" Kept
straw

Boxcars "40 men or 8 horses" bale or two
of straw to scatter around. Not know where going.
Cockman song Vive la Compagny O'Grady
nice guy knew more verses than anybody.
When the Canadas O'me been working on S.R.P.

6 Dec. Metz first firing by enemy. Guard duty of C.P.
2-4 AM shift. Saw Amer. soldier staggering
down st. Halt! ?drunk, sobered up 5th div.
fellow cognac looking for outfit. On 2 hrs.
off 4 hrs - firing from hillside first few days, but
forts surrendered in few days
Casualties at Metz

13 Dec. Beg long valley, tried to dig in, open,
Toedtle/ Had to wear helmet - to deflect bullet?, Bangalore
saw dead Americans (Mendalsheim) noticed helmet
of captain's helmet with bullet hole right through center.
direct hit would go through (31 cal) = 9 mm
Rain - whole bunch of Stars & Stripes to keep him
out of mud, getting wet anyway.
Snowed when lost men & Co. got Silver Star
- in woods outside of Mendalsheim - shells had cut tops.
Digging together in hole where someone had been
hit - could tell from trees - dug deeper, Crching
put log over top to be safer from shells Battalion
CP in trench Capt. Lee (G.I's) here. A dog
caught on a fence in guard duty - you freeze.
Frozen body first night -

~~Shoes, shoe pacs~~,
Got shoe pacs, heavy wool sock, provide
lighter sock every day. — 2nd sock in Bulge.
Jeep running outside to make elec. light. Stove
pipe - gas close tent + back up amps. Lari
coat frosted over overcoat. Helmet liner in bag.
Wool knit cap. Carry toilet paper in helmet liner.
O' Gooey hit land mine.
White uniforms issued here & wolf fur
Loose ~~Cape~~ to wrap around gun.

Dec. 23 Lost a lot of men 20-30 medics working
7 pm orders to leave position. Reaction
— "Hell' we don't want to leave here.
Sgt. Norris - not a pusher, loose
Dec. 24 Loaded on big trucks all night long —
Memorable Christmas - frozen turkey, hot soup
Geraldine's picture with frame.
Next day told Germans had broken through up north.
Dec. 26 10 degrees, canvas shower put up tents.

Dec. 30. Germans were in Jeuneville, Got off back
of truck, formed in lines, told to be silent, sat
down, behind German lines. Some major
had taken wrong road. Not a whole lot of know.
Bn. Hqtrs at Freux - Cannon Co. at Mouzy
A Co. went first, B on flank. Dawson + Lemme
up on Hillside. Lee ? forward artillery obs. ? At 10 pm
Next night Lee on guard duty, Germans moved forward
(Lee went to Bn CP Back said stand guard.
Lee said he had to run all the way.)
Dec. 31 New Year's Eve offensive — biggest
noise Lemme ever heard, CP stayed at Freux
never retreated. Lot of give + take — Mouzy

"Arm the cooks" Chuck & Col. Bock – To arms, to arms! Col. B. copied.

4th Div. arr. Luxembourg end of 1st week Dec. 44
Prior - Hürtgen Forest with 5,000 Casualties
All rifle companies were short at ~~least~~ least 40 men

16th Dec. - 12th INF hit by German artillery barrage which began at 5:30 am & knocking out Telephone lines to company locations. The Germans crossed the Sûre river at Echternach, a medieval town of 5,000 (evacuated) people, right in the center of the 12th INF
By late morning, the Germans had surrounded all five of the forward companies. Before noon, the Regimental Cmdr, Col. Robert Chance, committed his reserve Battalion to relieve the surrounded companies & after fighting through the night rescued some that next morning. The fighting was fierce & held the German's 7th Army from crossing the river (by building a bridge for assault guns)

For 1st Army Commanded by Courtney Hicks Hodges

On Dec. 7, the veteran 4th Inf. Div., having incurred several thousand casualties in the Hürtgen Forest, northern Ardennes were in the VIII Corps lines, commanded by General Middleton. The 4th Div. were in from ~~the vicinity of~~ Echternach, Belgium, stretched out 20 miles to the boundary with the Third Army SE of Luxembourg City.

Jeromes Regiment, the "Twelfth", ~~2 divisions of the~~ 80th was in position on the west bank of the Sûre River below the junction* of the Sûre & the Our River. The Commander of the 4th Div. was General ~~Orta~~ Barton. The other 2 regiments held fronts further south

* towns of Wallendorf & Dillingen

12/20th – detached from 3rd & joined 7th Army to the south; 15th Corp (Saarbrucken & Medelsheim)

The Battle of Moiry (& Bonneme & Perempre, Jeanneville,
Time Frame – 1st Bn.

12/28/44 Reassignment to 3rd Army at Rheims

12/29 On the road to Suchie Woods. 19 KM SW of Moiry

12/29 All element made it by 2100 hrs

12/30 Lt. Andrews reports at 0600 hrs his 345th Reg. I&R in patrol during the night "encountered no enemy in Moiry" & trucks take 1st Bn troops to L.P.

Bn. CP set up at Freux Minil at 10:30 &

"A" Co. in lead of Bn. to jump off at 0800 from Libramont drew fire at same time (approx), B, C, D followed

Air Force chased tanks away – Carey

1400 hrs – elements of A, B & D in Moiry

1600 " – Co. C in Jeanneville

1700

1900 " – Nazi counter attack; "C" Co. back to Moiry

Bn CP pulls out of Freux Milil (too "hot" for Bock)

~~2145~~ Amer. artillery pounds Moiry

– page 68 in Div. History Book – says "... the hand set had been shot off the radio of Sgt. Layman, radio operator for Co. C" (listen for Bob Cross's story)

2145 hrs approx – U.S. Artillery employed

1st Bn Anti Tank Platoon under Lt. Cooper moves into Moiry & set up its guns

1900 – Counter attack reaches Moiry with 4 tanks + German troops

"A" (most) & parts of B & D back to positions SW of town

Bock orders withdrawal so artillery can be fired on town. "C" Co & parts of B & D (out of communication with 1st BN CP) remain in Moiry

12/31 contact regained with 1st Bn tps in Moiry (Bob Cross story)

later – 1st BN moved to high ground either side of Moiry

pre-empt with Feeney report

Reference: p. 9 – 89th After Action Report

1/1 — 3 BN's ordered out of front lines back into positions around Rardin
1st BN to Lanaville

1/2 Carey "Bad battle in Bonnevue — "C" Co. really chewed up (foot)
forced us to reorganize — officers gone & replaced — CO wounded

1/3 345th ordered to relieve 346th

1500 started move

1/4 0200 move made except for 1st BN which was W. of
Lebiamont

1/5 1st BN completed relief of 3rd BN of 346 — ~~345~~ 1st BN
stretched 12,000 yds to SW

1/6 ✓ 1st BN ordered back to Bonnevue / Moving over
"C" + AT & "D" moved into Bonnevue by 1/7
"B" into the woods 200 yds E of Perrupre by 1/7
"A" 300 yds SW of Perrupre by 1/7

1/6 (7th) Col. Book (1st BN) reported change completed 0700
0800 signs of German attack — 4 tanks moving from
N. toward Bonnevue — GI artillery forced withdrawal
of tanks — ("2 Platoons captured" Taymen) ("25 men left" Taymen) morning of 8
1600 — German 88 fire
1/7 1800 — German tanks preceded by 88 fire
"C" Co. & AT waited for tanks; Cpl. White of AT fired (White & PFC Greatsgom)
4 rounds at point blank range from big 57
PFC's Meraglia & Grimalchi (bazooka team) knocked out the armored
half-track following the tank; Self propelled 88's were
firing point blank at Co. C, casualties high, Meraglia
at Kettle's bazooka knocked out another tank —
G.I artillery falls on Bonnevue & Jerry moved out —
quiet rest of night (Sgt. Wetzel (brain) foot blown off)
1/8 (8th) Jerry returns; "0600" "C" Co — called for artillery — Co CP
on fire — several taken prisoner, our 57 rolled into place & fired
on us — CP personnel leaves burning bldg & goes into woods

1/8 – Back goes to front – (1st time) – page 71 & 72
"Turnip group"

1/9 ?

1/10 A & B relieved at 0235 by 347th
D attached to 3rd BN

1/13 Spearhead & Defensive Position
1/18 Spreedgen, Luxembourg – BN CP in actor Reno's chateau – OP in Echternach church, Hotel Des Ardennes & Hotel outside of town. Patrol across Sauer; Sgt. Norris shot en route to man OP by our troops 7 out of 8 names from M-1

Criss verbal report; John Huston & he (action) – late – Lunsford "said" 18-20 wounded; stop firing – "go back to BN C.P. & report"
Artillery man said Cease all firing on Moiray – returned at daylight ~~[illegible]~~ with jeeps & medics & re

prior — 1st BN, 345th in vicinity of Limerle — prepared to engage

1/27/45 — prepare to move to St. Vith — take over from 7th Armored 2nd BN

2330 Hrs. Snow avail deep — Lt. Col Olsen new 1st Bn Cmdr.

1st BN to take Heuem (east of Setz)

1/28/45 0930 — NW of Heuem

1630 — "A" Co. in & out & in & out of Heuem

2015 — A & B in Heuem; "C" on high ground to north

Wounded casualties

"K" Co. 3rd Bn ordered from Setz to Heuem — to enter (through "C" Co.) from north — 6 Tanks to assist

2/1 ~~1/29~~/45 0600 — 3rd BN in Heuem; 26 wounded, 1 killed

1st BN stays in Heuem, 3rd goes on to Atzerath

Reg. CP in Setz

2/2-2/5 1st BN to Andler; 1000 yds from German Border; 2nd & 3rd within Germany

2/4 3rd BN to Auw; 3rd BN to Kobscheid (Siegfried 2000 yds away) reached by dark (approx 1800)

2/5 ~~Rest period~~ 1st BN

2/6 Moved to Auw, Germany — prepared for Siegfried Assault

~~1/6~~ cont. 200 yds S. of Town

1/7 cont (8?) 1145 Bach arrives & gives his "command"; attack repulsed, Bach shot, Germ stays in Bonneuve

GI artillery shells Bonneuve throughout day

1/8 Tiger Patrol from "G" joins "C" Co.; 1/9 Lt. Cooper + men hide in turnip pile until daylight — 2 wounded — escape to BN CP with info — Weatherbee "wide-eyed" — wounded left behind; "B" Co. at Pirompre at 1420 moves up; "A" caught in fire fight — Big snow day 1600

Tambach, home of I. G. Farben Ind.

p 43 87th captured Ordruf -

First 10 days of advance, the 87th advanced 170 airline kms thru Thuringen province & into Saxony

Plauen, before Nazidom had been the fine lace capital of Europe - Hitler turned Plauen into the home of Vomag, (comparable to GM in the States) manufacturing heavy duty military trucks, guns & war machinery - received air raids up through Apr 10 - almost totally destroyed

after VE day - the 87th supervised 5 POW camps in the vicinity of Plauen & the Thuringen area. Prisoners were processed @ 1,000/day & sent home.
Care & disposition of displaced persons was broken into camps for French, Italian, Russian, Czecho-slovakian and "mixed minorities". The DPs were formed into companies & Bns (military style) with their own officers & given nourishing rations & provided clean living-quarters.

The "West Point", the largest of the transport ships in Amer. service carried the 345th & 347th departing 5 July arr 11 July at NY & assembling the passengers at Camp Kilmer for a steak & transportation home over

Review with Jim — mail copy

Jim Elman's comments — 1992

(There was this) "stupid bastard from Service Co. whose (M-1) safety was always off — Frank DeWitt from Canton, Ohio — shooting insulators — Noah Moore from Lebanon, Ohio

Jim was with Heffner in truck — 15 or 20 guys from A & P with Lt. Waldenmuth of Recony (3p) S/S Robert Thompson Belgium

Jim was hit on Jan 3rd or 4th. (Was he with some guys from Communications Platoon?) After being hit (wrist/body) (and given first aid?) Lt. Chapman asked for Jim's field jacket during this period & Jim's words were: "I hope you freeze, you Jewish S.O.B.!"

It was the end of the war for Elman who began the process through the field hospitals arriving in England in March of 45 & went through 4 operations in the U.S. prior to discharge on Sept 28th

---

earlier in Saar

Maj Arnold, 2nd BN adjutant had his tent set up on the crest of the hill which attracted (Krauts) fire — Willie Arnett retreating from 1st BN area (near 2nd) said "Let's go boys! This ain't the infiltration course! Lets go!" as he led the way down the hill & out of the direct 88 fire.

Contact Ray Carlson — 1st Sgt of HQ Co., 2nd BN
ph 702-786-8274
? 725

Saar

Also: (Event) Sgt. Oosterhouse & 3 men got lost laying laying mines near Siegfried Line — Elman: "Don't you volunteer us!"

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Whoever 1st Lt. Edw. Tenenbaum?
1st Bn, 345th – Omit this in
GAN – 12/89 p. 15

Lee Beseh – D-345 – wounded
Feb. 45 – 4 yrs of recuperation
"Wisc. outstanding disabled (80%) vet.

Robert Reagan – B-345 – K runner in State
of Mercy

Andy Roberts – 17 yr old – 1 day & wounded
GAN 12/87 p. 13 – ~~13~~ he living?

Burgess – where is waltman?

✓ = mailing

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Crossulite

Davis - 1st Lt. "C" Co. Exec

Betit - "C" Co. Cpt to 1st Sgt. 4 mos
replacement after Mooney - 3rd Platt.

p. 10 GAM 9/89

Fye - Battlefield Comm A-345

Raidy - Journalist - Pulitzer
in Co. D ann. reunions

Kelley - HQ, 1st BN - Horse

Fred Hubinger, son of Harry, killed
~~Roberts~~
12/16/44 - 910 Hamburger Tpke
Wayne, NJ 07470

Did Earl write him? - GAM 6/9 91, p. 74

Mirine, B-345

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Rutkowski - H&Co 1st BN

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over

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need date in Feb.

Cunningham B-345, GAM 12/90 p. 42

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2/24/45

11th Armored N flank

Col. Matlock - 2nd BN

Reuth — Merenstein

125 casualties in 24 hrs.

1st BN outside Merenstein that night

"B" Co. under Lt. Berman - Pike?

3/3/45

Col. Lehman back to 2nd BN

" " wounded same day

Capt. Patton took over

Maj. Henry " " next day

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Marshall Cromwell
on Nobley – Bridge
blowing story

Gracey "A" Co. – Dorsey
on Kramer death

Gillian Burgess –
HQ Co. 305th gun crew

~~Jerry Steward~~

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Bud & Betty Lou Kasper - 1-503-344-8290

Marshall Crossnite 1-515-262-3589
— A & P —

stick mines - [Chaney - engineer] cut wires
in mine field
Tank stopped at mine field - slit trench
mortars killed 1 to the side
one or 2 tanks in

Harold Miles

Tom Champion came up - Crossnite
& Tom got in trench
Chaney came up - hunkered down
Geich came up - Medics, Medics
arms & legs spread eagle - Chassault
chest wound held him as his eyes
Lt. came up & said - leave that man alone

Crossnite put Chaney in for Silver Star

S/Sgt Harry K Geich Plot F, Row 16, Grave 66 - Henri-Chapelle
near Liege Belgium & 10 miles from the German
Leader, one of the 7,989 who were there when they gave their lives
the advance into Germany

Written Accounts & initials documenting letter copy

R Charles "Chuck" Foreman, HQ Co. 1st BN, ~~[illegible]~~ INF 345th INF .... C.F.
R Robert "Bob" Crugan, B Co. 1st BN Reg. .... R.C.
R Norman Shapiro, C Co. 1st BN " .... N.S.
R Edward "Ed" Hayes, C Co. 1st BN " .... E.H.
R James "Jim" Inman, HQ Co. 1st BN " .... J.I.
see below R Fyles Craig, G Co. 346th Ind. Reg. .... F.C.
R Richard "Dick" Deneen, A Co. 345th .... R.D.
R Captain Richard Wise, HQ then C Co. CO - 345th .... R.W.
✓ Paul Feeney
✓ Tony Lovett
Glad (below)
R Dorothy Davis
✓ Marshall Crossawhite, HQ Co.
✓ Sal Mirreme, B Co.

