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Profiles

Men of Courage

314th Infantry Regiment



*For love of country,
and commitment to each other,
they fought
—as hundreds of comrades died—
to liberate Western Europe
and preserve
democratic principles
at home and abroad*

June 1944 to May 1945

An Introduction

These Profiles of Men of Courage tell short stories of some of the men of the 314th Infantry Regiment as they joined the battle to take back for free men and women of Western Europe the liberty taken from them by Nazi aggression.

From this one regiment, there were thousands of profiles that should be told. The few told here came from the willingness of a these surviving veterans—all 80 years of age or above—to think back to those days and to share with their comrades a little about their lives, families, and careers after they separated at the end of military service. In some cases, the loving families of living and some deceased veterans, have told what the family knows of the story of their hero—usually he talked little of either his experiences or of their impacts on his later life.

The task of writing these narratives from responses to a question form was itself a humbling and moving experience for me, the writer. While I, too, had spent my time in harms way with Company I on the front line, my times and places occurred under less fury than had been faced by thousands who fought under the regimental banner during those eleven months of peril and heroic achievement.

In telling a narrative from these fragments of information, I no doubt made errors in interpretation and representation. For those I take responsibility and apologize. Such errors, of course, are on the side of under-statement; one could hardly embellish what these men showed in courage and tenacity in living through their perilous times.

I hope you, the reader, will feel a bit closer to knowing these men. As a capstone to my own reaction to this activity, I can say that the total effect is to cause me to endorse thrillingly the label that some have applied to our segment of our country's population: The Greatest Generation! Great indeed.

*K. Robert Kern
Company I, 314th Infantry Regiment
February to August 1945
August 2008*

Aven, John Q
P.O. Box 481
Calhoun City, MS

John was living in Calhoun City when he went to military service, joining the 314th Regiment's I & R platoon in November 1942.

As a rifleman and scout, John saw action in Normandy, Northern France, and the Rhineland before being taken prisoner at Drusenheim, France on Jan. 20, 1945. He was a prisoner till the end of the war. He went through action without a wound, being promoted to corporal and earning a Bronze Star Medal and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

After demobilization, John returned to Calhoun City where he was a rural mail carrier. He and his wife, Lois (also from Calhoun City), had one son, John David, two grandsons, and two great-grandsons.

Barnes, Elgin J.
177 N. First St
MacClenny, FL 32063
904 289-6698



Elgin had finished high school in MacClenny, FL before going into the army. After training with the 42nd Division, he was transferred to the 79th Infantry Division, a 30-caliber machine gunner with Co. I. Less than a month after landing with the division, Elgin was wounded on 6 July 1944 at La Hay du Puits. After surgery in a field hospital, he was sent by ship to an air corps hospital in England and thence, on the Queen Mary, to the U.S. for six months recovery. He had been sent to the State of Washington to join the war in the Pacific, but VJ Day came before he shipped out. He remained in the army until February 1946.

Elgin earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart, Normandy battle star on the EAME Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and Victory Medal.

Elgin returned to MacClenny and worked a long career as a Civil Service auto inspector in Florida. He married Dorothy Mobley, and they have continued to live in MacClenny all these years. They became parents of four children: Gregory and Ward moved to other places—Louisiana and Virginia, respectively; Amelia and Patrick stayed on and reared their families in MacClenny. Elgin and Dorothy have five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Elgin remembers much of the trauma of surgery, and long recovery from his battle wounds. When he was placed on board ship to cross the English Channel to

England, he recalls a big Black man who lifted him to the top bunk as if he were a small child. "This strong man was at the right place with the right skills," Elgin has said.



Bredesen, George P.
Friendship, WI
Deceased February 2007

George entered military service in January 1943 from his home in Adams, WI. He was wounded on June 23, 1944, within the first three weeks of action as a rifleman and messenger in Normandy.

He earned the Normandy battle star on the EAME Theater Ribbon, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Purple Heart, American Theater Ribbon, Victory Ribbon, and Good Conduct Medal. George, a PFC, later served at Percy Jones Hospital Center, Fort Custer, MI, from where he was separated from service in March 1946.

George's post-military career was as Veterans Service Officer. He married Rosemary from Wisconsin Rapids, WI, and they were parents of seven children: Michael, Carol, Eric, Brian, Wendy, Diane, and Marc. Seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren comprised their immediate family.

Said Rosemary: George loved his family and dedicated his life to helping veterans; he was very active in all the veterans organizations in the county.

Butler, Garold M.
511 Augusta Ave.
Bassett, NE 68714
Deceased 6 Jan 2006

Garold lived at Stuart, NE before entering the army. He joined the 79th Division in June 1942, serving in the 2nd Battalion Headquarters Co. Garold served the division across France, achieving the rating of corporal and earning the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star, Prisoner-of-War Medal, Victory Medal, and EAME campaign stars for Normandy, Northern France, and Rhineland; and he served in the Army of Occupation in Germany. He was captured in January 1944 and was held until April of that year.

Garold returned to Nebraska in October 1945. He married his wife Berdena and they lived in Bassett, NE, where Garold was a mechanic and farmer. They have two sons, Larry and Merlin and four grandchildren.

Campbell, Carl Gerald
Florence, SC 29505
Deceased 19 Dec 2004

Jerry entered military service from his hometown, Hallsboro, NC, joining the 79th Division in April 1944. He served in the message center of the HQ Company of the 2nd Battalion, 314th Regiment.

Jerry went into Europe with his company and was wounded less than month later, on 7 July 1944 near La Haye du Puits, France. He returned to duty and, as an army enlisted man, was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, EAME Ribbon with battle stars for Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace, Prisoner-of-War Medal, American Theater Ribbon, Victory Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. Jerry, a Private First Class, was captured in action in the Alsace-Lorraine and held prisoner until the war's end.

Jerry's post-war career had two elements: one, led to his rating as Master Sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1958 to retirement in 1984; the other was his civilian occupation in transportation—for 40 years he managed the local Greyhound Bus operation.

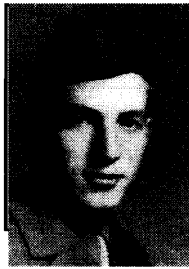
Jerry and his wife, Josephine—also from Hallsboro, NC, were parents of two children: Carla and Carl G., Jr., who brought them five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Another Campbell of the 314th Regiment (Joe) says of Jerry, "We shared the Campbell name, although not blood relatives, we're brothers."

Campbell, Joseph W.
1725 Green Valley Dr.
Kingsport, TN 37664
423 2245-8304
joewcee@aol.com

Joe, second-time co-host for a Gatlinburg reunion of the 314th Infantry Regiment, went into the army from his home at Bristol, TN and joined the regiment in Feb, 1944 at Camp Phillips, KS. His duty service was performed as a field wireman in the Regimental Headquarters Company.

Joe took part in all the regiment's campaigns, avoid-



ing wound or capture; he qualified to wear the EAME Ribbon with Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace battle stars. As T-5 (technical equivalent of corporal) he earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, the Sharpshooter Medal as a marksman, and other ribbons that recognized his period of service..

Barely escaping capture at Drusenheim in January 1945, Joe continued to serve through the remaining months of action and then in the regiment's time as Army of Occupation. Late in 1945 he was transferred to the 102nd Infantry Division and discharged in February 1946.

Back home in Tennessee, Joe earned a B.S. in transportation at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and worked 43 years in railroad and industrial traffic departments in pricing transportation. A Certified Member of the American Society of Traffic and Transportation, he was an Interstate Commerce Commission Class B Practitioner, and a member of both academic and professional chapters of the transportation fraternity Delta Nu Alpha.

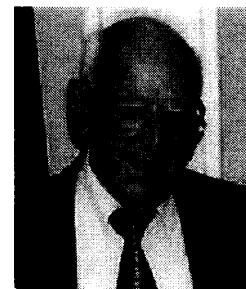
He married Hazel Rice of Bluff City, TN, and they parented a son, Randall (with his wife, Linda, a co-host for this reunion).

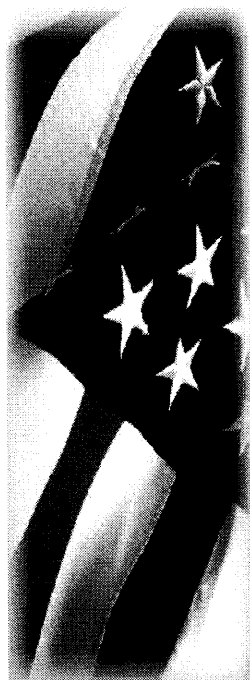
Special Memories

On that cold, dark night, Jan. 19, 1944, I narrowly avoided capture at Drusenheim, France, when most of the 2nd Battalion were taken prisoners. I drove into town to repair a broken telephone wire in a Jeep; it was knocked out. An I&R crew came into town to see what was going on; they found out and, real quick, picked me up on their mad-dash exit.

Forty-eight years later I was fortunate to participate in dedication ceremonies of the beautiful monument in La Haye du Puits that honors the 79th Infantry Division's action and sacrifice in helping restore Freedom to France. The emotion displayed by local citizens those year later left no doubt as to their thanks, appreciation, and friendship: second to none. As Millie Jean Coppedge titled her book, *War Memories are Forever*.

(Joe writes more about experiences with a French family in two widely separated time periods—1945 and 1993; p.42)





In Honor Of
Joseph W. Campbell
Proud Veteran
Devout Christian
Dedicated and Loving
Family Man

We're Proud of you, Dad!