→ married Theresa during his recuperation furlough was mustered out of the army that November & went to work ~~for Ford Motor Co~~. He's retired after 33 years with Ford Motor Co, 5 children & 12 grandchildren. He plays the guitar for singalongs at 87th Div. Reunions & looks like Bob Ives.

also

R Weatherbee
R Felix
✓ Dawson
✓ Hurea
R Boggs
✓ Kaspar
~~[illegible]~~ dup.
R Amor
R Bootto
R Wilson

✓ Pasenuzzo
R Criss
✓ Hart
✓ McNealy
R Kaidy
R Kleefeld
✓ Duber
R Mochak
✓ Anthony

Bills
Goddard
Whitaker
NR Moryez

Pfc Carl Dawson ✓ — 1st BN
Mystery Writer ⊙ — 1st BN

Our Path

✓ 10 Oct 44 Left Ft. Jackson, SC
⊙ 11 " " Arr Camp Kilmer, NJ.
⊙ 15 " " Left Kilmer to board Queen Elizabeth
⊙ 17 " " Set sail
⊙ 22 " " Arr Greenock, Scotland
⊙ 24 " " Disembarked, took train at Glasgow
⊙ 24 " " Arr. Biddulph, England
✓ 24 Nov " Lt. " for Southhampton
⊙ 25 " " Sailed out of " on "LST 37" (at Lehavre)
✓ 27 " " Went over the side (net) of the LST onto a LCT
✓ 28 " " Bivouacked in apple orchard outside Youfbouef
⊙ ? " " " " at Rouen
✓ 1 Dec " Loaded onto "40 & 8's" - stopped at Compiegne - coffee/sandwiches
⊙ 5 " " Arr Metz
✓ 6 " " Arr. Metz, entered combat at 2330
⊙ 11 " " Lt Metz for Rimmiling (sp?) Assgn'd 3rd Army at Rimmiling
✓ 13 " " Lt. Metz for Reimling, then Erching & Mendelsheim
✓ 24 " " Left Saar Valley, rode in trucks all night, stopped in Lauterfinger for Christmas & a day off
✓ 26 " " Bivouacked in woods 16 kms from Reims - showers at Reims
✓ 29 " " Crossed Belgian border at 1515. Part of night in pine forest / Bertrix
✓ 30 " " Libramont & Freux (BNCP) - Troops advance to Moircy
✓ 1 Jan 45 (Reserve status) Arr Laneoville - hayloft & frozen turkey & wine
⊙ Treaut, Lux. (?)
⊙ Recogne, Bel
⊙ 3 " " Ochamps, Bel
✓ 6 " " Jenneville
⊙ 7 " " Battle of Bonnerue, Mystery Writer wounded Jan 7, 1945

✓	10	Jan	45	Moircy for Rest/Replacements
✓	13	"	"	Sprimont, Belg
O				Beck, Belg
✓	17	"	"	Scheidgen ✓ Spreidgen, Lux, CP in Actors Chateau, OP in Echternach
✓	29	"	"	St. Vith, Belg
✓	31	"	"	Heuem
✓	3	Feb	45	Andler
✓	6	"	"	Auw
✓	7	"	"	Approach march/crossed IP at midnight (lost? 3 miles ahead?)
✓	8	"	"	Attacked from Waldshied
✓	9	"	"	CP in Pillbox, amid "screaming MEEMIES"
✓	10 am	"	"	Auw for R&R by 2210
✓	17	"	"	Left Auw for Siegfried & another CP in a pillbox
O	?	"	"	Ardler, Belg
✓	+17	"	"	Neuendorf, Rueth & Olzheim OP operations
✓	27	"	"	Battle for Neuenstein/Rough on B Co.
✓	2	Mar	"	Schuenfeld
✓	3	"	"	Gonnersdorf
✓	4	"	"	Staffen
O	?	"	"	Berzel
✓	5	"	"	Dollendorf
O	?	"	"	Wallshied / ~~Karlich~~
✓	14	"	"	Karlich
O	?	"	"	Rubenach
✓	15/16	"	"	Winningen
O	16/17	"	"	Lay
✓	18	"	"	Koblenz
O	?	"	"	Bauhold
✓	23	"	"	town 10 miles from Boppard (Bauhold?)

1/2" = 10 km on map

(map)

25 Mar 45 - Crossed Rhine from Boppard - overnight in woods past Kamp (Bornhofen) (Camp?)

26 " " Dahlheim

? Iacherhasen / Gemnerich / Mühler

27 " " Eshbach / Bettendorf

28 " " Zollhaus

29 " " Niederselters, Butzbach, Brandoberdorf, Espa

? " " Holzhausen, Obufischbach, Katzenelnbogen

5 April Obersuhl

6 Apr " Waldfinch 1250 hrs; Anwalter 1605, Schnellbach 1800

? " " Houstattin, Hain Kitchen, Hizerburg, Hasserborson

? " " Katzenelbogar

? " " Veipefelfer / Munster / Brandoberndorf / Butzbach

Fulda / Hersfield / Honebach / Obersohl

? " " Donkmarkhausen / Berka-a-Weera / Haustereitenbach

Mark Pul / Etterhausen / Ruehla / Schenstein

? " " Gut-bairodu / Kerzes-a-wellanberg

7 " " Floh

8 " " Tambach

? " " Gilizenthal / Floh / Schnellbach

10 " " Approach to Crewinkel - entered 2400 - last town taken 1st Bn

12 " " Plaue (o-Plaque)

? " " Dosdorf / Daunhiem / Arnstalt / Niederwillingen / Stadtilm

13 " " Ehrenstein

? " " Nahwinden / Eicufeld / Schwaza / Uholsdorf / Saalfeld

15 " " Judenew, Possneck - large Nazi home CP

? " " Essbach / Crispendof / Juhewitz / Schlig / Langenbach

Muhldorf / Rauspach

16 " " Pausa

? " " Unterpick / Oberpuk / Szian

17 " " Plauen

? " " Thurfell

28 " " Herlasgrun

? " " Treven / Dufstradt

W & between Koblenz & Frankfurt S of near Limburg

S of Hersfeld

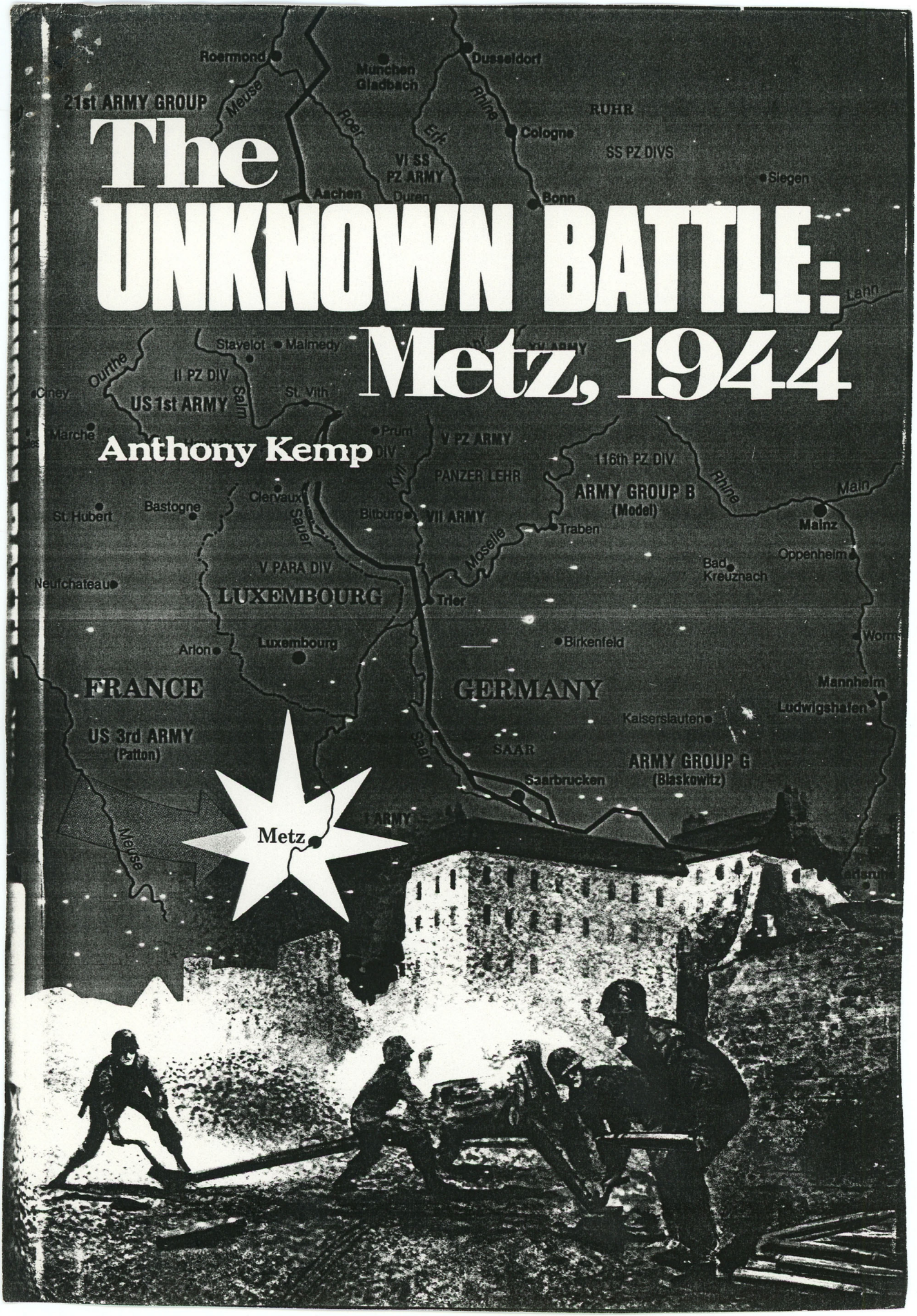
S of Wetzlar

S. of ERFURT - 2 1/2 km S of Ordruf

10	7	May	45	Falkenstein - "stop shooting"
0	?	"	"	Averbach / Bergen - assgn'd 9th Army) / Pick / Margrum / Malia
10	12	"	"	Lobenstein
✓	28	"	"	Bivouac near Schleiz
✓	11	June	"	Prepared to move to Lucky Strike
	?	?	"	Camp Lucky Strike
✓	5	July	"	Depart Le Havre on board "Westpoint"

The UNKNOWN BATTLE: Metz, 1944

Anthony Kemp



next approach was made on 1 December, to Colonel von Stössel at St. Quentin. Colonel Black, with Captain Kittstein (from a psychological warfare unit) as his interpreter, walked up to the fort with a white flag. Kittstein and an enlisted man actually went inside and arranged a conference to take place between the two respective commanders. At this meeting, terms were discussed but no surrender was agreed. It was not until five days later that a white flag was seen on the fort and a message was received requesting a meeting at 1130, at the bottom of the hill leading up to the western entrance. Colonel Franson was appointed as the American representative, and a surrender was agreed upon which was officially accepted by Franson and Major Russel of the 2nd Battalion, 11th Infantry.[9] The prisoners taken were 22 officers, 124 NCO's, and 458 hungry enlisted men; in addition, there was a large quantity of weapons and military stores.

By then, however, it was time for the 5th Infantry to move on and leave the forts to others. On December 6, the 2nd Battalion was in the process of being relieved by 87th Division troops and getting ready to march to Lauterbach on the German border. However, there were still 5th Division personnel in the area, who on the following day, negotiated the surrender of the neighboring Fort Plappeville. A parley was held outside the fort at 1130; the meeting had been set up by Captain Durst, commanding G Company of the 11th Infantry. After the situation had been explained, Colonel Vogel surrendered unconditionally.

And then there were two—Driant and Jeanne d'Arc. The former was a cause celèbre for the German radio which was still broadcasting morale-boosting appeals to the garrison. Early in the morning on 8 December, the 2nd Infantry Regiment was in the process of being relieved by a unit of the 87th Division. There were, however, headquarters personnel still in the area, when two NCO's from Fort Driant arrived to request a meeting. This was something that the 2nd Infantry had no intention of handing over on a plate to their successors. The capture of Fort Driant was an important battle honor, and apparently General Walker did his best to prolong the relief operation so that the surrender could be taken, justly, by 5th Division troops. At 1500, Colonel Richter, the garrison commander, met Colonel Roffe, commanding the 2nd Infantry, at the base of the hill leading up to the fort. After a parley lasting about half an hour, Colonel Roffe formally accepted the surrender, in spite of claims made by the 87th Division—

which had done nothing to deserve it. Nineteen officers and 592 enlisted men marched away into captivity.

The only fort that the 5th Division had to relinquish to their successors was Jeanne d'Arc, which continued to resist until 13 December, when it surrendered to the 26th Infantry Division. This fort was the largest in area, and we know from General Kittel that it had been reprovisioned just before communications were cut. It also housed the staff of the 462nd VG Division and was commanded by the able Major Voss of the 462 Fusilier Battalion. His garrison amounted to some 500 of all ranks.

The question that remains is, Just what did the Germans holed up in the forts achieve during the twenty-odd days after the fall of Metz on 22 November? In terms of manpower, some 2,650 Germans tied down approximately 9,000 Americans—two infantry regiments plus HQ staffs and support troops, who could have been better employed elsewhere. With an extra division in the line, Walker might well have been able to reach the Saar more quickly. As it was, he had two bridgeheads by mid-December, at Saarlautern and Dilligen, but the latter had to be evacuated as a result of the shift of troops northward to counter the threat in the Ardennes. In the time available, an extra American division would not have produced results sufficiently decisive to hinder German preparations for the offensive. On that basis, one can say that the fort garrisons achieved nothing apart from their nuisance value.

What the Germans did was to let slip a valuable opportunity which could have effected the outcome of their December offensive. It is invidious, of course, for a military historian, seated in a comfortable armchair, to point out the mistakes of his betters, but the following is worthy of consideration, as a historical "might-have-been." Now, there is no such thing as an "impregnable" fort or fortress; all must succumb at some time to starvation even if they cannot be taken by storm or guile. The true purpose of fortification, throughout history, has always been to gain time.

We know that the Ardennes offensive was in Hitler's mind in early September, if not in August, and that anything that would hinder the American advance was welcome. Hence his instructions to Balck in mid-September, to delay Patton as long as possible. During the September battle for Metz, both sides had initially tended to discount the value of the fortifications, and both were surprised that the

"We're using Metz to blood the new Divisions."
Gen. G. S. Patton

"Metz Battle
Untold"

MW

Col. Vogel

Ft. Plappeville – 1010th Security Regiment – Nov. 17, 1944
" Driant – 1217 VG Reg. – Col. Richter
" Jeanne d'Arc – 462 Fusilier Bn + 462 VG Div.

650 men
9 entrances

On Nov. 17, food for 18 days, but bread, potatoes, salt & coffee scarce
thus by when 87th arrived, they were out (?) of food.
2 heavy inf. howitzers – his 80mm mortars out of ammo
On Nov 21, 95th headed for Saar, leaving the 5th Div at Metz
22, all fighting in Metz (the town) ceased
The 95th had gotten most of the credit for Metz which ranked the 5th
who had been at it longer & whose losses were considerably greater: 185 KIA
1,044 wounded, 147 MIA (1st 3 wks of Nov.)

Thus XX Corps moved out of Metz & toward the Saar – where they
were to face their old enemies at Metz, the 462nd VG Div & the
17th SS PG Division – who would survive until the war's end.
The bulk of the 5th remained facing the forts still holding out
Verdun Group, St. Privat, Driant, Jeanne d'Arc, St Quentin &
Plappeville on Nov 23. The Verdun group fell 25 Nov. with
150 men & officers marching out – no food
St. Privat surrender 27 Nov. with 510 men & officers, inc
80 wounded
During the last week of Nov. the 10th Reg of the 5th Div. left for the
Saar

St. Quentin surrendered Dec 6th (as the 87th arr'd) to the 11th Reg of
the 5th Div. 458 hungry enlisted men 22 officers, 124 NCOs
large quantity of weapons & military stores. They still had men
who negotiated Plappeville Thursday (p228) – G Co. of 11th Inf.
Col Vogel surrendered unconditionally – leaving Jeanne d'Arc & Driant

Dec. 8th morning - 2nd INF Reg of 5th Div being relieved by 87th when 2 NCOs from the fort arrived to surrender (to the 5th)
At 1300 Col. Richter, garrison cmdr met Col. Rolfe of the 2nd INF at the base of the hill to the fort & formally accepted the surrender - in spite of claims made by the 87th (p 224) which had done nothing to deserve it. 19 Offrs & 592 men. [Leaving Jeanne d'Arc which surrended to the 26th on 13 Dec - page 225 ??]
Maj. Voss of 462 Fusilier Bn was Cmdr. of 500

"Many lives were wasted from the Dept. on in futile attempts on fortified positions"

Metz - was (prior to 1944) last taken by the Huns in AD451
an ancient city fortified by the Romans (& named after the Roman city of Mediomatrica) as the center of their military roads
Contained both a German officer training school for officers of some 1800 candidates and an NCO school formed into a regiment of 1500 men.
Between the 1st & 2nd WW the forts decayed. When the Germans took over in 1940, some of the works were converted to underground factories & much of the portable equipment was shipped to the Atlantic Wall.
"A few 150 mm howitzers were brought into action at Jeanne d'Arc - without sighting devices They were fired by direct observation"
New divisions from the "Replacement Army" had 3 reg. each with but 2 Bns. for a total strength (T/O) of about 10,000 men
The Unknown Battle: Metz, 1944 by Kemp

Metz:

Gen Blaich, crude of German Army Group G, which included Metz, ~~the~~ learned of the planned Ardennes offensive as early as Sept. 44 ~~[illegible]~~ Blaich's mission was to hold Alsace-Lorraine at all costs ~~to avoid~~ allowing some of his forces to be shifted to that front. The many of Kopper candidates & NCOs in the Metz schools were sent to the new Volksgrenadier divisions in the process of formation. Thus reducing the force of Metz by ~~at least~~ 2 or 3 regements

The last supply train to Metz came Nov 17, ~~[illegible]~~ then Metz was cut off. By the time the city was captured, most of the German civilians had been moved east.

The 5th, 90th & 95th Divisions had been involved with the fortress since Sept when there were no signs of general collapse - ~~heavy~~ action since ~~Sept~~ included various assults river crossing & maneuvers resulting in heavy casualties, later blamed on poor planning & the lack of army "intelligence" -

Nov. 15, German Gen. Kittel took ~~charge~~ command ~~of~~ in Metz shuffling his dwindling troops to the gaps appearing as the 95th penetrated from the west & the 5th from the south. Casualties reduced his forces by 15% daily as the local Nazi party boss & his staff & sympathizers slunk out of town. FFI (Free French) appeared openly on the streets wearing arm bands & French flags fluttered from some of the houses. as the German police lost control.

The guns from Ft. Driant fired on the positions across the river of the 5th Div. as they approached Metz, & there was still no signs of collapse Nov. 17 as the 1755 PG Div completed their withdrawal to the east.

Metz

Dec

4 - by Critot on train (40 cars) 1000

5

6 (Longeville les Metz) Arr Briey 1030 - 2 1/2 Truck rides (Destination)

moved into positions of 2nd Inf of 5th

2 330 A & B relieved E & F of 2nd surrounding Plappeville

7 0100 C & D " G & H of 2nd containing St. Quentin

1200+ St. Quentin surrendered - credited to 2nd Inf. - p 63

8 Plappeville surrendered - " " " - p 63

8 Driant " 0800 - 3rd Bn area

2nd Bn - Jeanne d'Arc

8 345th completed relief of 2nd INF @ 1610

10 26th Division 101st INF relieved 345th - p 64

C E R T I F I C A T E

27 June 45 (Date)

1. I certify that I have personally examined the items of captured enemy military equipment in the possession of Pfc. Marshall E. Crossnite, that the trophy value of such items exceeds any training, service, or salvage value, that they do not include any explosives, and that the possession thereof is in conformity with the provisions of Sec III, Cir 353, WD, 31 Aug '44, and the existing regulations of the Theater Commander.

2. The items referred to are:

1- German Luger
Ser. # 3594

Laurence S. Goldard
Capt. Hq Co. 1st Bn.
345 Inf

Print the complete address in plain letters in the space below and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Print or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

PASSED BY U S 47007 EXAMINER

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: MRS. M.D. CROSSWHITE
CROMWELL
IOWA
"Good old U.S.A."