Colleran, William C., Jr.
4312 Westwell Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
ballmar@pinn.net



William was living in Richmond, VA when he into the army, and in November 1942 he joined the 314th Infantry Regiment at Camp Blanding, FL. He served in two units of the regiment: rifleman in Co. B and scout with the Intelligence and Recon (I & R) troop.

William's service took him through all of the 314th campaigns, earning him battle stars for Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace. he was also awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, Victory Medal, the French Croix de Guerre, and the Good Conduct Medal. His rating was Private First Class when discharged in August 1945.

William took a B.S. in Business Administration at the University of Richmond and followed a career as comptroller.

He married Shirley, now deceased, and they were parents of a son, William, grandparents to two, and great-grandparents to three. They lived only in Virginia: at Richmond and Virginia Beach.

Special Memories:

On D-Day-plus-four I was in a 2½-ton truck when "Bed-check Charlie" came down the beach. I jumped out of the truck and broke the stock of my M-1 rifle when I hit the ground. What a way to start the war!!!

Crawford, Jack R.
P.O. Box 95
Penfield, PA 15849
814 637-5318

Jack went from home in Penfield, PA—where he lives today, to enter military service. June 1942 linked him with the 79th Infantry Division as a member of the 79th Recon Troop. His ratings went to Private First Class, Technician 5th Grade, and Corporal.

Jack went through the Division's months of combat without a wound. The only medal he listed was the Bronze Star (no doubt there were others). His EAME Ribbon had all the troop's campaign battle stars: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace. And he saw occupation duty in Czechoslovakia.

Jack was with the division in its tent encampment in Hammelburg, Germany when he was transferred to a Stateside shipment, with the 99th Division, in August 1945.

In civilian life, Jack was a millwright and rigger. He married Charlene Irvin, Penfield, PA who died in 1970. Their children were William, Bone, and Kenneth, who brought them nine grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.



A Summary Chronology: 79th Infantry Division in World War II

Our Association's J. J. Witmeyer has posted on the Internet a chronological summary of the 79th Division's role in Europe. Much more detail is available on the site. Search 79th Infantry.

The Army reactivated the Division at Camp Pickett, VA on 15 Jun 42, redesignating it as the 79th Infantry Division on 1 Aug 42.

It moved to Camp Blanding, FL on 1 Sep 42; moved to Tennessee Maneuvers Area on 3 Mar 43; transferred to Camp Forrest, TN on 19 Jul 43; moved to Camp Young, CA on 17 Aug 43 for desert training (Camp Laguna, AZ). Division moved to Camp Phillips, KS on 4 Dec 43, then to Camp Myles Standish, MA 31 Mar 44.

The Division departed Boston Port on 7 Apr 44, arrived in England 16 Apr 44, and landed in France in Jun 44. It crossed into Belgium, the Netherlands, entered Germany on 3 Mar 45, and, after VE Day, performed Army of Occupation duties in Czechoslovakia.

The Division returned to New York Port on 10 Dec 45 and was inactivated at Camp Kilmer, Piscataway, NJ on 11 Dec 45.

Then



Now



*Greetugs and
Remembrances*

Elgin J. R. Barnes

A Friend Salutes

Joseph V Collins

Company B

314th Infantry Regiment

**Tom Noonan, Sr.
Co. B, 314th Infantry**

Cross, William M., Jr
361 S. Ford River Lane
Shenandoah, VA 22849
540 652-8776
bntcross@shentel.net

Des Moines, IA was Bill's hometown when he joined the army in 1941. January 1943 brought him to Camp Blanding, FL where he linked with the 314th Regiment—in Co. E. He was with the regiment through much of its training, shipping overseas, and action in Europe. He was wounded in July 1944 at La Haye du Puits.

Bill's service in Europe is reflected in three campaign stars on his EAME Ribbon: Normandy, Northern France, and Ardennes-Alsace. Other high awards were the Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart, and two Bronze Stars (and likely others he didn't mention).

Bill married D. Elaine Apple (now deceased); they became parents of Sandra, Anne Michele, Geri, William M. III, and Jon. The next generations included 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

A Lieutenant when he was with the 314th, Bill stayed on for an army career, serving in Japan and Korea and retiring in 1966. After retirement he spent two decades at the Pentagon in Washington, DC in the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Across the years, he has lived in Iowa, Japan, Maryland, and now in Shenandoah, VA with his wife, Thelma, "on our little farm."

Special Memory:

Many years ago I had a wonderful experience—I lived with a group of brave men; these men could stare down a can of cold C-rations and never flinch. God bless them. I miss them. *These are the best of time, these are the worst of time* —Charles Dickens.

Cutrell, Clyde E.
P.O. Box 399
Newport, IN 47966

Clyde joined the army at the end of 1942 and a few days later he was in the 355th Regiment of the 89th Division. After coming on cold Christmas Holiday maneuvers (living in pup tents) at the end of 1943, they shipped to California for maneuvers there. But in April 1944, most privates and PFCs got 10 days home leave, then went east and overseas as replacements for the ETO. By 15 July, Clyde was a rifleman in Fox Co. of the 314th Regiment, joining in the area near La Haye du Puits, France.

Clyde sustained a relatively minor wound (it was not a broken rib as first thought) on Oct. 2 in the Forest De Parroy. After a few days off, he rejoined Fox Co. at



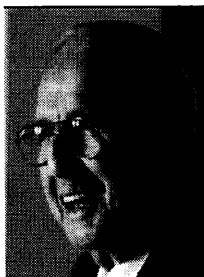
the end of October—they were off line at Luneville. The company went back on line with new replacements at the start of November. On Nov. 18, he took a piece of mortar shell in his hip in the battle to take Fermonville. This was a serious wound; some time late that night he was sent to a field hospital and thence to a hospital at De John. On 1 April Clyde was sent to Marseilles and a week later departed on the U.S. Algonquin, a hospital ship. After landing at Charleston, SC, his next stop was O'Reilly Hospital in Springfield, MO. During three and a half months of home leave that followed, he married Theda Ann Moore, from Newport, IN, his home town. And his service ended with discharge in September 1945.

Clyde had earned three battle stars on his EAME Ribbon—Normandy, Northern France, and Rhineland, Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, American Campaign Medal, Victory Medal, and the French Four Agene.

In his post-war career, Clyde worked in construction, fire department, and as a defense plant guard. He and Theda Ann became parents of four: Mike, Phyllis, Dale, and Gregg, who together have brought them 10 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Special Memory:

On 29 Nov. 2007, Clyde reports, the French Government made him a Knight in the Legion of Honor.



Davidson, William Flay
3310 Brentwood Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27604
919 876-3771
magnevolt@aol.com

William lived in Raleigh, NC before going to military service. He joined the 314th Regiment in France in January 1945 as a rifleman in A Co. He served with the company through the rest of its action and in the Army of Occupation in both Germany and Czechoslovakia.

William earned Rhineland and Central Europe battle stars on his EAME Ribbon, along with the Combat Infantryman Badge, two Bronze Stars, Army of Occupation Medal, Victory Medal, and Good Conduct Medal.

Attaining a rating of Private First Class, he served later for a time in the 1st Division and headquarters of Third U.S. Army.

A graduate engineer from North Carolina State University, William married Doris Davis, from Aberdeen,

NC, and they became parents of a son, William Mark, and they have one grandchild and two great-grandchildren.

William owns a business, Magnevolt, Inc., D.M.F. Inc., and he still maintains a business phone number. His residence in the U.S. has always been Raleigh, NC.

Davis, Paul E.
424 East Hoover
Orange, CA
714 538-3174

Paul went into the army from Orange, CA, where he has lived most of his life. He came to Co. G, 314th Infantry in March 1945 when the regiment was near the Roer River. Through the rest of his company's action, he was a rifleman and in a 60-mm mortar squad. His EAME Ribbon had battle stars for Rhineland and Central Europe, and his honors and awards included the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, and Army of Occupation Medal with service in Germany and Czechoslovakia. In mid-summer of 1945 he was transferred to the 1st Division from which he was discharged in April 1946; he had reached the rating of Sergeant.

Paul and his wife Gladys became parents to Paul and Rita, grandparents to two, and great-grandparents to three.

His civilian work career was as a general building contractor.

Special Memories

Paul's unforgettable memories, he says, are the GI buddies he once knew; especially ones who didn't make it back.

Davis, Theodore
2870 S. Goldenway
Denver, CO 80227

Theodore was living in Washington, DC when he joined the army. He linked up with the 314th Regiment as a rifleman with Co. F. In December 1944 he was wounded in eastern France near the Rhine River and then captured with many others of the 2nd Battalion in January 1945. Before the capture, he had earned battle stars for his EAME Ribbon, for Central Europe and Ardennes-Alsace. He had the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Medal, and what he rounded off as "service medals." Battlefield promotions took him to Sergeant and Staff Sergeant.

Back in his civilian career, Theodore received B.S. and M.S. degrees in aerospace engineering and followed a career in aerospace. His wife, Nancy, came from Wellesley, MA, and they became parents of three chil-

dren: Catherine, James, and Barbara. They brought into the family 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Their homes took the family to various locations from Theodore's start in Washington, DC, including Cambridge, MA, Manchester, CT, and Denver, CO.

Deysher, Paul E.
9288 Steinsville, Rd.
Kempton, PA 19529
610 756 6507

Paul lived in Kempton, PA at the time he entered military service. And he was early to join the 314th Regiment—in June 1942 at Camp Pickett, VA. He served in the Anti-Tank Company for more than three years.