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 3

FROM
PFC. M.E.C. CROSSWHITE
ASN - 37682980
HQ. CO. 1st BN. 245th INF
APO 448 % PM NY, N.Y.

(Sender's complete address above)

GERMANY
FEB. 12, 1945

Dear Mom,
Been making a few sketches of some of the boys in the platoon.
So I thought I would make them on V mail and send them home. This one is of "John Carver," who I have been with since Fort McClellan.
I am making some more of some of the other boys. I have these - I'd like to keep them all somewhere.
Love Mark

Cpl John Carver
Freeport
Maine

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

Print the complete address in plain letters in the space below and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Print or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

PASSED BY U S 47007 EXAMINER

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: Mrs. M.D. Crosswhite
Cromwell
Iowa
"Good old" U.S.A.

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 3

FROM
PFC. MARK E.C. CROSSWHITE
ASN - 37682980
HQ. Co. 1st BN. 245th INF
APO 448 % PM NY, NY

(Sender's complete address above)

GERMANY
FEB. 14, 1945

Dear Mom,
Here is another of the boys in the platoon. I probably think this is a pretty rough looking outfit from my sketches but they're pretty rough and should the guys won't sit still long enough! Let me know how many of these sketches you receive I'd like to have one of all the boys.
So long for now — Love Mark

Pvt. Noah E. Moore
P.O. Box 403
Waynesville
Ohio

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY V-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

SKETCH & DID OF "SHARRON OSTERHOUSE" WHO RECENTY PASSED AWAY.

Berthing Space—B-12 ("B" Deck)

- Read Instructions for Troops posted in your compartment.
- Observe smoking regulations—Prevent fire.
- Keep the ship clean.
  - Police decks and latrines constantly.
  - Throw nothing in toilets and urinals.
  - Empty trash cans frequently.
- Expose no light during darken ship.
- Do not open or close air ports.
- Do not hang anything on light cables.
- Radios, flashlights and cameras are prohibited.
- Do not obstruct watertight or firescreen doors.
- Liquor and gambling are prohibited.

81

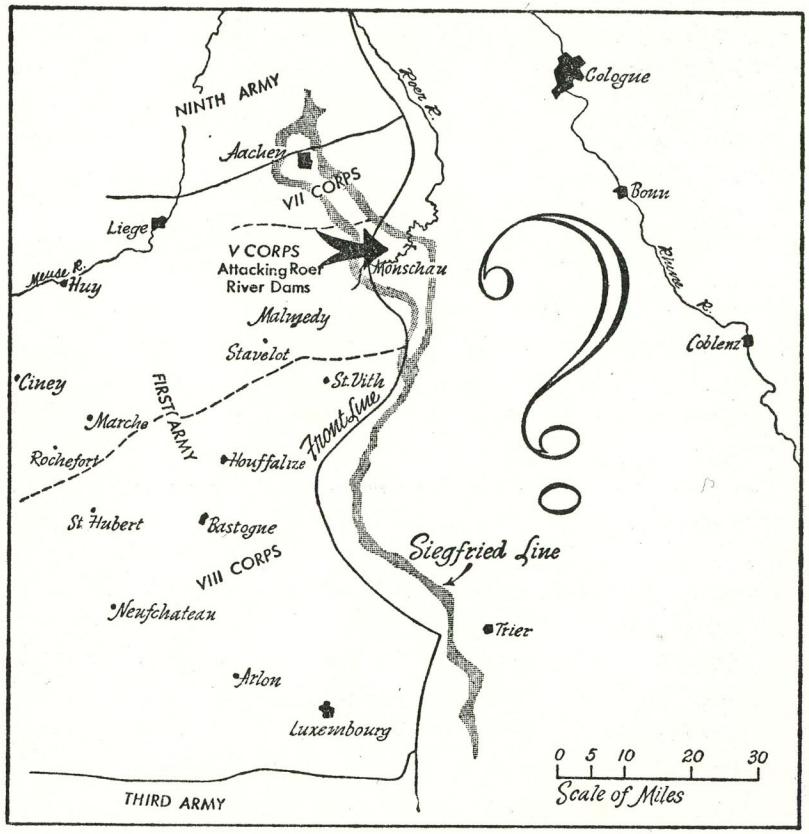
FROM "QUEEN ELIZABETH" ON WHICH LEFT NY HARBOR AND DOCKED (ANCHORED) IN HARBOUR AT GREENOCK, SCOTLAND

despite their stunning defeat in France, had more than equal this number, and were fighting for their homeland from fixed, fortified positions. It was absolutely essential to concentrate the relatively small Allied forces at the most vulnerable German spots in order to achieve maximum effectiveness. In early September, Eisenhower extended the First Army's front northward to permit Montgomery to mobilize his forces for the Arnhem landings, and again Hodges had to stretch himself somewhere. He did it in the Ardennes. Again, early in October, during the drive to open the port of Antwerp, additional American units were lent to the British to bolster their forces. Only in mid-October was Eisenhower able to provide Hodges with a reserve for this long, vulnerable front; at that time the 9th Armored Division, fresh off the beaches of Normandy, was assigned to the VIII Corps, and its three combat commands were scattered along the front to provide the mobile reserve considered sufficient to restore positions lost in any attack in this sector. But already Hitler had spotted the weak point.

Opposite the Americans, the Germans, busy withdrawing their élite troops for refitting, for a long time used the Ardennes sector for resting battered divisions and instructing new ones. Patrols from both sides moved back and forth through the thin lines with ease, and each brought back reports that the enemy was weak. Middleton, faced with a choice of fortifying his entire line in depth by keeping the men digging or maintaining an offensive attitude, chose the latter, and was supported by his boss, Hodges. The German inactivity influenced his decision. Trucks and a few trains, which could have brought up mines and other defensive weapons to strengthen the front, were busily engaged in hauling ammunition and gasoline for the attacking troops in other sectors, since offensive needs were deemed most urgent. American soldiers — unused to defense, and poorly trained in it — grew restless and, in some cases, careless as day after day passed with no apparent German action in the Ardennes sector.

Shifts were made in the Allied lineup in the Middleton sector. On September 30, the 2d (Indianhead) Division replaced the 4th (Ivy) Division at the northern end of Middleton's line, as

the 4th was moved north to take a shot at the Roer River dams. In the middle of November, the 28th Division, labeled the Bloody Buckets by the Germans because of its red insignia and vicious fighting tactics, traded places with the 8th (Pathfinder) Division, and returned to the center of Middleton's line to recuperate from the horrible fighting for the Roer River dams. Unable to get through the dense Hurtgen forest, the only gateway to the dams, the division had been pulled back, badly mauled, after having been attacked by the *116 Panzer Division.* Less than thirty days later the same *116 Panzer* hit them again, only this time together with twenty-eight other divisions. And on the sixth of December the 4th Division returned again to the Middleton sector after having lived through one of the worst periods of fighting in the entire war. Working in the area in which the 28th had been mauled, the 4th Division suffered 7,000 casualties in its attempt to drive through to the Roer River dams. Still short 1,500 infantrymen, and exhausted from the bloody tree-to-tree fighting in the Hurtgen forest, it replaced the 83d (Thunderbolt) Division at the southern end of Middleton's line. The 83d went north to join the 8th Division in the continuing Hurtgen fighting. On December 10, the Golden Lion Division, the 106th, took over the sector of the 2d Division in the Schnee Eifel to free the 2d Division for participation in the new V Corps attack toward the Roer River dams. The Golden Lions left the States in November, spent a few pleasant weeks in England, were brought across the channel to France in the first week of December, and in a series of moves in freezing weather were shuttled to the VIII Corps sector, where they were to get their battle indoctrination. This was the last major shift, but one other movement is important to our story. In the first week of December, Middleton staged, on orders from higher headquarters, what is known as a "rubber duck" operation. Middleton's "rubber duck" involved the fake movement of a new division into the VIII Corps sector. Its purpose, as understood by Middleton, was to draw German divisions away from the vital Aachen sector where we were preparing our attack to the Roer River dams. And all this time German forces in the Ardennes appeared to be light.



FIRST ARMY FRONT IN DECEMBER

Middleton's defense line lay deep in the heart of the rolling wooded hills of eastern Belgium and Luxembourg, commonly called the Ardennes forests. Long known for its quaint charm, this famed vacation area, with alternate gorges and ridges interspersed by areas of gently rolling hills, is covered with large forests, and criss-crossed by a sparse network of roads generally following the valleys. Bordered on the east by the Our River and on the west by the majestic Meuse River, winding its way through a beautiful valley across half of western Europe, the Ardennes region has been visited by thousands upon thousands of pleasure-seeking vacationists. Its famed chateaus have played host to many an international gathering. Twice before,

the region had been trampled by boots of conquest-bound Ger man troops headed for the richer lands of France and Belgium Over half of Middleton's defense line was based on a series o river lines, principal of which was the narrow, but deepl etched, Our River, separating first Luxembourg and then Bel gium from Germany. However, on the extreme north of hi line, the 4th (Ivy) Division had penetrated a portion of th West Wall due east of the road center called St. Vith, and wa perched in German territory on a large ridge, called the Schne Eifel. The northern positions, strategically important becaus we possessed this segment of the West Wall, were nevertheles difficult to hold because of their exposed nature. Several time General Middleton requested permission to withdraw from thi penetration of the German defensive positions to straighten ou his line along more tenable positions some ten miles to th west. Permission was not granted because of the tactical im portance of the penetration of the West Wall. So exposed wer two of the battalions, however, that supply of them could be ef fected only at night. Finally Middleton, in desperation, with drew these two battalions without authority from higher head quarters, and blew up some twenty-five pillboxes which ha been occupied in that area. But still Middleton was alarme about the possibility of an attack around the Schnee Eifel fron both exposed flanks, and to counteract this possibility, he con centrated ten of the thirteen Corps' artillery battalions in thi northern sector to give added support to his revised position

Middleton's defensive positions were nothing more than series of widely separated strongpoints, each with barbed wire minefields, probably a machine gun, and covered shelter These strongpoints were scattered along the front, but betwee them the ground, usually including the roads, was wide oper It is no wonder that large parties of Germans were able to filte through the lines at night, almost at will, and some of ther wandered about for days on end. Driving along the roads im mediately behind the front lines, one had something of an ur comfortable feeling, wondering just how many "Krauts" migh be staring from behind bushes.

The Germans knew we were weak in the Ardennes. Fiel

Army sector to establish a bridgehead across the Roer River, thus further upsetting Ninth Army's plans for a crossing of the river at some future day, was abandoned in view of the probable heavy losses it would entail. To allow Dietrich greater freedom of movement, his northern corps was returned to *Fifteenth Army*, from which it had been borrowed. Replacements totalling 24,000 men were promised for the Western Front. The decree requiring a 10 per cent decrease in the strength of all theaters, intended to reduce staffs and supply units, was suspended for Model's army group until February 1, 1945. And finally, a proposal that *Seventh Army* be reinforced for a strike at Luxembourg City, for morale purposes, was vetoed in favor of an all-out attack on Bastogne, which was to be the first order of business.

THE ATTACK ON BASTOGNE

Having made his decision to fight east of the Meuse River, Hitler at once concentrated his attention on Bastogne, about which he had expressed little concern prior to the change in plans. Now, with a large battle looming east of the River, Bastogne was a huge rock jutting out of the German sea, and an ever present threat to the German line of communications. It had to be taken. With this in mind, Hitler ordered a concentrated attack on Bastogne. Suddenly, German divisions from all parts of the Bulge descended on Bastogne preparatory to a new siege of the town. During this time ensued the heaviest fighting of the battle for Bastogne; the casualties were frightfully heavy, much worse than during the actual siege.

First to be shunted south, even though in the midst of an attack on Hotton, the *Fuehrer Escort Brigade* received orders on December 26 to disengage immediately, march to the southwest of Bastogne, where it was to attack across the narrow neck opening into the town, and once again isolate the defenders of Bastogne. Then the panzer divisions of "Sepp" Dietrich's *Sixth Panzer Army* were to descend upon the town from three sides, and throttle the defenders. One by one, Dietrich's panzers shifted their weight from the XVIII Airborne Corps front, to the south. By the first of the year, *1*, *9*, and *12 SS Panzer Divisions* were ringed around Bastogne, attacking from three sides. The *Fuehrer Escort Brigade*, having once failed, was again ordered to cut off the neck of the salient into Bastogne in conjunction with an attack by *1 SS Panzer Division* from the east, but the Americans were already too strongly entrenched in this narrow corridor, and the German attacks failed to break through. By the first of the year, eight German divisions were closeted around Bastogne, closing in for the kill.

To counteract the terrific German pressure being exerted on Bastogne, Patton attacked west of Bastogne. Once the threat to the Meuse River was definitely ended, Eisenhower was ready to release the divisions which had been attached to Middleton's VIII Corps; prior to this time Eisenhower had forbidden their use east of the Meuse River. On December 28, "Beetle" Smith, Eisenhower's Chief of Staff, received a message from his chief, who was touring the fronts: "Release to Bradley at once the 11th Armored and 87th Divisions, and organize a strong Bastogne-Houffalize attack." On the cold, crisp morning of December 30, the attack orders were issued, as troops of these divisions moved to the offensive through towering snow drifts. Soon joined by the 17th Airborne Division, which had also been held in reserve until this time, the divisions crawled forward in the worst of winter weather. Their progress was tediously slow, their casualties exorbitantly high: all of them new to combat, they had to fight in the severest cold, on icy roads over which tank movements were almost impossible. These new troops had been moved over long distances, and then immediately committed to action with little time for reconnaissance. But had the attack been delayed long enough for adequate reconnaissance, it is probable the Germans would have launched another attack, and surrounded Bastogne.

With Middleton's VIII Corps again reconstituted and back in the fray, the pressure on Bastogne was somewhat eased, although up through January 3 the Germans unrelentingly attacked the town. But with the III Corps divisions closing

could tell that boat was overcrowded. Only had to look at it. It gets out in the cenner, starts to rock. Next thing, everyone was in the water, all splashin' an' tryin' to swim."

"Didn't anyone go after them?" I asked somewhat thickly.

"Them li'l motor boats put out from each shore, but by then the men were too scattered. All excited. Boats picked up as many as they could, but some of the boys, they struck right out and swam for shore. Made it, too! Ah saw one boy step outta that rescue boat still holdin' onto his grease gun. Pourin' water. Yes, sir, they lost eight men."

The litter bearers had slung off their equipment and were about to join us in the party when the captain returned to the room and ordered them out at once with angry instructions to rejoin their companies and stay with them. It was the iron door closing in their faces. They picked up their equipment, put it on in furious silence, and went out. But instead of returning immediately to the companies, they took shelter in the cellars and houses nearby, where they too found liquor and started celebrations of their own.

The fall of a city the size and importance of Coblenz was nothing as one had imagined it. The windows of all the houses were shuttered tight; a few dead German and American soldiers lay in the streets; jeeps raced by; artillery barrages screamed in, bringing houses down in a thunder of rubble; fighting continued from street to street. But there was, over all, the chaotic air of a drunken, end-of-the-world carnival. Infantrymen who had been down in the cellars ran crookedly past, firing anywhere, and shrill, overexcited young German girls, impatient of rape, ran after them through barrages, ducking into almost flat doorways as tiles fell from the roofs in crashing showers.

A Free French newspaper photographer drove up in a jeep, brandishing a revolver, and staggered out drunk to take pictures. In a shuttered house directly across the way from us we heard someone banging out "Lili Marlene" on the piano, and, going into a rage, the photographer entered and pulled open the living-room door with a shout. On the point of firing, he found himself aiming at two American soldiers: Ted Jameson at the piano and Paul Clifford standing beside him. The photographer came over to us, shaking from his narrow escape.

In another house, Jimmy McDonough and Horse-face Fogarty, an aid man temporarily taking little Jenkins' place, were looting the contents of a living room. They had learned to say, "Achtung! Macht schnell! Kommen Sie hier!" and approximations of several other German expressions that they repeated to each other over and over. While Fogarty had his back turned, rifling through the ornaments in a corner whatnot, Jimmy McDonough, with mock German gruffness, said just behind him, "Achtung! Macht schnell!"

"Hey, cut it out; you make me nervous," Fogarty said, but a moment or two passed and the harsh German voice resumed. "Cut it *out,* I said!" Fogarty repeated. "What the hell's the matter with you anyway, always f---in' around." Then he felt something poke him in the back, and when he turned he saw that Jimmy McDonough was at the far side of the room, speechless and shivering, his hands trembling over his head. Four armed German soldiers had come into the room after them, and it took both Americans a few jibbering moments before they realized the Germans were poking their rifles at them in an attempt to hand over the weapons and surrender.

In a living room up the street, a group of American soldiers were fast getting drunk. Going tipsily out into the dark hall to look for the bathroom, they found themselves, in confusion, bumping into German soldiers who had been holding wassail on the second floor and had come downstairs on the same mission. " 'Scuse me. Beg your pardon. Wanna get through here," one American found himself saying to an equally drunken German in a polite, Alphonse-and-Gaston act.

Don Stoddard dashed in off the street to escape a heavy artillery barrage, and, running into a dining room, looking for the way to the cellar, he came upon one of his litter squad having sexual intercourse with the woman of the house. It was Bob Lozlo, of Hungarian descent, a young expectant father, dark and thin-faced, who was replacing Dick Gann as litter bearer.

At intervals between the shelling, the cobbled street just outside the hospital rang with the heavy clatter of German boots as long streams of prisoners came past. There were as many as forty or fifty at a time, hands up, being chevied along by two small infantrymen, one of whom invariably was unsteady on his feet. Many of the prisoners themselves were drunk; their canteens were filled with cognac.

Once German 88s screamed in and a long line of prisoners, four abreast, hands over their heads, though badly frightened, broke into an orderly run. There were some wounded among them, being helped or carried along, and far behind, shouting, running for all he was worth in his long overcoat, came one enormous, tipsy clown of a private, eager to join his fellow prisoners.

By four in the afternoon Coblenz proper had not been cleared, but

lying unburied in the yard: the gas chambers and crematoriums had been operating at full speed until the very last moment, but there had been no time for the S.S. to bury all the ghastly signs of their guilt.