Paul's service with the company earned him five campaign battle stars for: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace. He also received the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Bronze Star—along with others awards not mentioned. And he was with his unit in occupation duty in Germany and Czechoslovakia.

Paul and Lila, his wife, had sons Robert and Stephen, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

When Paul was separated from the army in October 1945, he made use of the GI Bill of Rights for college work at what is now Pennsylvania State University. His career focused on farming with dairy and poultry.

Now 92, Paul says he's sick and finds living hard.

Elsea, Edward M.
1014 Whippoorwill
Marshall, MO 65340



Jack, as friends have known him, entered the military from Marshall, MO in June 1944. After training at Camp Robinson, AR, he went by troop ship to Liverpool, England, crossed to Portsmouth, and then went by assault ship to LeHavre, France. He joined Baker Co., 314th Regiment to fight with it through the Siegfried Line—it was winter with cold, rain, snow, and mud, sleeping outside. Jack fought with the Regiment in the Battle of the Bulge and a mile and a half across the Rhine River where he was wounded in March 1945. After hospitalization in England, he got home to stay in October 1945,

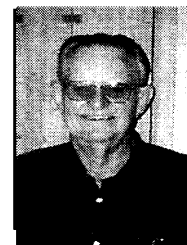
Jack was Private First Class, earning two battle stars on his EAME Ribbon, for Northern France and Rhineland, and he was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart, and Good Conduct Medal.

Jack and his wife parented six children, Edward, Judy, Mary, Rose, Jane, and Jim; he is step-father to Leanne and Lyndal, children of Betty, whom he married in 1980. Jack's next generations include 9 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

As a civilian at Marshall, MO, Jack was a firefighter for 18 years and then, for 16½ years, he was a fire and safety supervisor.

Special Memories

Jack cites as his most memorable experience, in 1945, getting to visit in person his brother, Palmore, a month before the latter was killed in action with the 314th Regiment. In 1969, Jack visited Holland where he saw his brother's grave at Margraten Military Cemetery, Limburg, the Netherlands. (See Jack's memorial to Palmore, opposite page.)



Epstein, Henry F.
2602 Dennis Dr.
Vienna, VA 22190
703 560-4137
harriete@cox.net



Henry went into army service from Boston, MA in 1943. He served in Co. E of the 314th Regiment as a rifleman with a rating as Private First Class.

Henry's service with the regiment took him through campaigns recognized by battle stars on the EAME Ribbon: Normandy, Northern France, and Rhineland. Awards included the Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart, and Bronze Star (plus others, no doubt, that he did not mention). He was discharged in June 1945.

Henry married Harriet, of Washington, DC, and they became parents of Marshall, Linda, Susan, and Sean. They are grandparents to two.

Back home, Henry earned his B.S. in the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, and an M.A. from Suffolk University. Vienna, VA has been the Epstein home for many years.

Flesch, William J.
12918 W. Willow Creek Lane
Huntley, IL 60142

William went into the army from Chicago, IL and later served in Co. B of the 314th Infantry as a rifleman, with promotions to the rank of Sergeant.

With Co. B he saw combat to earn battle stars for his EAME Ribbon: Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace, along with the Combat Infantryman

Badge, Bronze Star, two Presidential Unit Citations, American Theater Medal, Victory Medal, and Army of Occupation Medal.

William was transferred to the 1st Division in August 1945 and served there until his discharge from service the next spring. After his transfer, William learned that he was among men picked to guard top Nazi war criminals at the Nurnberg War Crimes Trials; he was Sergeant of the Guard in the cell blocks.

William married Rosemary O'Leary, of Chicago, and they became parents of two sons, William and Richard. They have lived most of their years in northern Illinois: Chicago, Schaumburg, and Huntley, IL. William was a manager for Brinks, Inc.

Special Memories

For William, the War Crimes Trials duty was most interesting. However, he came home before the trials were over—they didn't end until late summer of 1946. He had been separated in May 1946, both entering and leaving service at Fort Sheridan, IL.

Foley, William J.
1049 Island Lake Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55126

Bill entered the military from Eden Valley, MN, and by December 1944 he was a BAR man in Co. E of the 314th Regiment. His time with Co. E took him through campaigns shown on his EAME Ribbon as Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe, with occupation service in both Germany and Czechoslovakia. He was wounded at Dinslaken, Germany in March 1945, which put a Purple Heart among his list of awards, along with the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, and numerous others. Shortly after he was transferred to the 1st Division in the summer of 1945, he was chosen as a guard for the Nurnberg War Crimes Trials. He stayed on until September 1948. He had reached Staff Sergeant.

In the summer of 1947 Bill had wed Mireille, of Paris, France, who was a typist for the French Consul. Bill and Mireille became parents of two sons—Patrick and Francis; they have three grandchildren.

When Bill returned to the U.S. he attended business college, passed the U.S. Civil Service tests, and served many years as a postal clerk in his home area of the Twin Cities in Minnesota.

Special Memories

Bill remembers the "barges" on which he made four crossings of the Atlantic Ocean, always down in C Deck.

Bill has long been a member of the 314th Association. He has given to the regimental archives: four maps, three campaign booklets, and extra photos..



***Palmore
Elsea of
the 314th***

Killed in Action April 25, 1945

**Remembered and still missed
by your Brother Edward of
the 314th**



To Linda and Randy Campbell

***Thanks for all the donations of
your time, effort, and input to
success of this reunion.***

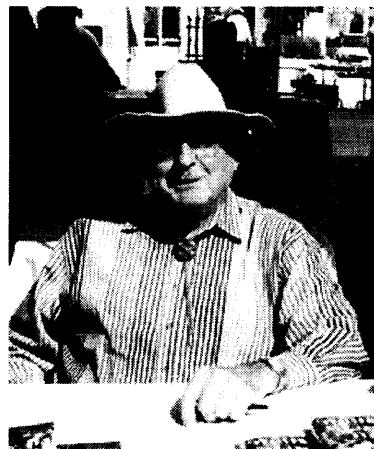
A Grateful Joe Campbell

In Memory of Harry G. Farrell—Nov. 6, 1924—Dec. 31, 2005

*Forever grateful for his
Chronicle:*

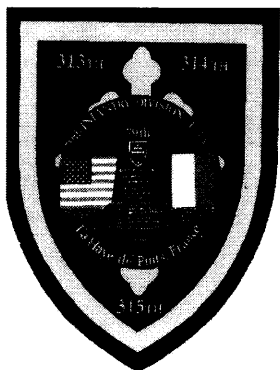
**The Recon Diary: Combat
History of the 79th Cavalry
Reconnaissance Troop**

*Published in 1946, capturing
facts and events of their action
in the ETO*



The Musho Family

**Harry Farrell retired from the San
Jose Mercury News on the last
working day of 1986, after 44 years
of service in the role of reporter,
editor, and columnist.**



The Way We Were



Glenn, Lenard D.

Russellville, Kentucky

Lenard entered the military from Russellville, KY in June 1942. By the time of his discharge due to disability in September 1945, he had been wounded three times as a rifleman with Co. E: at Normandy, 8 July; Fraimiliors, 26 September; and Luneville, 2 October..

Lenard served campaigns in Normandy and Northern France, earning two battle stars on his EAME Ribbon. He also was awarded Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart with oak-leaf clusters, Bronze Star, Presidential Unit Citation, American Campaign Medal, and Victory Medal. His rating was Staff Sergeant.

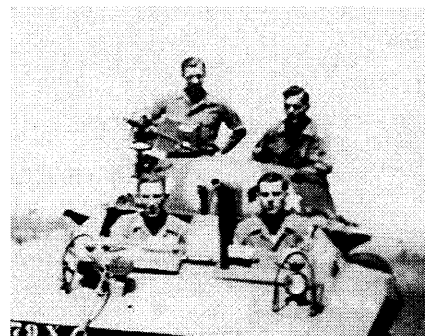
As a civilian, Lenard was owner-operator of Lenard Glenn Tackle Co. A Kentucky resident all his life, he married LaNora Witherell, from Maybelle County, KY. They became parents of two daughters—Cheral and LaFrieda, and a son—Leonard, Jr.

Special Memory

I knew my Dad was wounded in the service. He said "Big Bertha got him," that was all. Four years ago his mind started going, and I started taking care of his affairs. I realized what a hero he was: wounded three different times and numerous medals. A Great Hero.

—His loving daughter, LaFrieda Shelton

***We Salute the Men of the
2nd Platoon Recon Troop***



*From left
Standing: Paul McCrobie, Sig Musho
Seated: Melvin Baldinger, Howard Coger*

Family of Sig Musho



***Only late in his life did we learn of
our Father's Heroic Service to
Our Country***

***The Children of
Lenard Glenn***

Grant, Robert A.

Albion, MI 49224

Deceased May 2008

Bob Grant was living in Albion, OH when he entered the military in 1942. In long service in the 314th Regiment, he was platoon sergeant, wounded in action in January 1945 in France. His highest rating was as Technical Sergeant.

Bob's EAME Ribbon carried campaign stars for Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. He had received the Combat Infantryman Badge, Silver Star, Purple Heart, and Good Conduct Medal, plus others.

Bob's civilian career was as a fisherman. He never married.