"Some of our guys over there saw it. They were pukin'. They said it was awful! But they're gonna let everyone over to see it. If you wanna go, they say you ought to see it before they clean any of it up."

The field in which we were standing was overgrown with knee-high dead, bleached weeds, and the crowds of men trampling on them made constant loud crackling sounds. Nineteen-year-old Konrad Hausner, one of the regimental interpreters, a refugee who had been born in Germany and had spent his childhood there, came quickly through the straw-colored weeds with his superior officer, a man in charge of Military Government. Letting the officer go past, he stopped to shake hands and talk for a few minutes. He said, "I've just come from Ordruf, from the concentration camp."

"I hear they're going to let us all go over and see it."

"Don't. Don't go. Do yourself a favor—stay away! It's the most horrible thing—worse than anything you ever heard of. Bodies all over the place—women, kids, men—all heaped together, half burned. They must have been living skeletons. God, what bastards to do things like that! I tell you, I'm sick! Take it from me, it's all there; none of it's exaggerated, but don't go."

As it turned out, we were not permitted to go over, but toward evening Jimmy McDonough and his friend Horse-face Fogarty returned to Stutzhaus. Fogarty was slack and expressionless; Jimmy McDonough looked awed. "You're lucky you didn't go," he said, passing me. "God, it was awful. Honest, I'm sick."

We had our mess kits out, getting ready to line up, and someone asked if he were going to eat.

"Eat?" He put his hand on his stomach and turned his head away. "Listen, I don't even wanna *think* about eatin'." He went on into the aid station to lie down as Fogarty had done. When we were going to sleep that night, he was still lying on his stomach, his head buried in his arms. They didn't eat all the next day, but sat in the aid station, dazed and silent.

About a week later, some rear elements of our division were present at Ordruf when the burgomaster led his townsfolk out to the concentration camp for a burial ceremony. By then the place had been considerably cleaned up. The starved and half-consumed bodies had been gathered together and placed in coffins, and there were even a few floral offerings. When the people saw what the camp was like and

were led through the torture chambers and past the ovens, men and women screamed out and fainted; others were led away crying hysterically. All swore that during the past years they had had no idea of what had been going on in the camp just outside their town.

And yet, one heard other stories. One heard that it would be impossible not to know what was happening, that the greasy black smoke and the unmistakable odor of burning bodies could be detected for miles around such concentration camps, that villagers got up petitions to have the camps moved elsewhere.

I never knew what to believe.

Near the field of tall dead weeds there was a fenced-in yard that was being used as a temporary prisoner-of-war pen. German soldiers of all ranks were crowded into it, their hands raised, while the regimental guards searched them and their meager belongings, opening their packs, flipping through their army booklets, robbing the prisoners of rings, watches, money, souvenirs and pen-and-pencil sets, occasionally tossing the articles they didn't want over the fence to begging, jumping infantrymen.

Among the prisoners was one strapping blond young S.S. man who doubtless cursed and hated himself now for surrendering, and, in an attempt to save his pride, he put up a public challenge to beat any four Americans in an honest fist fight. Believing fanatically in the myth of his superiority, he begged and shouted for the chance and caused quite a disturbance in the compound.

A passing American who reminded me of the former Sergeant Janovic of C Company, shorter than the German and not too prepossessing in appearance, heard of the vaunt, walked in quietly, put down his rifle, took off his helmet and field jacket, squared off, and beat the Nazi all over the enclosure. He battered him so that at the end of three or four minutes the German was lying on the ground, heaving, his face cut, nose bleeding, his fists pressed against his eyes, trying to shut out the acknowledgment of this ignominious day. The infantryman, whom no one seemed to know, rubbed his scraped knuckles, put on his helmet and jacket, shouldered his rifle and walked away without saying anything. The German was left on the ground. The rest of the prisoners formed a distant, expressionless circle around him.

Near one o'clock one warm afternoon the whole long convoy of jeeps and trucks came to a halt beneath the first surrender flags of a shabby, damaged little town, and the road immediately became thick

About midnight we received orders that we had been reattached to the Third Army (having been temporarily in the Seventh), and that we were to furnish direct support for the 345th Infantry's jump-off the next morning. Because we didn't know what tricks the Germans might pull, our supply sergeants distributed our gas masks, our operations and communications sections worked all night preparing maps and changing radio frequencies. We march ordered next morning about four-thirty.

The doughboys started walking northeast from Hait. We went into position and tried to fire, but since there was little resistance, the infantry kept going. The front lines had hardly been established. We displaced again and moved ahead of the engineers and reserve infantry into Freux Suzerain for better range. So far we were the only artillery battalion that had moved up.

At Moircy resistance suddenly increased. Having retreated into the village, the Germans entrenched themselves and opened up with all they had, defending their positions with mortars, machine guns, small arms, and tanks. The infantry had the situation in hand by mid-afternoon, and the Germans pulled back. The town was ours with forty-eight prisoners and two tanks knocked out. Lt. Diamond, observer from Battery C, suffered a severe head wound. Lt. Oberist, survey officer, got trench foot, and both had to be evacuated.

Then, just a little after dark, the Germans counter-attacked with a number of infantry and tanks. The doughboys suffered heavy casualties and had to withdraw from the town. Lts. Allee and Staver, seeing that artillery support was desperately needed, withdrew to the infantry's command post, which contained the only remaining wire communication to our Battalion. First observer to return, Lt. Allee, reported the attack and contacted our Battalion for fire. The Germans had come through in numbers, all right, had confused our infantry by setting the town on fire and by a heavy use of automatic weapons. With Division and Corps Artillery, which had by now moved up, we massed fire on the attack, and during an hour and a half period at the high point, we fired 574 rounds at them. Our excellent communication with Lt. Allee and Capt. Lee, liaison officer, permitted accurate location of defensive fires. About midnight the enemy was repulsed, and by daylight had again withdrawn.

For the next ten days as the Germans began to withdraw under heavy pressure, we remained in position and fired on targets as demanded. The doughboys kept plodding ahead, but we had been relieved of direct support and ordered to prepare strong defensive measures in case anything should happen. Some of our batteries shifted positions, and the men picked dugouts in the frozen ground and snow in defense against occasional artillery shells and the freezing weather. We were confined mostly to specific targets and harassing fires: Lt. Col. Cubbison adjusted fire and obtained seven direct hits on a church in Vesqueville, which, we learned later, was the battalion command post of the 130th Panzer Engineer Lehr Battalion. On the next day we fired our first pozit fuse, but the round was unobserved, and not until later did we learn the effects of the artillery's new "secret" weapon.

On the 4th of January, Sgt. Cassel's Battery B section fired the 10,000th round in combat. On the 8th we had assumed direct support of the Second Battalion of the 345th, while the First and Third Battalions prepared an attack through Pironpre. We began firing propaganda into Vesqueville, Hatrival, and Saint Hubert. Lt. Haun, seeking FO indoctrination, went forward and adjusted fires to score a direct hit on a tank. On the 11th, infantry patrols went into Saint Hubert and Vesqueville to confirm reports that the Germans were withdrawing. We had to be especially careful in firing, because the First Army was sweeping down from the North. The German's great winter offensive was rapidly disappearing into history.

The Belgians had treated us well, giving us billets, sharing their food and fuel and giving us opportunity to keep as comfortable as possible. The Germans had driven away much of their cattle and had burned their wood. Before we left we went into the forest and hauled some logs for them.

On the 12th of January we finally displaced to a new position, about 2,000 yards behind the front lines, near Menil. The roads through Moircy were still heavily mined; the snow was deep and icy, the temperatures far below freezing. Our road march had been extremely difficult, for we had to detour through the fields because of the mines. Digging through one to two feet of snow, our batteries went into position after dark, occupying the same ground that the enemy had vacated that morning. At the command post enemy dead littered the snow. A Tiger tank, destroyed by fire, lay upturned in the frozen duck pond. The Jerries had booby-trapped the woodpile with an 81-mm mortar shell.

Up ahead our doughboys occupied Lavacherie and Sprimont, as the enemy delayed our advance with mines and small isolated forces of infantry. We now began to see the effects of the Germans' first withdrawal, as our wire and reconnaissance parties reported considerable wrecked equipment and casualties, but interrogated prisoners reported they had had no difficulty in obtaining gun replacements or ammunition.

Two days later we met the British at Rumont on the Ourthe River, where they had driven down from the north. Our guns were silenced, for the Division had gained its

The Siegfried in winter

Cub diving toward the ground to escape. Although there was more anti-aircraft fire in the Saar battles than later on in the Battle of Germany, the planes escaped without a hole.

The artillery fire from our guns was directed on cross roads, enemy held towns, suspected enemy positions, vehicles, tanks, and half tracks. On the 14th of December the front lines advanced 1,500 yards in the direction of the battalion concentrations. Fire was placed on targets holding up the advance of the 87th doughboys, starting in the morning and continuing for half an hour as a preparation for the daily infantry jump-off. During the night the battalion fired harassing and interdiction fires on the enemy.

On the 17th of December the battalion moved to Ober-Gailbach. The infantry had left the town a short time before. Shattered equipment and bodies covered the area. The enemy and our infantry were not far from the new position, beyond a ridge in Germany. The battalion had observers in Germany to direct artillery fire from the ground. During the day a plane came over, a Jerry plane strafing, but it was shot down by American anti-aircraft. For the first time in the war some of the battalion's machine gunners got a chance to fire and machine guns all over the area opened up.

The battalion fired on seven enemy batteries and six tanks the next day and continued harassing and interdiction fire for the next three days.

In Bliesbrucken on December 22, the battalion became part of the Seventh Army (XV) Corps. Captain Dionne out with his survey crew, hurrying them along, followed vehicle tracks through a mine field, past the signs and white tape, with his crew behind him, taping and measuring the angles.

The following day the 335th moved to Dieuze—a cold road march. The convoy passed through Bliesbrucken, Rohrbach, Saare Union, Fenetrange, Dieuze to Kerprich (near Dieuze). The men slept in pastures, sheds, and a barn.

Perhaps the barn was appropriate for Christmas, but it wasn't pleasant. On Christmas day the Division Artillery chaplains visited the battalion and held services in the afternoon in a hay shed. There was turkey for dinner. Many of the men attended services in a French church which had been damaged by bombs and enjoyed the wine and schnapps which the citizens of the village liberally provided.

Two hours before midnight on Christmas Day the trucks and tractors started to roll again, through Kerprich, Dieuze, Moyenvic, Xermameni, Bayon, Tantonville, Colombey-les-Belles, Vancouleurs, Houdelain Court, Ligny-en-Barrois, St. Dizier, Chalons, Les-Deux-Maisons, Biene, Nauroy. One tractor was evacuated because of damage after sliding into a stone wall off the icy road. For three days the battalion stayed in bivouac position, inspecting, drawing supplies, getting ready for the next move.

An alert notice for the move came on the 29th and then the cold journey continued—to the Belgian front. We passed through Pont-Faverger, Isles, Rethel, Villaine, Lonny, Charleville, Pussemange, Boullon to the vicinity of Bertrix.

From the rendezvous area, after reconnaissance, the batteries moved to their firing positions. A tractor from Able Battery driven by Corporal Evans and carrying Cummings, Smith, Arrigona, and Maier met a truck coming along the narrow road. The driver turned the tractor so that one track was traveling about a foot and a half off the road, rolling in the snow. There was an explosion, smoke covered the men in the tractor who had been knocked off their seats and thrown around with blankets, overcoats, and equipment. A hole had been blown through the bottom of the tractor and the sudden force injured the driver's neck and threw open a door in the floor, banging Cummings foot.

A mine detector showed two more mines under the tractor and one under the trailer—full of ammunition. The detector also showed that earlier in the day a tree had been dragged over one mine and the truck had straddled the mine on the way back.

The next day Col. Hardin registered the battalion on a check point and the howitzers fired 254 rounds during the day and night.

By this time the battalion was getting accustomed to snow. Once in a while someone would stand up between fire missions and look around at the Belgian countryside. With its small hills, small clear brooks and woods of evergreens, Belgium seemed to be made for snow. Ordinarily the beauty

Colonel Hardin and Captain Dionne with cast of "Big Jack's Crackerjack Review" in Saalfeld, Germany

335TH
FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

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We arrived at Rheims after a cold ride in the late afternoon. Our next few days were spent in getting new equipment, cleaning motors, guns, materiel. There were inspections each day and guard was pulled in the cold: men were ready to ask to be put back into combat. Their wishes were granted.

On the morning of the 29th we took off for Neuf Chateau in Belgium. We bivouaced in a wooded area at Pays-les-Veneurs, Belgium, and in the morning moved up to within a half mile of Recogne. Here we were committed to the Battle of the Bulge.

The battalion moved out to a wooded area five miles out of Recogne, where it spent New Year's. It was terribly cold and men who had no sleeping bags were given them. From here we moved to a position a mile west of Freux. Reports had us virtually surrounded by the enemy and almost everyone stood guard at night. Cooks, drivers, and everyone who could be spared were put on guard duty, but the attack never came.

After two days in this position we moved up to the town of Remagne. Three miles out to the front was the beautiful Beau Plateau monastery, which was the only building in the vicinity and therefore had to be used as a command post for the infantry and a clearing station for all the medics. The men found the pictures on the walls of the building especially interesting. The monks never left their place during the turmoil and excitement, and Jerry knew we were using this as a command post and spared no shells on it. A delay fuse was used by the Germans in their shelling so that the shell would go through two or three floors before exploding, leaving the structure in a state of wreckage. We were working under the worst conditions due to terrifically cold weather and the fact that there was a lot of armor working with us. No matter where wire was laid, the tanks seemed to become involved with it and tear it out, which kept the wiring crews at work day and night.

The infantry at length took and held the town of Gerimont which was about a mile from the main objective, Tillet, a little Belgian town resting quietly in a valley which was doomed to be not only a military objective, but a formidable one.

For two days and nights the Third Battalion of the 346th Infantry Regiment tried to take the town. Company D succeeded in getting into the first four houses, and Company K got as far as a ridge two hundred yards away. They could neither advance nor withdraw, nor could supplies be got to them. On the night of January 8, it was decided to send Company L on a night attack to take the town, for the relief of the other two companies. Company L was to advance along a railroad track to surprise the enemy from the rear. There was a small building about three-fourths of the distance to be traveled. The men stuffed rations into their pockets and loaded their pistol belts. Officers had been briefed and given maps; all was in readiness. Time seemed to stand still.

Finally 2100, the zero hour arrived. The attack was on. The command post was a small dim room made dimmer by thick smoke. No one spoke, then a radio operator checked

Captain Calla orienting forward observer party at Pfaffangrun before going to the front

Lieutenants Sowash and Connolly in a very unfamiliar pose

Captain Cala taking time out to write a letter or two

Lieutenant Sowash, Ferguson, Cottrell, Ernst and Lieutenant Connolly

BATTALION OFFICERS ON RETURN TO STATES

First Row: Lieutenant Podell, Lieutenant Ellsworth, Lieutenant Totten, Lieutenant Stuckey, Lieutenant Strain, Lieutenant Cox, Lieutenant Welton, Lieutenant Fowler, Lieutenant McDonald, Captain Smith.

Second Row: Lieutenant Leonard, Lieutenant Jackson, Lieutenant Rafal, Lieutenant Benicky, Captain Hingston, Captain Lee, Lieutenant Roberts, Lieutenant Sowash, Chief Warrant Officer Resch.

Third Row: Lieutenant Andrews, Captain Sala, Major Lynah, Lieutenant Colonel Tague, Major Becker, Captain Thompson, Captain Choate, Captain Snyder.

Fourth Row: Lieutenant Rhea, Lieutenant Connolly, Lieutenant Miskill, Lieutenant Spencer, Lieutenant Wenstrup, Lieutenant Moore, Captain O'Neal, Captain Rutledge.

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336 FA

OFFICER ROSTER AND ASSIGNMENTS

BATTALION OFFICERS

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

TAGUE, Marcus Lt. Col., Field Artillery Unit Commander.
LYNAH, John H., Major, Field Artillery Unit Commander.
BECKER, Wilfred C., Operational Training Staff Officer.
HINGSTON, George R., Capt., Operational Training Staff Officer.
LEE, Garnett O., Jr., Capt., Intelligence Staff Officer.
O'NEAL, Philip J., Capt., Combat Liaison Officer.
RUTLEDGE, Lawrence A., Capt., Combat Liaison Officer.
ROBERTS, Chester G., 2nd Lt., Reconnaissance and Survey Officer.
WINSTRUP, John J., 1st Lt., Combat Liaison Officer.

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

ANDREWS, Donald F., 1st Lt., Commanding Officer.
JACKSON, Phillip R., 1st Lt., Air Observatinon Pilot
PODELL, Jerome E., 1st Lt., Air Observation Pilot.
LENORD, Edwin A., 1st Lt., Wheeled Vehicle Maintenance Officer.
MISKILL, Robert D., 2nd Lt., Commanding Officer.

BATTERY A

CHOATE, Thomas H., Field Artillery Unit Commander.
RHEA, Boyd B., Jr., 1st Lt., Field Artillery Unit Commander.
MOORE, William M., 2nd Lt. Reconnaissance and Survey Officer.
SPENCER, Gaylord H., 2nd Lt., Wheeled Vehicle Maintenance Officer.
STUCKY, John W., Jr., 2nd Lt., Forward Observer, Artillery.
STRAIN, Carl D., 2nd Lt., Wheeled Vehicle Maintenance Officer.

BATTERY B

THOMPSON, Robert H. Capt., Field Artillery Unit Commander.
ELLSWORTH, Edward C., 1st Lt., Field Artillery Unit Commander.
FOWLER, Vernon R., 1st Lt., Forward Observer Artillery.
RAFAL, Martin 1st Lt., Motor Officer.

BATTERY C

CALA, Joseph M., Capt., Field Artillery Unit Commander.
CONNOLLY, John E., 1st Lt., Forward Observer Artillery.
COX, Walter L., 1st Lt., Field Artillery Unit Commander.
BENICKY, Joseph M., Jr., 2nd Lt., Wheeled Vehicle Maintenance officer.
SOWASH, Richard G., 1st Lt., Reconnaissance and Survey Officer.