Special Memory

In submitting profile information on Bob Grant, Merlin and Stephanie Cousino added: *Bob was a great friend. He passed away May 3, 2008, age 85. His resting place : Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, MI.*

Roland E. Hansen

June 21, 1926-February 2, 2008

He served in Germany after the war ended as replacement personnel for the occupation. Drafted in 1944, he served until his tour of duty ended.



He was well liked by all he met and was a wonderful husband and father. We celebrated our 60th anniversary in November 2007. We have four children, eight grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.



We attended twenty to thirty reunions of the association from 1949-2007.

Included among those many we attended were:

Chicago
Niagara Falls
Milwaukee
New York
Philadelphia,
Cleveland
Lincoln
Clearwater Beach
Baltimore
Dayton
Lancaster
Pittsburgh
Columbus
Charleston

Roland and Evadean Hansen

He will be missed by all who knew him.

Handeland, Leonard K.
38 Cushing Ave.
Nashua, NH 03064

Leonard left Fort Dodge, IA when he entered military service. He went into combat with the 314th Regiment as a replacement in Normandy, France in July 1944. He was a rifleman, scout, and assistant squad leader in Co. A. He went through the next months of combat unscathed until he was wounded in late January 1945 in the Alsace-Lorraine.

Leonard's EAME Ribbon had all of the Regiment's European campaign battle stars: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace. His wound brought him a Purple Heart, and he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, along with other awards he didn't list—including, no doubt, the Combat Infantryman Badge. He served also in the occupation in Germany and Czechoslovakia. His highest rating was as Technical Sergeant.

Leonard separated from the 314th in September 1945, and after a break of 14 months, he returned to the army and retired in 1974 with 30 years of service.

He and his wife, Ursula, were parents of two sons, Leonard K. and Peter G.

As to where they lived, Leonard wrote, "All over."

Haynes, James R.
Olive Branch, MS 38654
Deceased February 2006

James was living in Memphis, TN when he entered military service. He joined Co. A, 314th Regiment in January 1944 and saw action with it throughout Europe. He was wounded in action in Germany in early January 1945. He returned to serve with the regiment in the Army of Occupation until his transfer to the 42nd Division in September 1945. That was followed shortly by discharge.

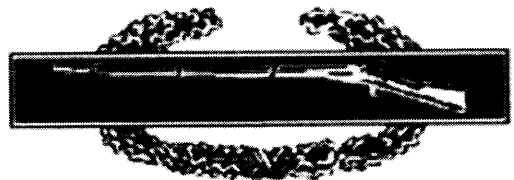
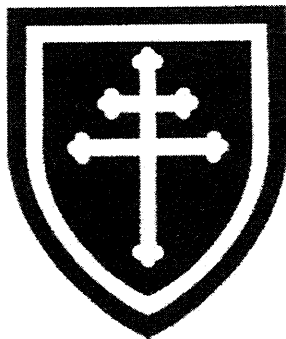
James's EAME Ribbon carried four battle stars: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. He also was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, Distinguished Unit Citation, Purple Heart, and other medals.

James and his wife, Christel—from Olive Branch, MS, became parents of three children: James, Jr., Rebecca, and Raymond; three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren came into the family.

In civilian work, James dealt with shipping and receiving in a lumber company.

Special Memory

James's special memory, according to Christel, was returning home safely to his family in September 1945.



Healy, Jerome
Chaplain (Captain)
Deceased

Born in Rensselaer, IN, Jerome J. Healy lived much of his life in Colorado and attended Holy Cross Abbey in Canon City. He entered the novitiate and pronounced his first vows in 1931. He received ordination to the Roman Catholic priesthood in 1937. His education included degrees in sociology and history from St. Benedict Abbey and College in Atchison, KS and a master's degree in political science and American history from Notre Dame University.

Before WWII, he taught in The Abbey School, also launching his career of coaching football and basketball – producing championship teams. Father Healy joined the army in 1943 and attended the U.S. Army Chaplain's School at Harvard. He was assigned to the 79th Division's 314th Regiment at Camp Phillips in Kansas and remained with the division throughout its training and all five campaigns in the European Theater of Operations. He attained the rank of major.

The Chaplain was 33 years old when the 314th went into combat in 1944. He was awarded the Silver Star for heroic action at La Haye du Puits, where he accompanied litter bearers through a heavily mined area to rescue the wounded. According to the citation: *While the litter bearers evacuated one wounded soldier, Chaplain Healy remained at the side of another despite being in an exposed position close to the enemy.*

He received the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in action in August 1944 at the Seine River bridgehead. He received the Bronze Star with two oak-leaf clusters.

After the war, Chaplain Healy returned to The Abbey School in Canon City, where he taught American history and coached basketball. He later served as the school's director of public relations and alumni affairs. In 1973 he was appointed chaplain at Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs. In 1986 he returned to The Abbey and spent his remaining years in prayer and painting water color note cards for the Abbey Gift Shop. Father Healy died in 1992 and was buried in the Abbey Cemetery in Canon City.

(Profile prepared by Mark Heckmann, son of Chaplain Heckmann, his. associates in the Chaplaincy of the 314th Regiment. Mark also wrote the profile for his father—in the column to the right.)



Heckmann, Carl A.
Chaplain (Captain)
Deceased

The Reverend Carl Heckmann entered military service in September 1943 from Navasota, TX where he was pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church. He was a 1940 graduate of Concordia Lutheran Seminary in St. Louis, MO, and he was a husband and a father when he volunteered for the Army chaplaincy. He and wife, Pearl, had a daughter before the war and four sons after the war.

After completing the Army Chaplain School at Harvard, he was assigned to the 79th Infantry Division, then at Camp Laguna, AZ in November 1943, and he moved with the division to Camp Phillips in Kansas. Assigned to the 314th Regiment, he traveled with it to Camp Myles Standish, sailed aboard the *SS Cristobal* to Liverpool, England in April 1944, and then went to the Tatton Park army encampment near Knutsford.

Chaplain Heckmann landed on Utah Beach in France on 17 June 1944, and served with the 314th until 22 September, when he was seriously wounded in action during the Meurthe River crossing near Fraimbois. He incurred wounds after volunteering to assist litter bearers evacuate wounded soldiers from the battlefield.

After recuperation at in England, he returned to the 314th Regiment in December and served with it through the end of combat and on into Army of Occupation duty in Czechoslovakia. He returned to the U.S.A. via Marseilles, arriving at Camp Kilmer, NJ in December 1945. He had served 20 months overseas and earned battle stars for all five campaigns of the Division.

In recognition of his actions at the Meurthe River, the Chaplain was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart, as well as the Presidential Unit Citation presented to the 3rd Battalion.

He returned to Navasota, TX as Rev. Heckmann and served the congregation there until 1948 when he accepted a call to a Lutheran church in Eden, TX. After a move to Austin, he was elected the first fulltime President of the Texas District; he was reelected several times, serving a total of 15 years in the presidency. He kept a role in the military, serving in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, where he advanced to the rank of Colonel. He had a total of 33 years of military service. Rev. Heckmann died in 1989 following surgical complications.



Hulsewede, Carl A., Jr.
Louisville, KY
Deceased

Carl went to military service from his hometown, Louisville, KY, and he served in the 314th Regiment from early days in Camp Pickett, VA, May 1942. In Co. L, he was squad leader in the weapons platoon and later Platoon Sergeant. His rating was Technical Sergeant.

Carl earned battle stars for all five of the 314th campaigns in the European Theater; his EAME Ribbon carries recognition for his action in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace. Also he earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart with oak-leaf cluster, Good Conduct Medal, and others.

Carl was wounded in action twice in 1944—both in France: first at La Haye du Puits in July and at Luneville in October.

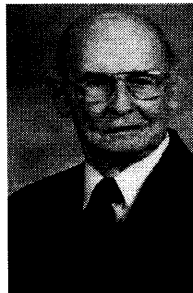
Back home in Louisville, KY, Carl attended Bell Telephone School and was a cable splicer and foreman of a cable crew for the telephone company.

Carl's spouse, now deceased, was German; they lived their married lives in Louisville, KY, where they had one son, Carl III, and one grandchild.

Jackson, Edwin C. (Jack)
Flint, MI
Deceased May 2007

Jack (he was known to comrades) entered military service from Flint, MI and completed basic training at Camp Croft, SC and Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA before being assigned to the 42nd Division at Camp Gruber, OK for nearly one year. He shipped out for England in May, 1944 and joined the 314th in July 1944 as a rifle company platoon leader. Captain Jackson had risen to CO of Co. I at the time he was transferred to the 3rd Battalion HQ Staff after the crossing of the Rhine River in March, 1945.

The captain's awards included four battle stars on his EAME Ribbon: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Three times wounded (September 1944 in the Meurthe River crossing; December 1944 at Haguenau, France, and January 1945 at Bois D'Ohlungen near Schweighausen and Neuborg, France) brought him the Purple Heart with two oak-leaf clusters. He also had earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Silver Star, Presidential Unit Citation for 3rd Battalion, Victory Medal, and American Campaign Medal; also, he



served Army of Occupation duty in Germany and Czechoslovakia.

Jack left the 314th in 1946 but remained in the U.S. Army Reserve until called to active duty during the Korean Conflict—serving with the 101st Airborne Division and with HQ 2nd Army. He then returned to reserve duty and ended his career with the army in 1953.

He married Mary Jane Witovich, of Flint, MI, and they were together 52 years until her death in 2000. Their son, Philip—who provided this profile information for his father, has two children; Jack's one great-grandchild had joined the family before the Captain's death last year.