SERVICE BATTERY

SNIDER, Frank J., Capt., Supply and Evacuation Staff Officer.
TOTTEN, Edward F., 1st Lt. Munitions Officer.
WELTON, Francis C., 1st Lt., Motor Officer.
McDONALD, Alexander A., 2nd Lt., Motor Officer.
RESCH, Robert E., CWO, Supply Officer General.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

SMITH, Miles B., Capt., Medical Officer General Duty.

HEADQUARTERS BATTERY

CLASBY, John J., M/Sgt., Chicago, Ill.
BEYE, John R., 1/Sgt., Marshaltown, Iowa.
DUNN, David W., T/Sgt., Detroit, Mich.
VINCK, Charles F., T/Sgt., Chicago, Ill.
BARNES, Floyd W., S/Sgt., Mt. Vernon Ohio.
BROWN, Frederick J., S/Sgt., Saginaw, Mich.
GULLY, Lennox E., S/Sgt., Preston, Miss.
JERMAN, James J., S/Sgt., Lebanon, Ind.
MARNACH, Arnold M., S/Sgt., Caledonia, Minn.
McCARLEY, Harold O., S/Sgt., Greenville, S. C.
NATH, Paul J., S/Sgt., Pittsburgh, Pa.
WASSER, S/Sgt., Reading, Pa.
WASSER, Donald R., S/Sgt. Reading, Pa
BAGLEY, Claude E., T/3, Alexandria Ind.
BELLA, Nicholas J., Sgt., Plant City, Fla.
BURT, Marion F., Sgt., McGraw, N. Y.
ELDRIDGE, Julius W., Sgt., Newton Grove, N. C.
FOERSCHLER, William T., Sgt., Chapman, Kan.
BLOOMSTOCK, Harold J., T/4 Springfield Mo.
FINK, Jesse F., T/4 Jefferson, Ohio.
GAMEZ, Gilberto, T/4, Laredo, Tex.
GREEN, James L., T/4, Green Castle, Ind.
HEMMER, Paul W., T/4, Covington, Ky.
JOHNS, Myron H., T/4 Grundy Center, Ia.
KLING, Robert F., T/4 Turlock, Calif.
LOVOY, Leland, M., T/4, Glens Falls N. Y.
NUSSEL, Wayne H., T/4, Brazil, Ind.
POOL, Cranston A., T/4 Des Moines, Iowa.
PRAET, Walter V., T/4, Napoleon, Ohio.
SOPHER, Dellner O., T/4, Steger, Ill.
SPRADLIN, Ansel R. T/4, Portsmouth, O.
WETEROFF, Lester A., T/4, St. Louis, Mo.
SZAFRANSKI, Joseph A., T/4, Buffalo, N. Y.
BELL, Wendell D., Cpl., Miltonvale, Kan.
DEL PRATO, Enriaco J., Cpl., Syracuse, N. Y.
HILDEBRAND, Richard G., Cpl., Mansfield, Ohi.
LEMASTER, Clyde H. Jr., Cpl., Purcell, Okla.
LENKOFSKY, Murry, Cpl., Brooklyn, N. Y.
McCALL, Willard Murry, Cpl., Norwalk, Calif.
POELLOT, John W., Cpl., Plainfield, N. J.
RUFF, Julius L., Cpl., Staten Island, N. Y.
SANDERS, Robert F., Cpl., Scotia, N. Y.
SNOW, Edward J., Cpl., Mohawk, N. Y.
STOUGH, Robert G., Cpl., Oklahoma City, Okla.
WEAVER, Nathan M., Jr., Craddock, Va.
YOCKEY, Kenneth R., Cpl. Buffalo, N. Y.
ALIZ, Ulisse L., T/5, Greenville, N. H.
BENTZ, Paul R., T/5, Cincinnati, Ohio.
BISBACH, Clifford H., T/5, Platteville, Wis.
BIZZOZRO, Aldo C., T/5, Montpelier, Vt.
BRUMLEY, Milburn M., T/5, Giltner, Neb.
BURDE, Theodore O., T/5, Bronx, N. Y.
CHAPPLE, Harold L. T/5, Winston Salem, N. C.
CLACK, Edward R., T/5, Rocky Mountain, N. C.
GALILEO, Rocco D., T/5, Brooklyn, N. Y.
HOGAN, Calvin G., T/5 Mobeetie, Tex.
LEAVEN, Thomas F., T/5, Oeliview, Iowa.
LEET, Eugene B., T/5, St. Louis, Mo.
MANLEY, Carl J. T/5, Drumright, Okla.
MARCKS, Donald F., T/5, Waverly, Neb.
MARLER, Ralph W., T/5, Springfield, Mo.
PEPE, Pasquale A. T/5, West New York, N. J.
RICHEY, John B., Jr., T/5, Toledo, Ohio.
ROCHE, Paul F., T/5, Scranton, Pa.
SMITH, JAMES M., T/5, Sioux Falls, S. D.
TICHY, Wiliam, T/5, St. Louis, Mo.
ULFERS, Durward D., T/5, Omaha, Neb.
WILSON, Johnnie E., T/5 Milltown, Ky.
BOYLE, James A., Pfc., Hamilton, Ohio.
CARLSON, Kenneth E., Pfc., Rumford, R. I.
BRADY, William J., Pfc., Philadelphia, Pa.
DIXON, Junior R., Pfc., Sinks Grove, W. Va.
DRIER, Elmer J., Pfc. Rockland, Mich.
DRISCOLL, Lenord E., Pfc., Columbus, Ohio.
DULDT, John, Pfc., Laurenburg, Tenn.
ELKINS, Joseph L., Jr., Oak Hill, W. Va.
EHRMAN, George F., Pfc., West Amana, Iowa.
FINALDI, Anthony, Pfc., Newark, N. J.
GOLDMAN, Isadore, Pfc. Philadelphia, Pa.
GARANDA, Edward P., Pfc., Jersey City, N. J.
HOKE, Kenneth, Pfc. Granite Quarry, N. C.
LOWERY, Kenneth S., Pfc., Houston, Mo.
MAGUIRE, William S., Pfc., Brooklyn, N. Y.
MILLER, Donald R., Pfc., Buffalo, N. Y.
MISHOE, Charles W., Pfc., Conway, S. C.
PETERS, George O., Pfc., South Hero, Vt.
PETERS, Paul R., Pfc. Bowman, N. D.
PIERCE, Frank J., Pfc., Ridgeway, Pa.
PRANSKY, Kermit, Pfc., Bronx, N. Y.
RAMIREZ, Frank H., Pfc., Roswell, N. M.
SPAHR, Charles E., Pfc., Ebensburg, Pa.
SMITH, Francis E., Pfc., Willimantic, Conn.
STEWART, Wilford B., Burlington N. C.
SUTTER William B., Pfc., New Paris, Pa.
TURNER, Ismal, Pfc., Crockett, Tex.
WRIGHT, Ensley W. Pfc., Somerset, Ky.
BARBOUR, William E., Pvt., Chicago, Ill.
BARNES, Erwin W., Pvt., Sioux City, Iowa.
CLARK, Edward F., Pvt., Anon Park, Fla.
FELD, Paul, Pvt., Bronx N. Y.
HARDING, Orville T., Pvt., Wausau, Wis.
HENDERSON Peter J., Pvt., Brooklyn, N. Y.
JACKSON, Clyde L., Pvt., Saluda, N. C.
KNOTTS, William T., Pvt. Newburg, W. Va.
MEGEN, Edward J., Pvt., Chicago, Ill.
MEYER, Ralph, Pvt., Brooklyn, N. Y.
MOODY Bruce R., Pvt., Belle View, Fla.
MOORE, Howard E., Pvt., Armstrongs Mills, Ohio.
PANTAZIS, James P., Pvt., Brooklyn, N. Y.
PARSONS, Elfared J., Pvt. Saugus, Mass.
PATTON, Glenn W., Pvt., Hartford, Ky.
PAWLUK, Emil E., Pvt., Queens Village, N. Y.
ROSPLOCHOWSKI, Richard H., Pvt., Milwaukee, Wis.
SUSSMAN, Selig, Pvt., Philadelphia, Pa.

BATTERY A

NICKUS, Vincent 1/Sgt., Olympia, Wash.
BERRY, Curtis C., S/Sgt., Turtle Creek, W. Va.
CIPRA, Raymond V., S/Sgt., Prairie du Chien, Wis.
LURA, DeLOSS C., S/Sgt., Joice, Iowa.
LINLEY, Michael E., S/Sgt., Mazomanie, Wis.
ALLEN, Gean E., Sgt., Richmond, Mo.
CORREN, James H. Sgt., Dravosburg, Pa.
DE COCQ, Henry W., Sgt., Purdy, Mo.
HUTCHINS, William F., Sgt. East Point, Ga.
KOHORST, Rembert C., Sgt., Norwood, O.
PHILLIPS Boyd E., Sgt., Lake City, Kan.
POW, Frank C., Sgt., Saluda, S. C.
SCHOONOVER, Ernst E., Jr., Sgt., Topeka, Kan.
BIELA, Jerry T/4, Bridgeport, Ohio.
CRONIN, Carmie M. T.4, Evansville, Ind.
HOPKINS, Melvin L., T/4 Vandalia, Ill.
JEMC, Raymond R., T/4, Chicago, Ill.

336 FA

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

KILLED IN ACTION

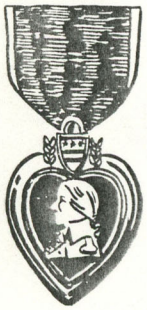
OFFICERS

Douglas D. Barrow, 1st Lt., Battery A
Godfrey H. Bernhardt, 1st Lt., Headquarters Battery

ENLISTED MEN

Richard C. Merriman, Sgt., Battery B
Robert W. McCrum, Cpl., Battery B
Charles F. Dutiel, T/5, Headquarters Battery
John J. Gildea, Pvt., Battery B
Henry Padlasoff, Ptv., Headquarters Battery

PURPLE HEART



OFFICERS

Frank C. Napier, Capt.
Lawrence A. Rutledge, Capt.
John E. Connolly, 1st Lt., Battery C
Walter L. Cox, 1st Lt., Battery C
John E. Stuckey, 2nd Lt. Battery B
Joseph M. Benicky, 2nd Lt., Battery C
Edwin A. Leonard, 2nd Lt., Headquarters Battery
William M. Moore, 2nd Lt., Battery A
Richard G. Sowash, 2nd Lt., Battery C
Gaylord H. Spencer, 2nd Lt., Battery A

ENLISTED MEN

Floyd W. Barnes, S/Sgt., Battery B
William F. Hutchins, Sgt., Battery A
William T. Foerschler, Sgt., Headquarters Battery
Frank F. Meston, Sgt., Battery C
Boyd E. Phillips, Sgt., Battery A
Clair W. Arnold, T/4, Battery C
Edwin A. Koboszeiwiski, T/4, Battery B
Joseph J. Rafferty, T/4, Headquarters Battery
John B. San Fillipo, T/4, Battery B
Herbert A. Vonder Hoya, T/4, Battery B
Orville E. Witt, T/4, Battery C
George F. Ehrmann, Cpl., Battery A
Edward J. Felix, Cpl., Battery A
Curtis N. Little, Cpl., Battery C
Howard Murny, Cpl., Battery A
William C. Prince, Cpl., Battery C
Jack A. Carney, T/5, Battery C
Robert J. Diopre, T/5, Battery B
Claude L. Jackson, T/5, Battery A
Paul F. Stephens, T/5, Battery C
Edward Cornett, Pfc., Battery B
Freddie Dailey, Pfc., Battery B
Fay C. Capps, Pfc., Battery C
William E. Barbour, Pfc., Headquarters Battery
Nicholas S. Hoffenberger, Pfc., Service Battery
(With Two Oak Leaf Clusters)
George E. Rachford, Pfc., Headquarters Battery
Orville E. Acree, Pvt., Battery C
Salvadore Carlis, Pvt., Battery A
John I. Dunham, Pvt., Headquarters Battery
James P. Pantazis, Pvt., Headquarters Battery
Guy C. Wagar, Pvt., Battery C
Allen O. Weirich, Pvt., Battery B

SILVER STAR

OFFICERS

Frank C. Napier, Capt.
John E. Connolly, 1st Lt., Battery C
Joseph M. Benicky, 2nd Lt., Battery C
Carl D. Strain, 2nd Lt., Battery A

BRONZE STAR

OFFICERS

Marcus Tague, Lt. Col.
Wilfred C. Becker, Maj.
Joseph M. Cala, Capt., Battery C
Thomas H. Choate, Capt., Battery A
George R. Hingston, Capt.
Garnett O. Lee, Jr, Capt.
Lawrence A. Rutledge, Capt.
Frank J. Snyder, Capt., Service Battery
Robert M. Thompson, Capt., Battery B
Donald F. Andrews, 1st Lt., Headquarters Battery
Walter L. Cox, 1st Lt., Battery C
Edward C. Ellsworth, 1st Lt., Battery B
Vernon R. Fowler, 1st Lt., Battery B
Joseph M. Benicky, 2nd Lt., Battery C
Richard G. Sowash, 2nd Lt., Battery C
Gaylord H. Spencer, 2nd Lt., Battery A
John E. Stuckey, 2nd Lt., Battery B

ENLISTED MEN

Vincent Nickus, 1/Sgt., Battery A
Curtis C. Berry, S/Sgt., Battery A
James J. Ryan, S/Sgt., Battery B
Nicholas J. Bella, Sgt., Headquarters Battery
Marion F. Burt, Sgt., Headquarters Battery
Henry W. De Cocq, Sgt., Battery A
Claire W. Arnold, T/4, Battery C
Orville E. Witt, T/4, Battery C
Richard G. Hildebrand, Cpl., Battery B
Joseph C. McKee, Cpl., Battery B
William C. Prince, Cpl., Battery C
(With Oak Leaf Cluster)
Samuel D. Aloisi, T/5, Battery A
Russell H. Bauswell, T/5, Battery C
Theodore C. Burde, T/5, Headquarters Battery
Jack A. Carney, T/5, Battery C
Charles F. Dutiel, T/5, Headquarters Battery
Clyde L. Jackson, T/5, Battery A
Donald F. Marcks, T/5, Headquarters Battery
Roger A. Levillier, T/5, Battery B
Paul F. Stephens, T/5, Battery C
William J. Brady, Pfc., Headquarters Battery

AIR MEDAL

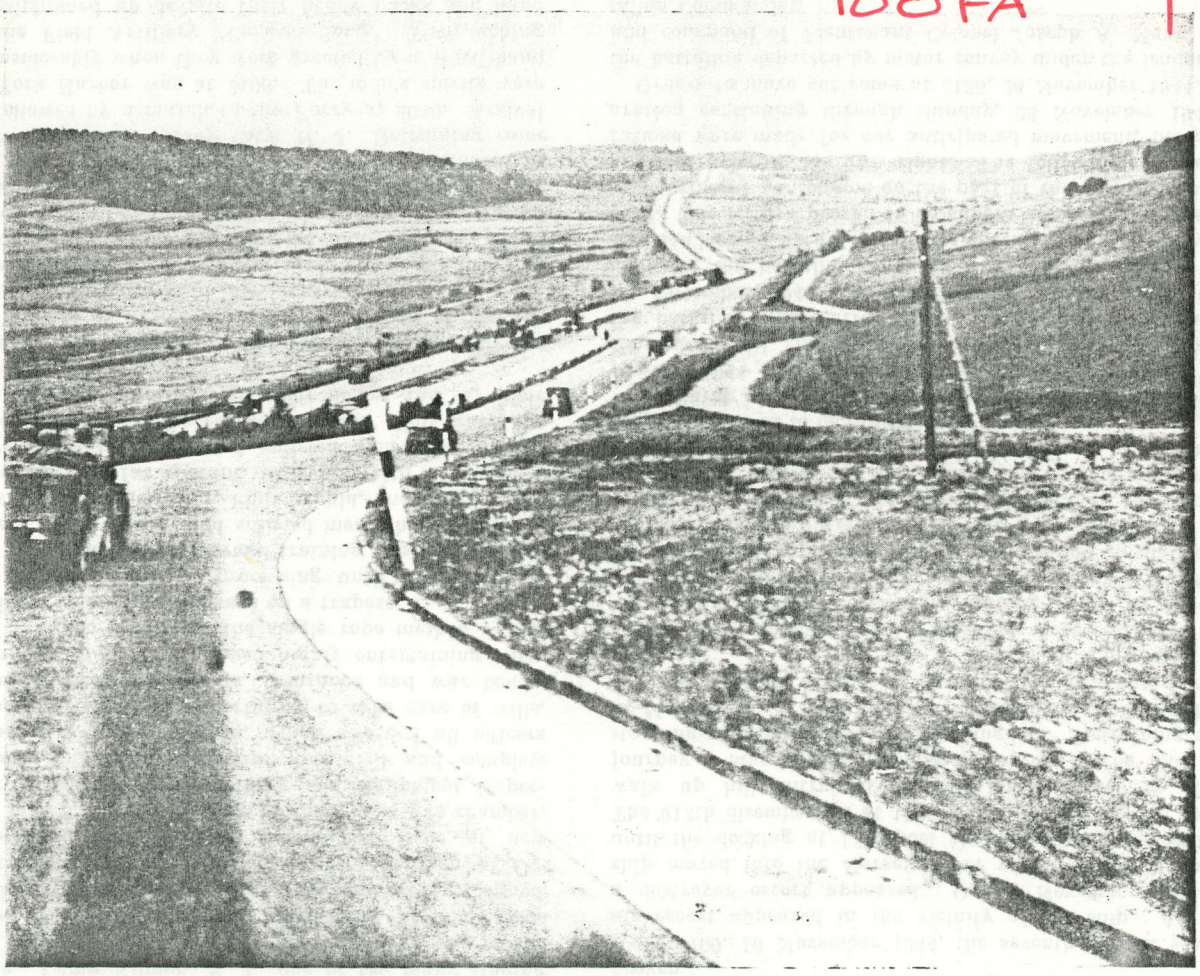
OFFICERS

Lawrence A. Rutledge, Capt.
Phillip H. Jackson, 1st Lt.,
(With Two Oak Leaf Clusters)
Jerome E. Podell, 1st Lt., Headquarters Battery
(With One Oak Leaf Cluster)
Godfrey H. Bernhardt, 1st Lt., Headquarters Battery
(With One Oak Leaf Cluster)
Douglas D. Barrow, 1st Lt., Headquarters Battery
(With One Oak Leaf Cluster)
Edwin A. Leonard, 2nd Lt., Headquarters Battery

RECEIVED BATTLEFIELD COMMISSIONS

Joseph M. Benicky, Jr., S/Sgt.
John W. Stucky, Jr., S/Sgt.
Carl D. Strain, S/Sgt.
Alexander A. McDonald, M/Sgt.

912 FA
107 FA-28TH DIV.
108 FA



The battalion marches on Hitler's super highway

along a creek bed which was infested with anti-personnel mines. No wounds resulted, however. This time only the 335th and the 253rd Field Artillery Battalions were reinfocing our fires. It was also on this day that events occurred which eventually led to the award of the Silver Star to T/5 Anthony Trapino, radio operator. After being wounded and before first aid was administered to him, T/5 Trapino continued to transmit fire commands. Capt. George H. Sexton, Liaison Officer, and his driver, Pfc. Clements Kohrman, were also wounded by enemy artillery fire. All three are deserving of the highest praise for their actions on this occasion.

During the next two days, the infantry had a holding mission and we suffered one more casualty when Pvt. Dawson E. May, cannoneer from Battery C, was slightly wounded by a German S-mine.

On the 23rd of December, 1944, word was received that the Division would be relieved during the night. The 912th to be relieved by the 156th Field Artillery Battalion of the 44th Infantry Division. The 87th was to be moved up into Belgium to help stop Von Rundstedt's "Bulge." At 0230, 24 December 1944, during an intensely cold and windy night, we moved out and were temporarily billeted in Lohr, France. It was a wonderful feeling to get into warm buildings and get a good rest on this day before Christmas. Christmas day, there was time for church services and for an excellent turkey dinner. That night the Battalion began a forced road march to Rheims, France, the longest and coldest of any experienced during the Battalion's entire stay in the European Theater. The 912th Field Artillery Battalion arrived in the vicinity of Rheims at 1300, 26 December 1944 and was placed in SHAEF Strategic Reserve. The next few days were spent cleaning equipment and material and getting a much needed rest. The only tactical worry at this time came from enemy air attacks on Rheims at night. On 29 December 1944 orders were received to move from Rheims to the vicinity of Recogne, Belgium. The mission in the new position was one of reinforcing the fires of the 336th Field Artillery Battalion. The first mission was fired at 2100, 30 December 1944. New Year's Eve, Lieutenant Colonel Monn and the Battery Commanders with their reconnaissance parties searched for new positions near Freux, Belgium, to support an attack of the 347th Infantry Regiment. This reconnaissance was made at night under the most extreme conditions of weather. Snow was six inches deep over most of the roads and several feet deep in fields.

At 0900, 1 January 1945, the Battalion displaced from reinforcing positions in the vicinity of Recogne to the positions near Freux with the mission of rendering direct support to the 347th Combat Team. The objective was the bridge over the Orthe River at Ortheville, Belgium. With this displacement the 912th was thrown directly in the Battle of the Ardennes. Division Artillery assigned the 334th, 107th and 108th Field Artillery Battalions to reinforce the Battalion's fires. Despite the displacement and the extremes of weather, a good New Year's Day dinner was served.

THE 912TH IN THE EUROPEAN THEATRE

On 16 August 1944 the 912th Field Artillery Battalion was officially notified that the 87th Infantry Division, of which it was a part, had been alerted for overseas shipment at a future date. Immediate preparations were made for necessary showdown inspections, immunizations, and for final phases of training.

All the inspections by Inspector Generals proved highly satisfactory as far as the battalion was concerned. The Administrative Inspection, too, proved to be excellent.

On 1 October 1944, an advance party from the 912th Field Artillery Battalion consisting of Major Thomas W. Bender, Captain Albert J. Foisy, 2d Lt. Lauren W. Dean, T/Sgt. Clair M. Jenniges and Cpl. Sherman M. Long, departed for an overseas destination to arrange for arrival of the battalion at a later date.

CWO Marvin H. Sandlin, Assistant Battalion S-4, departed under classified orders to Elmira H & R Point, Horseheads, New York, on 25 September 1944 for temporary duty in connection with supply matters for an overseas shipment of large items of cargo.

Finally, at 1603 12 October 1944, the 912th Field Artillery Battalion under the very able direction and command of Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A. Monn, entrained at Fort Jackson, S. C., on the first leg of its journey overseas.

The Battalion arrived at Camp Kilmer, N. J., at 1430, 13 October 1944 after an uneventful 22-hour and 27-minute train ride. Camp Kilmer, N. J., one of the many staging areas of the New York Port of Embarkation, was named after the poet, Joyce Kilmer. Processing of the troops began almost immediately after quarters were assigned. The processing from the date of arrival through 17 October consisted of: Physical inspections, issue of new type gas masks and the testing of them in a gas chamber, typhus innoculations, final clothing and equipment inspections, "abandon ship" procedure and drill and complete instruction in Personal Affairs, which afforded all officers and enlisted men a final opportunity to take care of wills, powers of attorney, allotments, insurance and war bonds. The "abandon ship" drill proved highly entertaining when a few of the men who used the single rope method swung way out into the air like monkeys on a trapeze.

From the completion of processing until the final call from the Port Commander, normal training was pursued and passes were given officers and enlisted men which permitted them to visit New York City, Philadelphia, and other points that were not too far distant. On the 24th of October, three-day passes were granted enlisted men and two-day leaves were likewise afforded the officers. This gave the great majority a chance to visit their homes and say their last farewells.

A parade was held on 31 October at which Brigadier General William W. Ford reviewed the troops of the Division which still remained in this country.

Finally at 0800, 1 November 1944, the battalion was alerted for movement to the Port of Embarkation. Final preparation for shipment began with packing of personal clothing and equipment. The battalion departed from their quarters area at 1830, 3 November 1944 and entrained at 1913 with destination Jersey City, N. J. Detraining came at 2019 followed by a march to the Ferry at 2040. Arrival at New York Harbor was at 2108. The men's spirits were raised considerably when they were greeted by a WAC band playing the Field Artillery "Caisson Song." Their aching backs straightened up despite their heavy packs and hand luggage and their step quickened. Just prior to going up the gangplank, the American Red Cross served hot coffee and doughnuts, which afforded a welcome and refreshing pause.

Embarkation on His Majesty's Transport *Louis Pasteur* began at 2122. Corporal Robert L. Lowe of Headquarters Battery was the first enlisted man to hit the gangplank. At this moment, one to be well remembered, a spontaneous cheer went up from the troops. The embarkation was effected in an orderly manner with no loss of time. HMT *Louis Pasteur*, was formerly a French passenger ship which had been taken over by the British and was sailing under the British flag.

The ship sailed at 1355, 4 November 1944, and the decks were crowded with soldiers having their last look at land for a while and gazing fondly at the Statue of Liberty. During the voyage, emergency station drills were conducted daily at 1000 and at the same time the quarters of the men were inspected by a ship's staff. The quarters occupied by the 912th enlisted personnel received a rating of *Excellent* the first day and *Superior* the remaining days of the voyage.

On 6 November 1944, during a ship's gun drill, two men of the battalion were injured when the concussion from a stern gun blew in a bulkhead. Those injured were S/Sgt. William R. Parfitt, Battery B, who suffered a fractured skull, concusion of the brain and loss of sight in the right eye and Pvt. Gilbert C. Berry, Battery A, whose nose was broken.

At 0700, 10 November 1944, the seventh day at sea, an air escort appeared in the vicinity of the ship. At 1400 a destroyer escort appeared. On 12 November 1944 the ship moved into the Mersey River where it lay at anchor until the docking at Liverpool at 1300, 13 November 1944. The 912th disembarked at 1705 and after a short, but tough, walk up hill entrained at 1755 on another leg of its journey. Macclesfield, England, proved to be the first stopping-off place in the United Kingdom. Detraining came at Macclesfield at 2050 and the battalion was met by Major Bender, Captain Foisy and T/Sgt. Jenniges—the advance party.

Our billets in Macclesfield, England, were entirely within the town, which is one of the leading towns in the silk industry. Some of the townspeople stated that a lot of the former silk workers from Macclesfield are now in the United States working in the silk mills of New Jersey.

The battalion was restricted until it had received an orientation lecture on British customs. This orientation was given by Major Thomas W. Bender on 14 November 1944 and proved to be highly entertaining.

The first of our TAT shipment was received on 15 November 1944 and uncrating and inspection began. This continued until Thanksgiving Day, 23 November 1944 when the battalion was alerted for an anticipated movement on 27 November 1944. Thanksgiving Day was a half-work day and the battalion attended a lecture on "Escape and Evasion" given by an officer of General D. W. Eisenhower's staff. The lecture proved to be superb and was interspersed with brilliant pantomime on the part of the officer, who was a gifted actor in his own right. The following day preparations were made for our anticipated movement, the preparation continuing through Sunday, 26 November 1944.

Orders to move out came at 2135, 26 November 1944, and the battalion departed by motor convoy under the leadership and command of Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A. Monn, Battalion Commander.

After an uneventful 20 hour and 15 minute motor march, the battalion arrived at Camp D 14, Weymouth,

BATTALION DESIGNATION AND TYPE	FORMED (SOURCE OF UNIT) / INACTIVATION *Active through 1946	AUGUST 1945 LOCATION
95th Armored Field Artillery Bn	1 Jan 42 Ft Knox Ky / 9 Oct 45 Cp Myles Standish Mass NYPE: 11 Feb 44 England: 23 Feb 44 France-ETO: 25 Jul 44 - **25,26,30,32,34** BPE: 8 Oct 45 *(5th Armd Div)*	Uder Germany
97th Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trac-D)	4 Jan 41 Ft Bragg N.C. / 31 Jan 46 Cp Stoneman Calif SFPE: 15 Mar 42 New Caledonia: 5 Apr 42 Guadalcanal: 16 Jan 43 New Caledonia: 13 Dec 43 Philippines: 21 May 45 - **11,13** *(75mm How Pk thru 1941) (nondiv)*	Dulag Philippines
98th Field Artillery Bn (75mm How Pack)	13 Jan 41 Ft Lewis Wash / 24 Sep 44 New Guinea redes 6th Ranger Inf Bn HRPE: 27 Dec 42 Australia: 30 Jan 43 New Guinea: 26 Aug 44 - **15** *(nondiv)*	
99th Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trac-D)	16 Dec 40 Edgewood Arsenal Md (99th FA) / * SFPE: 23 May 43 Australia: 23 Jun 43 Los Negros: 28 Feb 44 Admiralty I: 16 Mar 44 Philippines: 20 Oct 44 - **3,13,14,15** *(75mm How Pk thru 1941) (1st Cav Div)*	Lucena Philippines
101st Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trk-D)	3 Feb 42 Cp Edwards Mass (1st Bn, 101st FA) / 25 Dec 45 Cp Patrick Henry Va NYPE: 27 Aug 44 France-ETO: 7 Sep 44 - **25,26,32,34** HRPE: 25 Dec 45 *(26th In Div)*	Cernice Czechoslovakia
102nd Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trk-D)	3 Feb 42 Cp Edwards Mass (2nd Bn, 102nd FA) / 25 Dec 45 Cp Patrick Henry Va NYPE: 27 Aug 44 France-ETO: 7 Sep 44 - **25,26,32,34** HRPE: 25 Dec 45 *(26th Inf Div)*	Rozmital Czechoslovakia
103rd Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trac-D)	10 Feb 42 Cp Blanding Fla (1st Bn, 103rd FA) / 22 Oct 45 Cp Stoneman Calif SFPE: 5 Oct 42 New Hebrides: 26 Oct 42 New Georgia: 30 Jun 43 Guadalcanal: 28 Jun 44 New Zealand: 17 Feb 44 New Guinea: 22 Jul 44 Philippines: 9 Jan 45 - **14,15,16** SFPE: 19 Oct 45 *(43rd Inf Div)*	Cabanatuan Philippines
104th Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trk-D)	1 Sep 42 Ft Shafter Hawaii (2nd Bn, 104th FA) / 31 Dec 45 Ft Lawton Wash Hawaii: 1 Sep 42 Saipan: 17 Jun 44 Espiritu Santo: 4 Sep 44 Okinawa: 9 Apr 45 - **10,19,21** SPE: 31 Dec 45 *(27th Inf Div)*	Okinawa
105th Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trk-D)	1 Sep 42 Ft Shafter Hawaii (1st Bn, 105th FA) / 31 Dec 45 Ft Lawton Wash Hawaii: 1 Sep 42 Saipan: 17 Jun 44 Espiritu Santo: 4 Sep 44 Okinawa: 9 Apr 45 - **10,19,21** SPE: 31 Dec 45 *(27th Inf Div)*	Okinawa
106th Field Artillery Bn (155mm How Trac-D)	1 Sep 42 Ft Shafter Hawaii (1st Bn, 106th FA) / 31 Dec 45 Ft Lawton Wash Hawaii: 1 Sep 42 Saipan: 17 Jun 44 Espiritu Santo: 4 Sep 44 Okinawa: 9 Apr 45 - **10,19,21** SPE: 31 Dec 45 *(27th Inf Div)*	Okinawa
107th Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trk-D)	7 Feb 42 Cp Beauregard La (1st Bn, 107th FA) / 27 Oct 45 Cp Shelby Miss BPE: 11 Oct 43 England: 18 Oct 43 France-ETO: 22 Jul 44 - **25,26,30,32,34** BPE: 2 Aug 45 *(28th Inf Div)*	Cp Shelby Miss
108th Field Artillery Bn (155mm How Trac-D)	7 Feb 42 Cp Beauregard La (2nd Bn, 108th FA) / 25 Oct 45 Cp Shelby Miss BPE: 11 Oct 43 England: 18 Oct 43 France-ETO: 22 Jul 44 - **25,26,30,32,34** BPE: 2 Aug 45 *(28th Inf Div)*	Cp Shelby Miss
109th Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trk-D)	7 Feb 42 Cp Beauregard La (2nd Bn, 109th FA; / 30 Oct 45 Cp Shelby Miss BPE: 30 Sep 43 England: 1 Nov 43 France-ETO: 22 Jul 44 - **25,26,30,32,34** BPE: 2 Aug 45 *(28th Inf Div)*	Cp Shelby Miss
110th Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trk-D)	28 Feb 42 Ft George G Meade Md (1st Bn, 110th FA) / 6 Jan 45 Cp Kilmer N.J. NYPE: 5 Oct 42 England: 11 Oct 42 France-ETO: 6 Jun 44 - **26,30,32,34** NYPE: 4 Jan 46 *(29th Inf Div)*	Rodenkirchen Germany
111th Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trk-D)	28 Feb 42 Ft George G Meade Md (1st Bn, 111th FA) / 6 Jan 45 Cp Kilmer N.J. NYPE: 27 Sep 42 England: 2 Oct 42 France-ETO: 6 Jun 44 - *26,30,32,34* NYPE: 4 Jan 46 *(29th Inf Div)*	Tossens Germany
113th Field Artillery Bn (155mm How Trac-D)	7 Feb 42 Ft Jackson S.C. (1st Bn, 113th FA) / 20 Nov 45 Ft Jackson S.C. BPE: 11 Feb 44 England: 23 Feb 44 France-ETO: 10 Jun 44 - **25,26,30,32,34** NYPE: 21 Aug 45 *(30th Inf Div)*	Shipment #10390-N at sea
114th Field Artillery Bn (155mm How Trac-D)	10 Feb 42 Cp Blanding Fla (1st Bn, 114th FA) / 21 Dec 45 Cp Stoneman Calif HRPE: 9 Feb 44 New Guinea: 17 Mar 44 Morotai: 17 Sep 44 Philippines: 22 Apr 45 - **15,20** SFPE: 19 Dec 45 *(31st Inf Div)*	Valencia Mindanao Philippines
115th Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trk-D)	7 Feb 42 Ft Jackson S.C. (1st Bn, 115th FA) / 20 Apr 46 Germany BPE: 21 Aug 42 Iceland: 31 Aug 42 England: 6 Nov 43 France-ETO: 23 Sep 44 - **25,26,32,34** *(relieved from 30th Inf Dvi 24 Aug 42) (nondiv)*	Weiler Germany
116th Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trac-D)	10 Feb 42 Cp Blanding Fla (1st Bn, 116th FA) / 20 Dec 45 Cp Stoneman Calif HRPE: 2 Mar 44 New Guinea: 7 Apr 44 Morotai: 15 Sep 44 Philippines: 22 Apr 45 - **15,20** SFPE: 20 Dec 45 *(31st Inf Div)*	Valencia Mindanao Philippines
117th Field Artillary Bn (105mm How Trac-D)	10 Feb 42 Cp Blanding Fla (1st Bn, 117th FA) / 8 Dec 45 Cp Stoneman Calif HRPE: 2 Mar 44 New Guinea: 7 Apr 44 Morotai: 16 Sep 44 Philippines: 22 Apr 45 - **15,20** SFPE: 7 Dec 45 *(31st Inf Div)*	Valencia Mindanao Philippines
118th Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trk-D)	7 Feb 42 Ft Jackson S.C. (1st Bn, 118th FA) /13 Nov 45 Ft Jackson S.C. HRPE: 11 Feb 44 England: 23 Feb 44 France-ETO: 10 Jun 44 - **25,26,30,32,34** NYPE: 21 Aug 45 *(30th Inf Div)*	Shipment #10390-K in England
120th Field Artillery Bn (105mm How Trac-D)	31 Jan 42 Cp Livingston La (1st Bn, 120th FA) / 28 Feb 46 Japan SFPE: 22 Apr 42 Australia: 14 May 42 Goodenough I: 28 Oct 43 New Guinea: 2 Jan 44 Philippines: 14 Nov 44 - **13,14,15** *(32nd Inf Div)*	Anabat Philippines
121st Field Artillery Bn (155mm How Trac-D)	16 Jan 42 Ft Devens Mass (1st Bn, 121st FA) / 28 Feb 46 Japan SFPE: 22 Apr 42 Australia: 14 May 42 Goodenough I: 28 Oct 43 New Guinea: 8 Jan 44 Biak I: 27 May 44 Philippines: 14 Nov 44 - **13,14,15** *(32nd Inf Div)*	Anabat Philippines

CERTIFICATE

DATE June 30th 1945

1. I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE PERSONALLY EXAMINED THE ITEMS OF CAPTURED ENEMY MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN POSSESSION OF William a Pilarent - C-345 THAT THE TROPHY VALUE OF SUCH ITEMS EXCEDE ANY TRAINING, SERVICE OR SALVAGE VALUE, THAT THEY DO NOT INCLUDE ANY EXPLOSIVES. ITEMS LISTED ARE OF NO INTELLIGENCE VALUE AND THAT THE POSSESSION OF ISIN CONFORMITY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF PAR. 14B MILITARY CENSORSHIP, HEADQUARTERS EUROPEAN THEATRE OF OPERATIONS DATED 17 JAN. 1945

2. ITEMS REFERRED TO ARE:

P38 - F64725

Capt. F.A.
Comdg.