Captain Jackson and his family lived in Flint, Grand Rapids, and Temperance, MI, and in Sebring, FL during his last years. His burial is in the Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.

Special Memory:

The writer of this profile was under the command of Captain Jackson from my assignment to Co. I in February 1945 until the 3rd Battalion commander took our CO for his Battalion HQ Staff in April. Thus I have personal memory of this courageous man. With my comrades, we held high confidence that Captain Jackson would lead us well. We felt the loss immediately when the Major took our CO!—Bob Kern

Jones, Douglas A.
4511 Alpine Drive
Lakeland, FL 33801

Doug lived in Warren Center, PA when he entered military service. He joined the 314th Regiment early in its World War II existence—at Camp Pickett, VA.

Crossing to the continent with Co. C, Doug was wounded at St. Lo, early in the Regiment's operations and then late in action, after the crossing of the Rhine.

In addition to the Purple Heart with an oak-leaf cluster, Doug earned battle stars on his EAME Ribbon for all the 314th campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace. He earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and other recognitions and awards.

His highest rating was as Staff Sergeant; he was section leader for 60-mm mortars.

Back home, Doug attended technical school and two semesters of college. He joined IBM Corp. and was employed there, mainly in New York State, for 36 years.

Doug was married in 1945—his spouse was from Nichols, NY, and they became parents of Carol, Doug, Jr., and Marilyn, who collectively gave them six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Doug and his family have lived in Warren Center,

PA, Vestal Center, Nichols, Oswego, and Poughkeepsie, NY, also Fort Lauderdale, Merett Island, and Lakeland, FL.

Special Memory

Doug cites as special memories his 36 years at IBM, being retired 31 years (so far); marriage in August 1945, and three wonderful children.

Keefer, Carroll D. Deceased November 2007

Carroll, known to his regimental buddies as JoJo, entered military service from Westminster, MD, in 1939, before the United States declared war. He joined the 79th Division when it was activated at Camp Pickett, VA in 1942. He went through all of the division's operations in Europe from the D-Day+6 landing, earning battle stars for the 314th campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. In addition to that full EAME Ribbon, JoJo was qualified to wear the Combat Infantryman Badge, American Defense Service Medal, American Theater Ribbon, Victory Medal, and Good Conduct Medal.



Carroll David Keefer October 1917- November 2007

He loved this top hat!



We had a "military" send-off at Dad's funeral. Flag draped over casket for inside and outside services. Flag folded and presented to me. Taps and the 21-gun salute. Awesome! My Mom would have been so proud; Dad would have said, "Why all the bother?" A humble, gentle man.

Thank you for the opportunity to honour him and others of that period in our history.

—Susan L. Keefer Pierce

In the regiment, JoJo served a communications section, including service as a radio operator and for installation of radio and wire-communication sets. He was Staff Sergeant in the unit for 18 months, then for 40 months Master Sergeant and its administrative NCO.

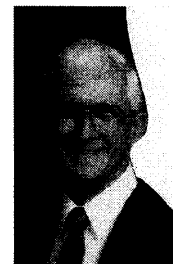
After his discharge in November 1945, with just over six years of active service, JoJo returned to Baltimore, where he met and married Jean Dawson; they had one daughter, Susan, of Deltona, FL, where JoJo spent the last two of 90 years of life.

Early in his post-war life, JoJo became an electric-motor repairman after courses and a four-year apprenticeship, an occupation he followed through his active working career—ending with 18 years of such service to the schools of Orange County, FL.

JoJo spent almost equal times living in Maryland or Virginia and then in Florida, with 38 years in Orlando and two years in Deltona. Jean died before him.

Special Memory

Susan Keefer Pierce, his daughter, set down what she knows were some special memories her dad held: In WWII he shot a howitzer once and worried that he'd hurt someone. Once he awoke in a truck to find a dead German outside—a comrade had shot the German. Dad and another soldier captured four German officers. Then Dad acquired a German P-38 pistol. His favorite memory, recalls Susan, was of two little girls in France; they'd sit on his lap happily eating chocolate. He could have received the Purple Heart, but he said the shrapnel in his shoulder was "no big deal."



Kellman, Norman L. Deceased April 2007

Norman entered military service from Detroit, MI, where he had served in the Michigan National Guard from 1938 to 1942. He joined the 314th Regiment's Co. E when it was engaged in action in Northern France. There he earned the first of four campaign battle stars that he wore on his EAME Ribbon—Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace were the others. A BAR man, Norman also earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart with an oak-leaf cluster, American Defense Medal, American Theater, Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Army of Occupation in Germany and Czechoslovakia. His highest rating was First Sergeant.



Norman was wounded twice in 1945, in January in France and in Germany in March.

In his civilian career, Norman did apprenticeship with Ford Motor Company and worked as a tool and die maker. He married Mary Henderson, also of Detroit, MI, and they were parents of Timothy, Patricia, Charles, Robert, Keith, Barbara, and Elizabeth. They lived 40 years in Plymouth, MI; the last 20 in Hollywood, FL.

Special Memory

Son Tim, who provided the information for his dad's profile, said he recalled his dad saying that, as he steamed into New York Harbor, he saw the sign saying "Home," and he was overwhelmed emotionally by the thought and reality of being home.

***Kemmerlin, Willie L.
Orangeburg, SC
Deceased***

A native of Orangeburg, SC, Willie spent nearly all of his army career with the 314th Infantry, which he joined in June 1942. A rifleman and squad leader, he walked onto the European continent with the regiment over sandy beaches of Normandy. Except for some months out in recovery from wounds



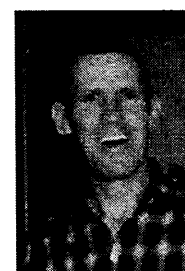
sustained in September 1944 at Charmes, France, Willie was part of Co. I operations throughout its campaigns, as recognized by the stars on his EAME Ribbon: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe; he also was with the company in Army of Occupation duty in Germany and Czechoslovakia. Willie, whose rating was Staff Sergeant, also earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and Good Conduct Medal, in addition to other awards.

Willie left the 314th in October 1945. Back in Orangeburg, SC, he married Norma Murphy, and they parented Delores and Merle (who, with husband, Lucky Buck, hosted the 60th reunion of the 314th Regiment at Charleston, SC). Two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren comprised their immediate family.

His civilian career was as a police officer in the Orangeburg area where he lived most of his years.

Special Memory

Willie L. Kemmerlin proudly cherished many memories from serving in the 314th. He told of the capture of 25 German soldiers from a farmhouse in Normandy. Later we learned that this was the action honored by his Silver Star Medal.—
Merle Buck



In Memory of

***My Beloved Daddy
My Brave Soldier and
My Forever Hero***

Sgt. Willie L. Kemmerlin

***Whose legacy will always
live on . . . in my heart***

—Merle Kemmerlin Buck



Kern, Karl Robert
2428 Hamilton Dr.,
Ames, IA 50014
515 296-5094;
bob_kern@prodigy.net



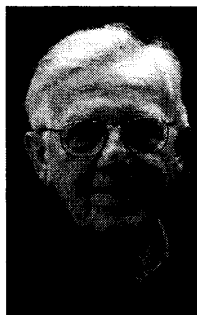
Bob entered military from Pittsfield, IL, August 1944. After training at Camp Robinson, AR, he shipped overseas in January 1945, crossed France in 40-and-8 box cars, and joined the 314th Regiment in France in February 1945. He was a rifleman in Co. I, from then until they came off line at the Ruhr River beyond Essen Steele. Battle stars were Rhineland and Central Europe, with a Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, Army Commendation, Victory Medal, Army of Occupation, and Good Conduct Medal.

While on occupation duty in Witten-Ruhr and Czechoslovakia, he wrote award recommendations for the company. Then, on TDY, to the AG section of 79th Division HQ (Franzensbad) he wrote citations for the whole division. Before the regiment started back to France, he volunteered for a clerk spot in G1 HQ of Third Army serving at Bad Tölz and Heidelberg—a citations writer and clerk until shipped home as Tech 3, administrative NCO. He went back to civilian life in July 1946 at Fort Sheridan, IL.

After military, Bob returned to university and took degrees at University of Illinois (B.S. in agriculture), Iowa State University (M.S. in technical journalism), and University of Wisconsin (Ph.D. in communication and administration), finished 30 years as professor of journalism at Iowa State University, then spent 20 years as an communications consultant, working in 46 countries on five continents. Verna Lathrop, Woodstock, IL, and Bob married in 1948, living in Decatur, IL then Ames, IA since 1950; they marked their 60th anniversary in June 2008. Their two children are K. Robert II, Princeton, MN, and Barbara Carlson, Boise, ID. Three granddaughters and one grandson-in-law round out the family.

Special Memory

Bob says his most memorable experience related to the 314th came in 2007, when Verna and he spent three days in the area where the 314th pushed the first bridgehead across the Seine River. He joined the regiment many months later, but found standing at the crossing site with its commemorative marker—hosted by the niece of a then-young woman who welcomed the 314th that day in August 1944: unforgettable.



LeMar, Clarence B.
P.O. Box 97
Leland, MI 49654

Clarence was living in LaGrange, IL when he entered military service. As a rifleman in the 314th Infantry, Clarence served in combat until he was taken prisoner and held for three and a half months. He had earlier been wounded and awarded the Purple Heart. Among his other awards was the Rhineland campaign star on his EAME Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Service Award, and Victory Medal.