July 4, 1945

"GOING HOME"
LST, Le Harve, France
1 to r: Pfc John Felat
Captain Richard Wise
1st. Lt. John Davis

photo by Richard Wise

* please send your page to
Chuck Foreman
1515 Lynn Ave.
Marquette, MI 49855

To "Dick's Boys":

When Dick's wife, Ginny, called last month to say that our old Company Commander had passed away just a few days after his 76th Birthday and not long after my wife, Ginny, and I had stopped in to deliver that centerpiece from our table Saturday night at the Moline Reunion, we became saddened as though we had been told our father had died.

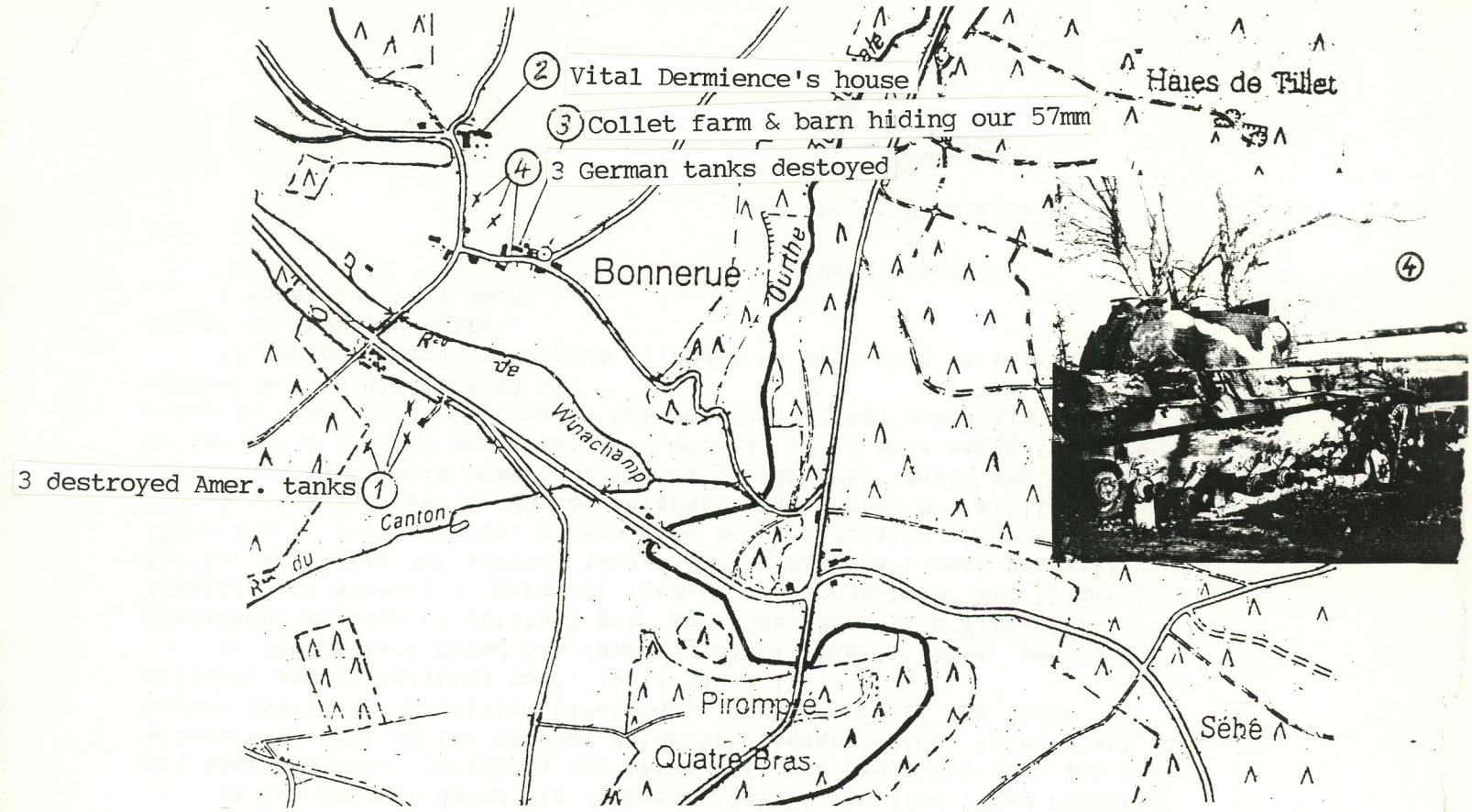
We stopped in for an hour to give the plant and the photo from the boys in HQ Company and C Company which said "To the best damn Company Commander in the 87th Division" and shared your best wishes for Dick to get well and join us next year. Dick had suffered additional heart damage and he was in his 20th month of shingles (he had been to the Toledo Reunion..shingles and all) and while my Ginny was talking to Dick's Ginny, he said; "She's worried about me." Dick was selfless to the very end.

When we left to complete our drive home to Marquette, we gave them each a big hug and I told Dick, "Your boys love you." Dick hugged back and said, "I love you boys."

I sent the Wise Family a plant from "Dick's Boys with love". Today, Ginny Wise's note said, "My children are in awe of the love shown by "Dick's Boys. He never spoke of his war experiences so this is all new to our family. You all are an extended family and mean so very much to me."

I invite you to send me a single page of "I Remember Captain Wise". I'll bind them and give them to his family. (ship flat)*

Thanks! Chuck Foreman



January 6th - 345th Infantry

At 1600 the enemy launched another assault, preceded this time by a barrage of 88 mm. fire. Everyone was alert for the tanks they knew would follow.

As the enemy "Tigers" moved in, Corporal Lee A. White, of Corinth, New York, and Private First Class Leon Gustafson, manning an antitank gun, watched it's opproach. Waiting until it was only seven feet away, and broadside to them, they fired. Four rounds went in one side of the tank, and out the other; it's crew was wiped out as they attempted to escape. Meanwhile Private First Class Vincent M. Miraglia, of Chicago, Illinois, and Michael A. Germaldi, of Jamaica, L. I., forming a bazooka team, followed similar tactics on a tracked vehicle following the tank. Private First Class Elmer L. Kittle, of Celena, Ohio, accounted for another tank with his bazooka. In-

January 7th - 345th Infantry

Second Lieutenant Jule F. Kaspar, of Iowa City, Iowa, and his Antitank Platoon men, plus two squads of Company C, were cut off as they started to evacuate the village. Rushing into a barn, they found Germans in one end—a pile of turnips in the other.

Lt. Kasper concealed himself in the hayloft, and his men under small mounds of hay. One man began to dig his way into the turnip pile. As he disappeared, another started digging; and the process continued until all were safely hidden.

Some of the men, near the base of the turnip heap, could observe the enemy's movements and saw fifty-seven of their comrades marched off as prisoners. Some were stepped on by Nazis searching the building but none were discovered.

January 8th - 345th Infantry

When darkness again fell the turnip concealed group prepared to make their escape. It wasn't an easy task, for the flames of burning buildings made the area almost as bright as day. One by one they crawled from their hiding place, through a hole in the wall to the road, and then made a dash across the open road to a hedgerow on the opposite side. Germans defending the village discovered them, and directed a withering crossfire from automatic weapons at each one as he raced across the open area. They kept going, across a field, wading through icy streams waist deep, finally reaching the safety of their own lines. They reported all they had seen, including the three officers and fifty-four men taken prisoner.

January 8th - 912th Field Artillery

On 8 January the 108th Field Artillery Battalion was relieved of reinforcing the 912th. The enemy again counterattacked against Bonnerue. General Ford visited the command post and remained during the firing of all the support for the Bonnerue sector. All contact was lost with Lieutenant Booth and his party when the enemy reoccupied the town. At 2115 the report was received that Lieutenant Casper, Liaison Officer with the 345th Infantry, identified Lieutenant Booth as one of the three officers and 17 enlisted men observed being marched away as prisoners by the enemy. Although not identified, it was assumed that S/Sgt. Cieslak and Sgt. Watson, members of Lieutenant Booth's party, were captured also.

DERMIENCE VICTOR
Avenue Ducpétiaux 89
1060 Bruxelles
BELGIUM

Bruxelles, 28/7/94

Mr. Jule F. Kaspar
160 Eugène Roan Drive
OREGON 92401
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Kaspar

First, I would like to apologize, for the spelling mistakes because I don't know English very well.

I am Vital Dermience's brother, who gave this photo for you.

It is really a pity I arrived an hour too late in Bonnerue on your recent trip because I would have liked to discuss a little bit the Battle of the Ardennes of 1945 with you.

I have got the American book "87th Infantry Division" you saw at my brother's house and I am trying to translate into French the passages relating to the fights in Bonnerue and its surroundings.

On the back of this letter, you will find both some passages of this book and the map of Bonnerue showing :
in 1, the location of 3 American tanks which were destroyed.
in 2, Vital Dermience's house, where you were on 7th and 8th January.
in 3, the Collet farm in which barn the anti-tank gun was hidden.
in 4, the location of 3 German tanks which were destroyed, among these the "Tigre" you see on the picture.

Could you please answer the following questions:

In the extract dated 7th January (345th) it is written "Second Lieutenant Jule F. Kaspar, and his Antitank Platoon men, plus two squads of Company C", how many men did it represent in total ?

In the extract dated 8th January (345th) you find "They reported all they had seen, including the three officers and fifty-four men taken prisoner", while in the extract dated 8th January (912e) "Lieutenant Casper (Kaspar?) identified Lieutenant Booth as one of the three officers and 17 enlisted men", is it 54 or 17 ?

In the extract dated 6th January (345e) "Lee A. White, and Leon Gustafson, manning an antitank gun" and then "Meanwhile Vincent M. Miraglia and Michael A. Germaldi forming a bazooka team" and "Elmer L. Kittle, accounted for another tank with his bazooka", were you with these men ? And could you please give me more details about it ?

I already wrote to several veterans, among them Mr. William P. Tayman who was also a member of the 345th régiment. Maybe you know him ? He has got a list of more than 2000 veterans, and many among them are going to come back in Europe in October 1994. I had asked him for your address but he didn't find it.

If you come back in Belgium, I would be very glad to meet you and to get to know you better.

I thank you very much.

Yours sincerely

Victor Dermience

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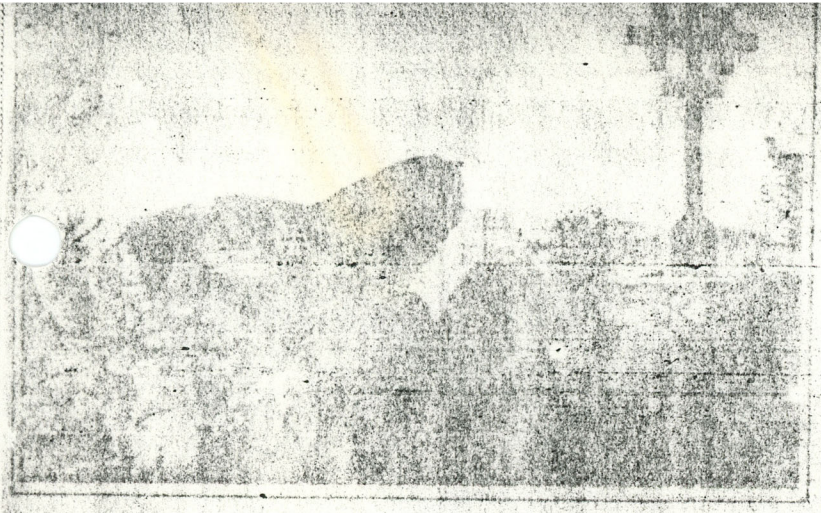
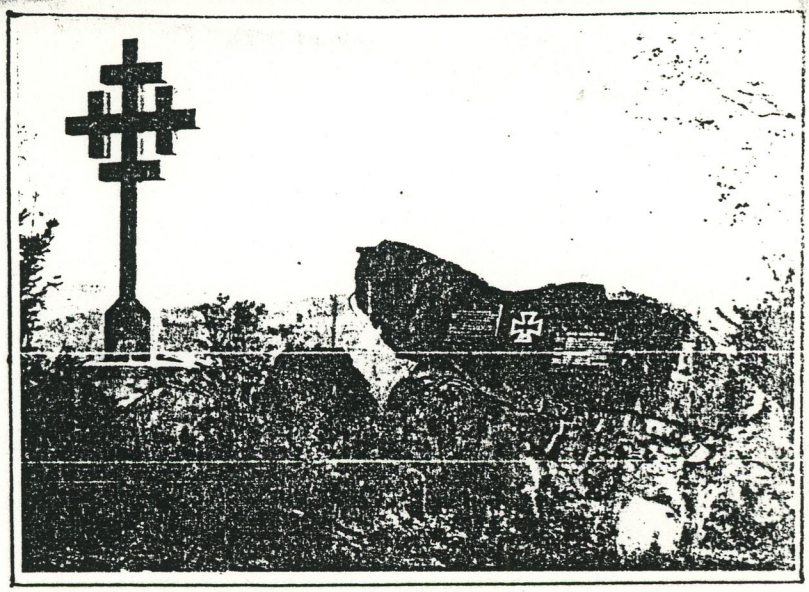


General Patton in his memoirs, War As I Knew It, describes the main bunker at Irrel.

"From one point on the road along which the 76th Division had successfully advanced, fifteen pillboxes were visible in addition to dragons' teeth and anti-tank ditches. Yet this relatively green division went through them. We visited the command pillbox for the sector. It consisted of a three story submerged barracks with toilets, shower baths, a hospital, laundry, kitchen, storerooms, and every conceivable convenience plus an enormous telephone installation. Electricity and heat were produced by a pair of identical twin engines with generators. Yet the whole offensive capacity of this installation consisted of two machine guns and a 60mm. mortar operated by remote control. As in all cases this particular pillbox was taken by a dynamite charge against the back door. We found marks on the cupolas, which were ten inches thick, where our 90 mm. shells, fired at a range of two hundred yards, had simply bounced."

(p. 251)

Westwallmuseum
im
Panzerwerk Katzenkopf



Luftkurort Irrel

The West Wall Museum is located in one of the largest West Wall bunkers of the Second World War. Inside you can view an interesting exhibition of documentary photographs an weapons. At the moment the West Wall Museum ist still being enlarged. The work is expected to be completed during the september 1989. Presently only half of the bunker is passable.

The bunker was constructed in the years 1937 to 1939 as a four-storied bastion. It is said that 32,000,000 pounds of cement was used for the construction of the "Katzenkopf Bulwark".

On both of the upper floors there was a total of 45 rooms of varied size. These were the troop quarters for the crew of 80, guard rooms, gunner rooms, the first-aid station, the lavatory, the ammunition supply, the cold-storage chamber, the canteen and the telephone exchange. Two diesel motors in the machine room produced the necessary electricity for the more than 60 electric motors, the lighting system and the electrical heating system. On the fourth and deepest story there are two large galleries with a length totaling 138 meters, whereby one (84 meters) leads to the removed turret and the other (54 meters) to the well room.

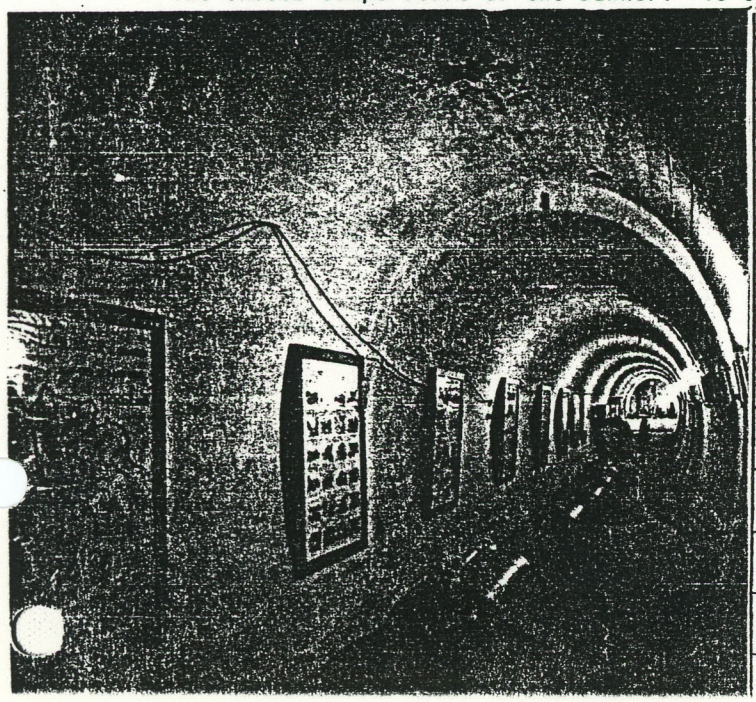
In 1947 a portion of the upper level was destroyed and buried after being blown up. A war memorial to the dead and missing soldiers of the 39th Infantry Regiment was erected atop the towering remains of debris.