Clarence and Phyllis became parents of three children and, in time, 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren joined them. He was a florist in civilian life.

Leslie, John M.
7837A Somerset Bay
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Jack lived in Indianapolis when he went into the army. He linked with the 314th Regiment as a replacement in France about six weeks after it went into combat in Normandy. He was a rifleman in Co. B.

Jack, a Private First Class, was wounded twice, more seriously the second time, at Luneville, France. He earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart with an oak-leaf cluster, and Good Conduct Medal. His EAME Ribbon carried campaign battle stars for Normandy, Northern France, and Rhineland. He was discharged in September 1945.

Jack and his wife, Katherine Roderick, of Battle Creek, MI, were parents to two children, Thomas and Martha, and grandparents to three. Indianapolis continued to be Jack's hometown.

Mahaffay, Ray J.
Deceased February 2006

Ray spent much of his life near Blue Island, IL, a southern suburb of Chicago. After early graduation from high school and work in a bomb factory (to be deferred so he could help his family—his father died in a train accident when he was 14), a deadly explosion at the factory caused him to leave and enter military service.

Ray served with the division until captured in action in France, and imprisoned at Bad Orb, Germany. Upon eventual release, he spent three months in Europe regaining health for the trip home.

Ray's daughter Jean, who provided profile information, knew relatively little about her dad's military



service. However, she could pass on a wealth of information about his fascinating life after service.

Ray and Erna Herzke, were married on Christmas Eve in 1943 in Annapolis, MD before Ray shipped overseas. They almost missed connection for the wedding: he almost didn't get leave, and she missed the last bus from town and hitchhiked to the chapel—she got there, thanks to a ride with two Black men in a produce truck. Then they almost missed connections at the chapel, due to being on opposite sides of the building. The marriage lasted 59 years until Erna's death in 2003.

Jean reports that Ray could learn almost any craft of skill. He hunted, fished, shot skeet, bowled once or more a week, played golf whenever he could, and in 1969 discovered rocks: he and Erna were then rock hounds. On the work front, Ray was an inspector for the B & O Railroad, ran a gas station (Hall of Fame footballer Dick Butkus was a customer), and worked various capacities at a Clark Oil Refinery. An accident at the refinery, fighting a fire, led to a disability retirement.

Over the last two and a half decades, Ray's and Erna's living areas were Mission, TX for winter and Pullman, MI the rest of the year. From 1990 on, they lived at Zionsville, IN, near daughter Jean.

McCowen, Richard H. Deceased October 2005

Richard was living in Elida, NM when we entered military service, and he joined the 314th Regiment at Camp Pickett, VA in 1942. He was a First Lieutenant who served in the Service Company.

Richard was wounded at Cherbourg in July 1944 and was awarded the Purple Heart. He was separated from the military in March 1946.

A graduate of New Mexico State University, Richard was an accountant. He and his wife, Velma, from Las Cruces, NM, had three children, David, Margaret, and Leah; the immediate family included five grandchildren and one great-grand child.. They lived in Las Cruces.

Special Memory

Richard's time in service was cut short, but he was a proud, dedicated veteran.

Mongeon, Gerard E. 32 Packers Falls Road Newmarket, NH 03857

Jerry was living in Newmarket, NH when he entered military service. He and his buddy-for-life, Keith Noren, joined Co. F, 314th Infantry as replacements on 8 July 1944 in Normandy. Two days later they went to the front as part



***Private First Class
M. Keith Noren
First Scout, Company F
314th Infantry Regiment***



Sadly, Morris Keith Noren passed away on Aug. 5, 2004. He had been battling cancer for the past couple of years, always on the attack, always positive of mind and spirit, always optimistic about the outcome, never complaining, always thankful for each additional day of his life here on earth. The end came rather quickly, and we have lost another real hero, and Jerry and Keith are again temporarily separated.

—Gerald Mongeon

of the company's 3rd platoon—Keith as scout and Jerry as BAR man. In November, wounds took Keith off line, and a case of trench foot kept Jerry out of action.

A Private First Class, Jerry earned three battle stars for his EAME Ribbon: Normandy, Northern France, and Rhineland; the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart—along with other service awards.

Jerry returned to civilian life in November 1945. He married Edith, also from Newmarket, and they became parents of Kathleen, Gerard Jr., Geraldine and Lou Anne, with four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The family home has been Newmarket.

Jerry's work career was as a shoe worker, foreman of a stock fitting room.

Special Memory

Jerry and Keith have written of their experiences in battle and their friendship cut short by Keith's death in 2004. Here is an extract telling of moving into the front lines



We passed dead enemy soldiers, dead bloated horses and cattle, disabled and burned equipment, and broken, burned real estate. Now any illusions we may have had, if any, of war's glorious attributes were surely waning. Tomorrow, and the days that followed, would become mentally and physically exhausting slogs punctuated with the occasional horrific events of war etched in our memories forever.

Meuth, Orville N.
25 Maple Drive
Caseyville, IL 62232
618 344-4599
orvmueth@netzero.com

Orville lived in East St. Louis, IL when he entered military service. After infantry replacement training at Camp Robinson, AR, he joined the 314th Regiment in late January 1945 in the Black Forest area of France. He served in Co. G as a light-mortar crewman and machine gunner. His rating was Private First Class.

Orville was wounded in late March after the division crossed the Rhine River and drove east through the Ruhr Valley of Germany. He returned to his company and served in the Army of Occupation in both Germany and Czechoslovakia. After leaving the 314th Regiment, he had time with the 1st Division (Big Red) and then in graves registration in the Quartermaster 6890 Group.

Orville earned two campaign battle stars for his EAME Ribbon: Rhineland and Central Europe. His awards included the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Victory Medal, with others.

When Orville returned to civilian life, he graduated as an electrician from Ranken Trade School, then earned a B.A. in business administration at Southern Illinois University. His work career included electrician and a packaging and materials handling engineer.

Orville's wife, Sylvia Boyer, was also from East St. Louis. They became parents of four children: Terry, Carol, Linda, and David, with six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The family residences over the years included East St. Louis, Swansea, and Caseyville, IL.

Musho, Siegfried A.
Deceased March 2007

Sig was living in Latrobe, PA when he joined the army in September 1943. He went to the 2nd Platoon of the 79th Recon Troop in Northern France as a replacement and stayed with the unit through later campaigns and in Army of Occupation in Germany and Czechoslovakia. He was a radio operator with mechanized cavalry—a Technician 5th Grade. He was wounded, shrapnel in his right thumb, at Haguenau, France. He left military service in February 1946.



Sig's EAME Ribbon carried four campaign stars: Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace. Among other awards were the Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

In his civilian occupation, Sig worked in the steel industry: iron-ore foundry foreman and a molder who operated the cupola furnace. He married Betty Jeanne Trice, Greensburg, PA, and the family lived on there. Sig and Betty Jeanne became parents of three children: Darryl, Collene, and Melanie—with one grandchild.

Special Memories

Sig's daughter, Collene, recalled this: "Dad had three brothers in the service, and he had an uncle in the Polish army. He went through all of Europe without crossing paths until after VE Day—on 29 May 1945 he and his younger brother, Matthew, connected in Munchen-Gladbach, Germany [where his division was on occupation duty]."

Collene also provided this little vignette that Sig had recalled and written:

Not every day is gloom and doom on the front lines
It was in the region of Alsace, France, in the area of Berg. We were checking out the roads ahead of the infantry. We were traveling with a lead Jeep, armored car, and rear Jeep, looking for signs of Krauts. We had to keep turning around because the bridges were blown. Finally we came within less than 50 feet of a big stone wall at a crossroads. The lead Jeep reported, "Tank coming." You could see the barrel of the tank's gun above the wall. I was in the armored car. I replaced the high-explosive shell in my gun with 37 armor-piercing—it was out only hope. We sat, waiting to get a shot at it. Then, suddenly in a break in the wall, we could see it. Out steps a man with a cow dragging a cart of furniture with a table leg sticking out on top. The next day they sent in the 3rd Platoon. That day did not have such a humorous ending: this time the Germans were there and had the road zeroed in. Alfred Linton crawled under the armored car and had the top of his head taken off.

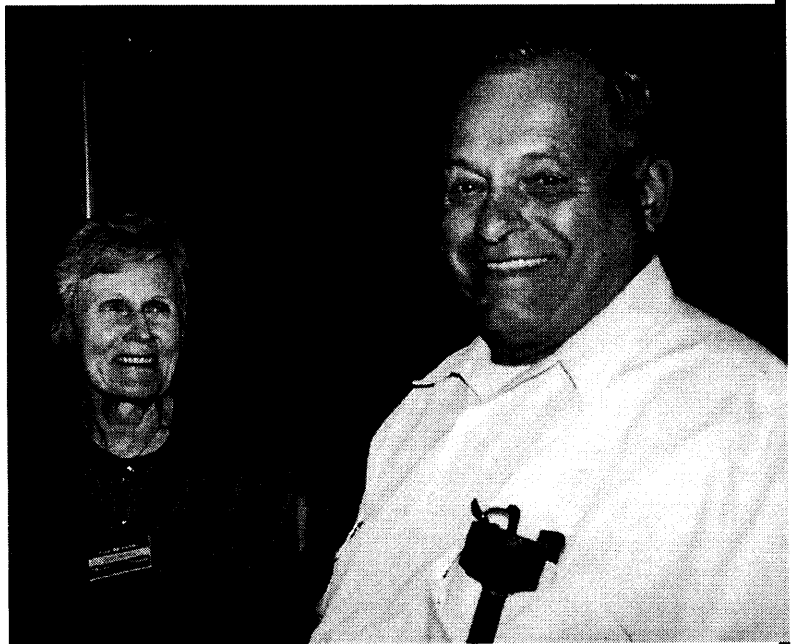


Revelation

God hath not promised
Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
All our lives through;
God hath not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.

But God hath promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labor
Light for the way;
Grace for the trials,
Help from above.
Unfailing sympathy,
Undying love . . .

Revelation 21:4



In Loving Memory

*Betty (wife) and Our Children
Darryl (son) and Janet, Granddaughter Rebekah
and Collene (daughter) and
Melanie (daughter) and Roger*

Muth, Arthur H.
528 Kemmerer Lane
Allentown, PA 18104

Arthur was living in Wescoville, PA when he went into the army. In June 1942 he joined the 314th Regiment as a rifleman. He went through campaigns in Normandy and Northern France before he was wounded at Wasser, Germany in January 1945. A Private First Class, he returned to serve in the Army of Occupation in Germany. His awards included the Combat Infantryman Badge and Purple Heart, as well as others.

Back in Pennsylvania after service, Arthur found his wife, Marie, in Palmertown, Pa. He and Marie (now deceased) became parents of Martha and Wilson; their immediate family also numbered three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Arthur, in civilian life, was a farmer and forklift operator in a lumber yard, living and working in Pennsylvania.

Nichols, William A.
1080 Highway 309 N
Byhalia, MS 38611
662 838-2750



Billy, as most friends knew him, left his hometown of Memphis, TN for military service in August 1943, shortly after graduating from high school. He did basic training with the 42nd Division in Muskogee, OK and then joined the 314th Regiment in Kansas in HQ Company of 3rd Battalion, in the A and P Platoon. He shipped from Boston in April 1944 with the division to arrive in Liverpool, England. He landed with the Regiment at Utah Beach, supporting front-line companies with ammunition for the 128 days of combat that came before the first rest at Luneville. He was Corporal, Ammunition NCO. through Cherbourg, La Haye du Puits, the Seine River crossing at Mantes Glasicourt, across northern France, and all the way to the end of combat in the Ruhr Valley.

Billy's EAME Ribbon had all the Regiment's European campaign ribbons: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace. In addition, he earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Distinguished Unit Citation, and Victory Medal, plus other awards. He was part of the regiment's occupation duty in Germany (Witten) and Czechoslovakia.

Billy was discharged in January 1946. He married Fannie Mae, and they were parents to two children, Jerry and Nell. Their immediate family also included five grandchildren.

His work career, after vocational and aircraft mechanic training, was with an electric power company.

Special Memory

Most memorable experiences were the surrender of Cherbourg and La Haye du Puits, the Seine River crossing, Bishwiller, and the crossing of the Rhine River, then occupation duty in Witten, Germany and in Czechoslovakia. Also the ride across France in 40-and-8 box cars to ship out for the U.S.A.



Orphan, Richard C.
22134 SE 41st Lane
Issaquah, WA 98029



Richard's home was Pueblo, CO when he went into the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1940. He was part of an accelerated class, receiving his Second Lieutenant commission at graduation in June 1943. First assigned to the 42nd Division, in April 1944 he went overseas in a group of replacement officers. After training in England, he joined the 314th Regiment as Platoon Leader, Cannon Company, near La Haye du Puits, about three weeks after the 79th Division began its quest at Utah Beach. He stayed with the unit for nearly a year. In that time he was awarded two Bronze Stars for valor, a Purple Heart for wounds sustained near Frambois in Lorraine, Combat Infantryman Badge, and his EAME Ribbon reflected service through all of the regiment's campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace plus occupation duty in Germany and Czechoslovakia. He also wore American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Victory Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge, and Army of Occupation Badge. In May 1945 he was detailed to the Army Corps of Engineers, continuing his army service until 1963.

Richard married Jean Barnes, of Brooklyn, NY, and they became parents of four children: Pamela, Barbara, Richard Jr, and Margaret; they have four grandchildren.

Richard's baccalaureate at West Point was in engineering, and he later did an MBA at Redlands University. He studied nuclear physics in graduate school at Princeton University, successfully completing the course in nuclear physics that qualified him as a specialist for future assignments. For four years, Richard was Military Assistant to the Assistant to the Secretary of De-

fense (Atomic Energy). He also spent 27 years at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in California.

In 1995 the family traveled to Europe and covered the 314th Regiment's route across Western Europe, an experience they cherish.

Special Memory

I have only been able to attend one reunion of the 314th Infantry, back around 1950, but I continue to feel a loyalty and my gratitude for my experience in that great organization.

Parlier, Vernon Loyd
2952 Bedford Dr
Merced, CA 95340
mjparlier@comcast.net

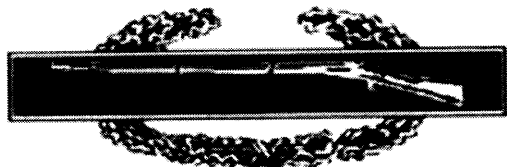
Vernon lived in Ardmore, OK when he entered military service. He joined the 314th Regiment in February 1944 at Camp Myles Standish in Massachusetts. Company I, 3rd Battalion, was his unit, where he filled a number of specialties over the following months: rifleman, scout, 300-radio operator, special guard, and he ran the supply depot. His rating was Private First Class; he continued to serve in the National Guard after ending his active duty with the 314th Regiment.

In the early days of the regiment's attack on Cherbourg, June 1944, Vernon was wounded. In addition to his Purple Heart, he earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, the EAME Ribbon with campaign stars for Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Ardennes-Alsace; also Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

Back in the U.S., Vernon earned B.S. and M.S. degrees and worked in coaching and teaching and also in construction. He married Norma Jean Tschetter, of Doldon, SD, and they parented two children: Sheryl Jean and Rick. Five grandchildren joined the family. The family lived in Texas, New Mexico, and California over the years.

Special Memory

I remember the wonderful friends I met while overseas. We exchanged addresses so we could keep in touch. However, some of my luggage was misplaced or destroyed on the way home, so I didn't have the list. I really enjoyed getting a three- or four-day pass to Paris, also going to Brussels to get supplies.



Piekunka, Sigmund
11 High Street
Sodus, NY 14551
315 483-9223



Ernie—as his friends have known him—went into the military from Ontario, NY, and the 314th Regiment didn't figure in his service until later. He'd been an after-school meat-cutter, and that led to assignment as a cook and baker. His first contact with infantry troops was as a cook on troop trains taking them toward embarkation ports. The manpower needs in December 1944 brought his transfer to become an infantry replacement. The officer's mess he served proposed to block his transfer, but he chose to stay with the comrades he'd served with and went with them.

An early-January departure from the East Coast by ship took him to LeHavre, France, and a train got him to the Lauterburg Bulge battle in the Alsace. His infantry training had been done during the 10-day ocean passage on rifle and machine gun. When he joined the 314th Regiment in the Alsace, he was assigned to Co. M, the weapons company in the 3rd Battalion. He stayed with the company through further training, the last crossing of the Rhine River, and on through the Ruhr Valley. Shortly after the crossing, Ernie found he'd overlooked being hit through his boot—not bad enough, he decided, to be evacuated.

Ernie's awards included the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, American Campaign Medal, Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and his EAME Ribbon had campaign stars for Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace.

Ernie's top rating was as Staff Sergeant, and he did occupation duty in Czechoslovakia. On his twenty-first birthday, he was back in LeHavre awaiting a ship that would take European veterans to the war in the Pacific. Two days before the boarding date, word came of the Japanese surrender. Ernie spent a short stint with the 1st Division and was discharged at Fort Dix, NJ in April 1946.

In civilian life, Ernie owned and operated a dry-cleaning plant and laundromat. His wife, Mary Guardino, from Sodus, NY, and he became parents of six children: Vincent, James, Grace, Joseph, Thomas, and Ann. The family included seven grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and five step-great-grandchildren. They lived in Rochester, NY, where Ernie took business courses, but have spent most of their years in Sodus.

Sigmund Piekunka

***Thank you for the sacrifices you
made for our country so we can live
in freedom***

***You are our hero, and the best
husband, father, and grandfather
a family can have***

***We all love you.
Wife Mary and Children
Vincent, Jim, Grace, Joe, Tom, Ann
and families***



Special Memory

Three days after Ernie had discovered his wounded foot, he was walking down a hill when he heard a voice ask his name. It was Gen. Patch, CG of the Ninth Army, who had noticed that Ernie was limping. The General had heard about the soldier who had gone three days without knowing he'd been hit, then took out the shrapnel, applied sulfa, and continued into battle. "That's the kind of soldier I want in my army," he said.

Ernie recalls as well that "I, along with others, at one time went five weeks without a shower and change of clothes."

***Pinegar, Robert M.
11200 River Dr.
Warren, MI 48093
586 264-5273
RP62510@yahoo.com***



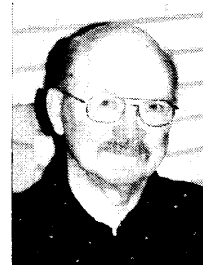
Robert was living in Van Dyke, MI when he went to military service. He joined the 314th Regiment in France in February 1945 when it came off line from the Black Forest to take on replacements. He was assigned

to Co. M, 3rd Battalion, as rifleman and heavy machine-gunner.