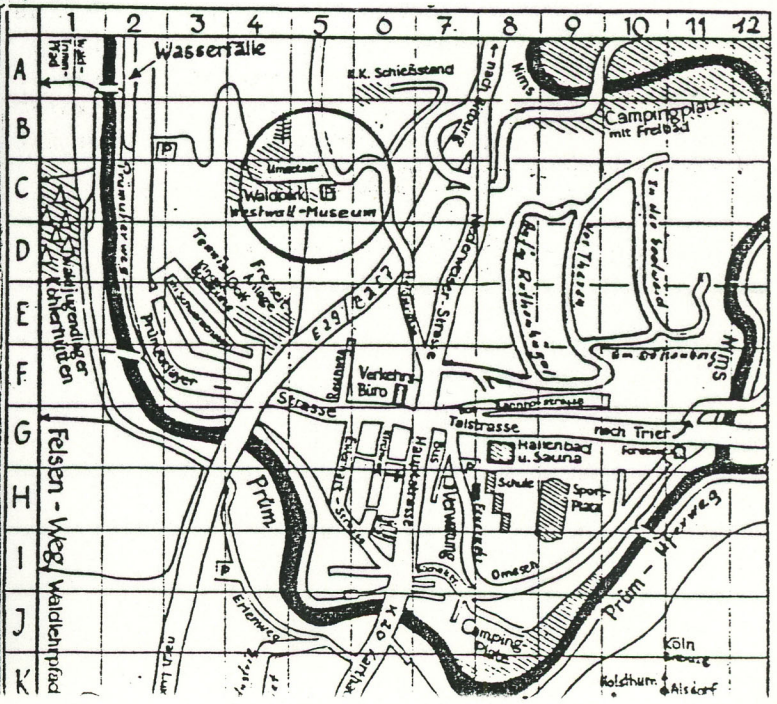
The West Wall Museum is open on Sundays and holidays from 2 p. m. till 5 p. m. during the months of April through September. During the week a visit for groups is only possible by appointment.

Information: Verbandsgemeindeverwaltung Irrel (H 7), Telephone (06525) - 7914

Entrance fee:	Adults	2 Marks
	Children under 15	1 Mark

The inside temperature of the bunker: 10 C / 50 F





General Patton's Prayer

Nous publions ci-dessous dans son texte original, la savoureuse prière du Général G. Patton Jr. publiée lors de l'offensive d'hiver allemande en 1944—1945. Cette prière avait été formulée par le grand général dans la chapelle de la „Fondation Pescatore" à Luxembourg quelques jours avant Noel 1944.

„Le Drapeau"

«Sir, this is Patton talking. The last fourteen days have been straight hell. Rain, snow, more rain, more snow — and I'm beginning to wonder what's going on Your headquarters. Whose side are You on, anyway?

«For three years my chaplains have been explaining this as a religious war. This, they tell me, is the Crusades all over again, except that we're riding tanks instead of chargers. They insist we are here to annihilate the German Army and the godles Hitler so that religious freedom may return to Europe.

«Up until now I have gone along with them, for You have given us Your unreserved cooperation. Clear skies and a calm sea in Africa made the landings highly successful and helped us to eliminate Rommel. Sicily was comparatively easy, and You supplied excellent weather for our armored dash across France, the greatest military victory that You have thus far allowed me. You have often given me excellent guidance in difficult command decisions and You have led German units into traps that made their elimination fairly simple.

«But now, You've changed horses in midstream. You seem to have given Von Rundstedt every break in the book and, frankly, he's been beating hell out of us. My army is neither trained nor equipped for winter warfare. And, as You know, this weather is more suitable for Eskimos than for southern cavalrymen.

«But now, Sir, I can't help but feel that I have offended You in some way. That suddenly You have lost all sympathy with our cause. That You are throwing in with von Rundstedt and his paper-hanging-god. You know without me telling You that our situation is desperate. Sure, I can tell my staff that everything is going according to plan, but there's no use telling You that my 101st Airborne is holding out against tremendous odds in Bastogne, and that this continual storm is making it impossible to supply them even from the air. I've sent Hugh Gaffey, one of my ablest generals, with his 4th Armored Division, north toward that all-important road center to relieve the encircled garrison, and he's finding Your weather much more difficult than he is the Krauts.

«I don't like to complain unreasonably, but my soldiers from the Meuse to Echternach are suffering the tortures of the damned. Today I visited several hospitals, all full of frostbite cases, and the wounded are dying in the fields because they cannot be brought back for medical care.

«But this isn't the worst of the situation. Lack of visibility, continued rains, have completely grounded my air force. My technique of battle calls for close-in fighter-bomber support, and if my planes can't fly, how can I use them as aerial artillery? Not only is this a deplorable situation, but, worse yet, my reconnaissance planes haven't been in the air for fourteen days, and I haven't the faintest idea of what's going on behind the German lines.

«Dammit, Sir, I can't fight a shadow. Without Your cooperation from a weather standpoint, I am deprived of an accurate disposition of the German armies, and how in hell can I be intelligent in my attack? All this probably sounds unreasonable to You, but I have lost all patience with Your chaplains who insist that this a typical Ardennes winter, and that I must have faith.

«Faith and patience be damned! You have just got to make up Your mind whose side You're on. You must come to my assistance, so that I may dispatch the entire German Army as a birthday present to Your Prince of Peace.

«Sir, I have never been an unreasonable man. I am not going to ask You for the impossible. I do not even insist upon a miracle, for all I request is four days of clear weather.

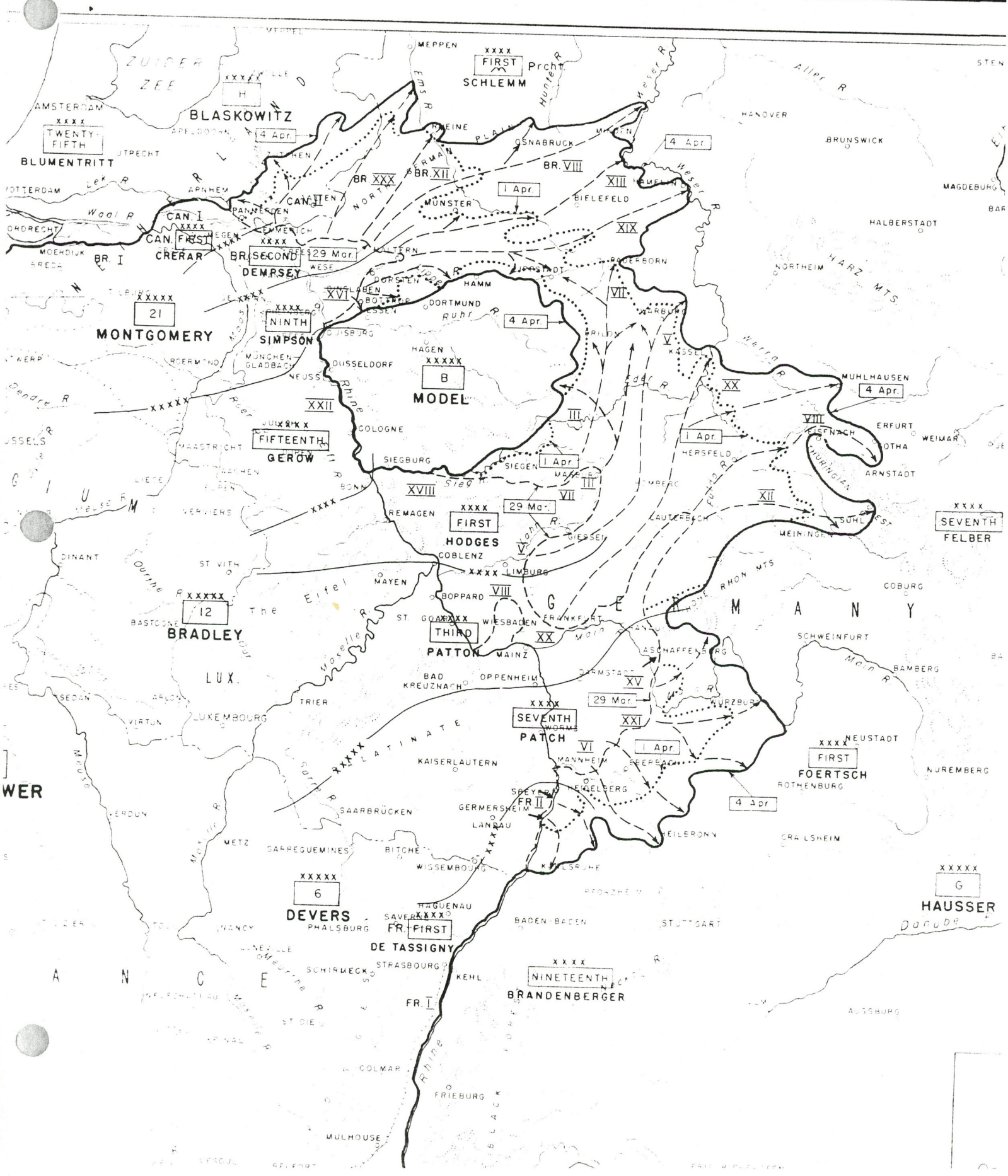
«Give me four clear days so that my planes can fly; so that my fighter-bombers can bomb and strafe, so that my reconnaissance may pick out targets for my magnificent artillery. Give me four days of sunshine to dry this blasted mud, so that my tanks may roll, so that ammunition and rations may be taken to my hungry, ill-equipped infantry. I need these four days to send von Rundstedt and his godless army to their Valhalla. I am sick of this unnecessary butchery of American youth, and in exchange for four days of fighting weather, I will deliver You enough Krauts to keep Your bookkeepers months behind in their work.

«Amen.»

This prayer was given in the chapel of Patton's headquarters in Luxembourg City in Dec. 1944. We visited the chapel with the 87th. Tour of 1989. (The weather cleared right up, even God listened to Patton.) Chuck & Ginny

4 April '45

[redacted]



Jan 6/45 Belgium

Dear Uncle Bob:

I've had this on my mind for some time but the "situation" has kept me more than a little tied up. First I want to thank you and Aunt Hen for the box of food which I'll assure you I enjoyed more than I can say. I don't know where you were able to find some of those things but they certainly tasted good! I haven't had anything like that for some time (we are getting about enough but the quality leaves something to be desired). Also the Infantry Journal is coming through in good shape every month and gets a good going over by more than myself. Its an excellent magazine and I follow the newest "developments" as outlined in it very closely, you can be sure. I will ask for the other subscription in the last paragraph as you suggested. Thanks for everything.

Your letters are certainly welcome and full of a lot of news that Luce misses. Steve has been "sweating out" leaving the States for a long time now and must be damn sick of it. He may be a lot luckier than he knows though on Christmas day - which was a beautiful clear day and also a mighty "tense" one over here. I watched group after group of bombers fly over on the way to their destinations. Jerry gave them q quite a reception and I don't know how many big bombers went down or exploded as we watched. The fighter planes tangled over head but in that we seemed to have the edge. A Jerry plane was shot down over us, and the two occupants landed in our area without benefit of a chute. It was probably the greatest aerial battle of the war and we sat and watched it like it was a movie. I felt sick watching all those lads catch it and then and there changed my opinion of the Air Corps. They must have good men too and they can't be the same stupid, spoiled bastards that always manage to drop us in the wrong spot.

This is really a rugged deal over here lately but thanks to some good weather (for bombing) and some air borne troops along with a relative few other troops who wouldn't panic Jerry is really hurting here now (instead of us) We've taken it on the chin (the weather has been terribly cold adding considerably to the suffering) but I believe everything is fairly well under control now. How we need more of damn near everything and particularly we need some better designed weapons!/ Jerry certainly has everything on us but sheer quantity. If it weren't for all our artillery we would be lost. I can't understand how a country like the U. S. can send over such badly designed equipment. The Army certainly damn near lost everything because of that and because some of our "heroic" soldiers give up when the going is touch.

I hope we've learned a lot of lessons from this and it might help to change some of our training procedure.

Also I really hope this wakes up the U. S. to an all out effort. Some of these soldiers are mighty bitter after they go thru all this and then read about the race tracks, professional athletic matches and all that when we need every man we can scrape together just to hold the Jerrys. Its some war! That absenteeism at Arista is quite a commentary on the average man's contribution to the war.

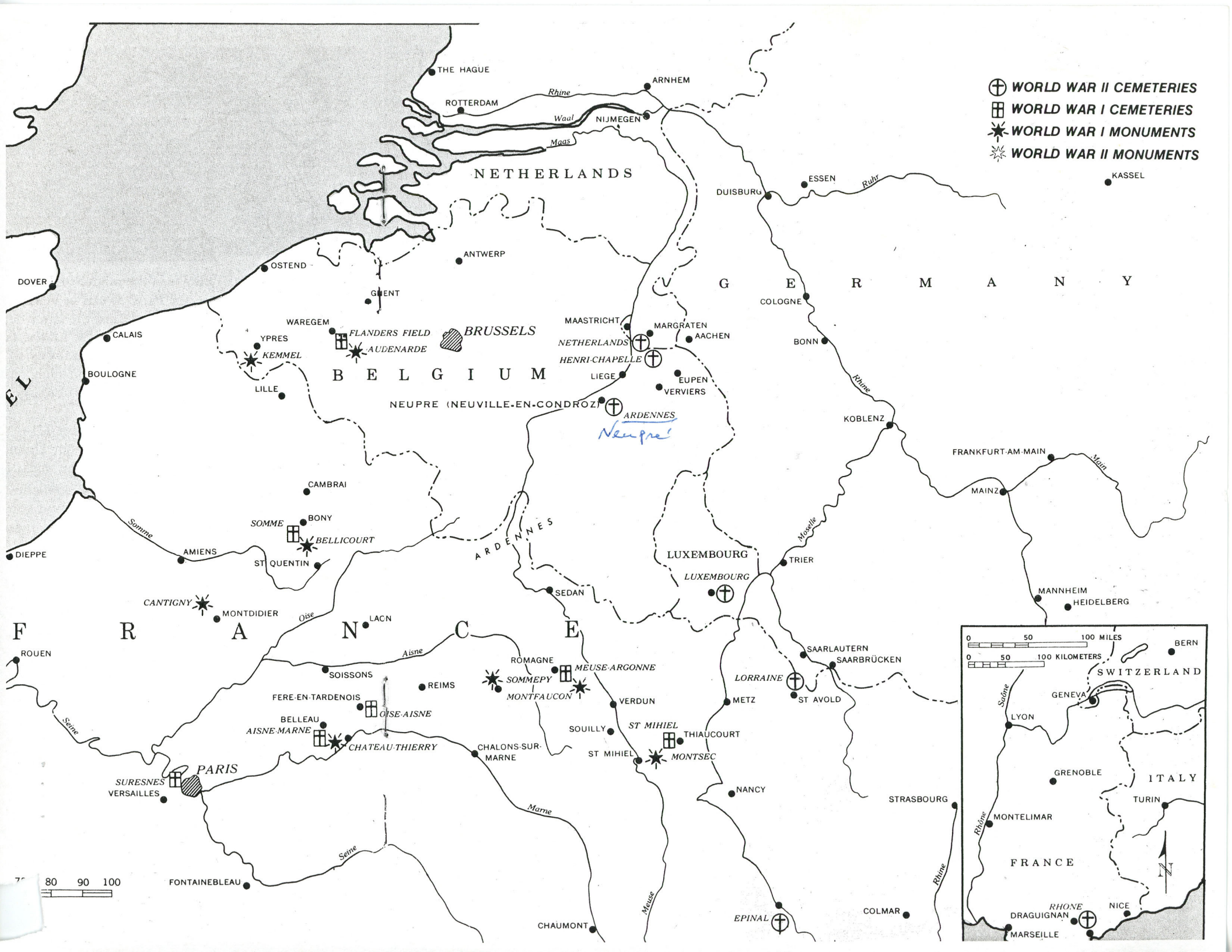
Am getting very excited about Jim and Jean's contribution to the family. Its about due now. I have a feeling it will be a boy. I hope so.

As for myself I feel fine and am in pretty good shape in spite of all. One of these days I'll get another bath and I'll be a new man. Thanks again for everything and my very best to all

As ever,
Bob

P. S. Please send me a subscription to the Saturday Evening Post and if possible the Sunday edition of the New York Times.

1st Lieutenant
Robert Patterson Woodhull
Paratrooper / Artillery — Army
Born July 6 1917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DRAGUIGNAN
MARSEILLE

The following was printed in the Florida Sun Vets newspaper dated August - September 1992:

THE GENERATION NOW PASSING
DESERVES OUR RESPECT

by Paul Donnelly

They're not getting any younger, and there are fewer every day - America's World War II generation.

They may seem like any other group of old people, mostly retirees now, just old men and women on porches, in nursing homes, parents and grandparents - but they're not.

When they were young, they saved the world.

Remarkable how completely ordinary it seems.

No other generation in world history can make that claim.

Not the Founders of the American Revolution, the ancient Greeks and Romans, nor the baby boomers - not even the early Christians.

Other generations had great struggles; other times had great challenges; but at best, here and there, were saviors of a town or a country; vanguards of unfulfilled promises; dreamers of visions.

America's World War II generation did not, as a group, achieve the heroism of an individual like Joan of Arc, nor is there any evidence that their "souls were touched by fire," as Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. described the experience of the Civil War when he had grown old.

But isn't it fitting that victory in the most intense, deadly and important struggle in human history should seem sort of ordinary to those who won it, and those who benefited?

America's World War II generation saved the world because it had to be done, and no one else was available to do it.

It isn't that America's Vietnam generation, for example, both the pro and the con, couldn't or wouldn't have saved the world. They didn't get the chance.

It isn't that the Russians, who actually broke the Wehrmacht, or the Chinese, who held Japan's best troops in a death grip, or the British or the French or any of the rest of the world's peoples, didn't win the war.

But they didn't save the world from an unspeakable evil.

That was the Americans - when as Winston Churchill said the 'new world came to the rescue of the old."

But they weren't vast forces of history, or legendary warriors. They weren't even all combat soldiers, or Rosie the Riveters.

They were ordinary people - my Uncle Ed, and your mom and dad - who lived in an extraordinary time.

So they did what had to be done.

There was a fair amount of ballyhoo last December, at the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, although it got sticky with tensions in the current U.S.-Japan relationship.

In a few years, there will be lots of half-century

anniversaries of V-E and V-J Day, maybe some prayerful ceremonies honoring liberation of the death camps.

The ex-Soviet republics might pause to remember that there was once a place called Stalingrad, and it was very important.

There will be fewer alive then who actually did those things, though.

So what, that 50 years ago today, or last week, or next year, a lot of people killed and died for famous victories?

This isn't about anniversaries, or the all World War II newsreel channel that every TV system seems to have. It's about the old guy you see on the street, with a little poppy in his lapel, or the blue-haired woman who forgets things and who rides the bus.

Let's take a long, last look at these people now, while we still have the chance.

No one has ever done anything like their achievement before and God willing, no one will ever have to do anything like it again.