Robert was awarded the Purple Heart for the wound he received "somewhere along the Rhine-Herne Canal" on April Fool's Day in 1945. In addition, he earned two campaign battle stars on his EAME Ribbon for Rhineland and Central Europe. He also received the Combat Infantryman Badge, Victory Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. And he took part with his company in occupation duty in Germany and Czechoslovakia. A Private First Class, he was discharged in March 1946.

With his wife, Slaght—from West Lorne, Ontario, Canada—Robert parented four children: Robert, Donald, Robyne, and Mark. The family also included seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

In civilian life, Robert, who attended electronic training school, spent 34 years with General Motors, a senior manufacturing project engineer. He has lived in Detroit and Warren, MI.



Polunc, Joseph A.
Deceased December 2006

Joseph's son, John Polunc, submitted this story on the life of his father.



My dad is my true hero. He took part in the greatest world historic events. Graduated from South High School in Minneapolis in 1942, he worked briefly for the Milwaukee Road as a coach-car cleaner and electrician's helper on steam locomotives. In August 1943 he was drafted and sent to Camp Philips in Oklahoma. He was trained as an infantryman, first with the 42nd (Rainbow) Division, and in February 1944, he was transferred to the 79th Cross-of-Lorraine Division. In April of that year he was shipped on Heritage Fleet of ships bound on a 10-day journey to Goldbourne, England, where he was camped till late May when they went to Southampton and boarded ships for Utah Beach. They arrived on the beach on D-Day + 6.

My dad vividly remembered the first town he walked to in France: Ste. Mere Eglise. Somewhere near Neuville or Montebourg, he encountered his first gun battle with the Germans. He fought his way from Valognes to Cherbourg, arriving about 22 June. Cherbourg was the first of his many major battle operations in the liberation of France. Toward the end of action at Cherbourg, he helped capture 21 Germans near Fort du Roule. He then marched on with the division through many towns—to mention a few: La Haye du Puits, Lessay, Arvanches, Falaise, Strausbourg, Metz, Haguenau, Alsace, and Bitche. His last major battle was Operation Nordwind (the Alsace Bulge) in January 1945. When the war ended in May 1945, my dad was in Czechoslovakia as an interpreter for five to six thousand Ukrainians and Russians who had been held as workers for the Germans.

My dad was involved in four major campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. He received the Purple Heart for wounds sustained two days before Christmas 1944 near Nancy, France. He had earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and other medals and ribbons. He arrived in the U.S. on Christmas Eve 1945 and was discharged at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin on New Year's Eve, 1945.

After his military service, my dad earned his B.A. degree at the College of St. Thomas in Minneapolis in 1950 and his B.S. in elementary education at the University of Minnesota in 1954 and later added his M.A. in 1957. He taught at Veblem, SD, then Little Falls, MN, and finally in his dream job, Minneapolis Public Schools,

for 34 years. He married Betty Olsen, of Minneapolis, in 1947, and they became parents of four children: Joseph Jr., Joan, Mary Jo, and John. Joseph and Betty had 59 years together before his death on New Year's Eve 2006 at the age of 81.



Robinson, Warren A.
Commanding Officer,
314th Infantry Regiment
Deceased September 1994

The future CO of the 314th Infantry Regiment was born in Idaho Springs, CO, a little mining town above Denver in the Rocky Mountains. Colonel Robinson's one son, B. Brick Robinson provided information that lets us lay out the career of this distinguished commander who led the 314th Infantry Regiment throughout its entire combat operations in the ETO.



Military service was the hallmark of the life of Warren A. Robinson from his first activity in the Student Army Training Corps, beginning six weeks before the World War I Armistice. A period of service in WW I qualified him for his first medal: WWI Victory Medal.

The young man was admitted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and graduated with the class of 1923. His military career continued to retirement in 1954.

Between WW I and WW II

After receiving his commission as 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation from West Point, he began a long career as an infantry officer. His service began with the 4th Infantry at Fort Lawton, WA and led to Schofield Barracks, Territory of Hawaii (CO of Co. D). In 1928 he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant, Infantry with commands in 17th Infantry Regiment (Co. B), Fort Crooks, NE; 29th Infantry Regiment; 14th Infantry Regiment (CO Co. C), Fort William Davis, Panama Canal Zone, and CO 15th Pack Train, Quartermaster Corps. 1931-33; Asst. CO Co. H, and CO Co. G, 38th Infantry Regiment, Fort Douglas, UT. Promoted to Captain in 1935, he was Regular Army Instructor for 2nd Bn. 299th Infantry, Hawaiian National Guard. Promoted to major, Infantry in 1940, he was executive officer, then CO of 84th Training Bn., Camp Roberts, CA. In 1941 he became Lt. Col, Infantry.

World War II

Lt. Col. Robinson began 1942 as a student in the New Division Training Class at Fort Leavenworth, KS. Soon he became G-1 (personnel) for the 79th Infantry Division at Camp Picket, VA, where it was re-activated.

His service as G-1 took him with the division to Camp Blandings, FL in 1942; in 1943 to the Tennessee Maneuvers and Camp Forrest, Camp Laguna, AZ, Camp Phillips, KS, where on 12 December he became CO of the 314th Regiment; in 1944 he led the regiment to Camp Myles Standish, MA, and overseas to Camp Golborne Park, England, where he was promoted to Colonel.

The Combat Period

Highlights of this period start with the sailing for France on 12 June, landing at Utah Beach on 13 June; capture of Cherbourg, 26 June (the Colonel's birthday); the Normandy campaign in which he earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Silver Star, and Purple Heart when wounded directing the assault on Fort de Roule, Cherbourg. In the Northern France campaign, he received the Bronze Star and an oak-leaf cluster to his Silver Star. Alsace, Rhineland, and Central Europe campaigns followed: in the latter, Colonel Robinson was honored by the French with the French Legion of Honor, Croix de Guerre with Palm.

At about the time the 79th Division was to be returned to the U.S. for deactivation, the Colonel left the regiment and became the G-5 (military/civil affairs) for the XV Corps in October 1945. In November, he was awarded the Legion of Merit. In service with the XV Corps between December and March, he was Deputy Chief of Staff then Chief of Staff. In March he was Deputy Commandant of Nurnberg Prison, then from May to October he was Executive Officer of the Nurnberg-Furth Military community. He ended his service in Europe, sailing for home on 30 October 1946.

Post WWII found Colonel Robinson serving more than half a year in the Pentagon in Washington, DC. The Colonel for three years was a Regular Army Instructor for the 223rd Infantry and later for the 40th Infantry (NG) Division..

During the Korean Conflict, the Colonel was first the G-1 and then Deputy Commander for RyCom in the Far East Command (Okinawa). During his final year of service, he was stationed at Fort McArthur, CA, as Chief of Sub-district (Reserve) XV Corps.

After retirement in 1954, he lived with his second wife, Dorothy Carr, from Guthrie Center, IA, until his death on 10 September 1994. She survived him another four years. His first wife, Ruby Rydberg, from Chicago, had died in 1942. His son, Brick, with his wife were the parents of the Colonel's two grandchildren.

A footnote to the story, as Brick tells it: The Colonel was also shot in the arm in northern France by an American general, who accidentally discharged a German pistol with which he was unfamiliar. The Colonel took no award for this wound!

Roos, Charles M.

***2659 Carambala Circle North, Apt. 305
Coconut Creek, FL 33066***

Charles entered military service in November 1942 from his hometown of New York City. He joined the 314th Regiment as a medic and served through most of its operations in both the U.S. and the European Theater. He was with his unit for much of its action from the advance from Utah Beach to VE Day—wounded twice in action in France: first on the way to Cherbourg and later at Alsace. After the second wounds, in December 1944, Charles transferred to MP. His rating was Technician 5th Grade.

Charles's EAME Ribbon had campaign stars for Normandy, Northern France, and Ardennes-Alsace. His wounds were recognized by Purple Heart with one oak-leaf cluster, and he earned the Combat Medical Badge, a Bronze Star, a unit citation, and the French Croix de Guerre.

When Charles returned to civilian life, it was back to the New York area. He married Roslyn Seider, from the Bronx, and they became parents of three children: Marla, Joanne, and Steven; they were grandparents to six. Family residences were New York City, Bronx, NY, and Coconut Creek, FL.

Charles's career was as a funeral director.

Sachs, Stanley

Deceased April 2008

Stanley was living in Brooklyn, NY when he entered military service. He was an early arrival when the 314th Regiment was activated, joining in October 1943. He was a rifleman, a Corporal.

Stanley's EAME Ribbon had battle stars for Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. He also served in the occupation duty in Germany and Czechoslovakia. He earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, American Service Medal, unit award, Victory Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. He mustered out of service just before Christmas 1945.

Stanley returned to civilian life in Brooklyn and there married Beatrice Fein, also from Brooklyn. He attended Pate College in Brooklyn and went on to a career as an accountant. He and Beatrice became parents of two children, Joan and Dale; two grandchildren joined the immediate family.

After more than two decades in the New York area, the family moved to Delray Beach, FL in 1969 where Stanley died in April 2008.



Warren A. Robinson
1899-1994



*Being awarded the French Legion of Honor and
Croix de Guerre with the Palm
30 January 1945—somewhere in France*

*Commanding Officer
314th Infantry Regiment
79th Infantry Division*

Remembered by his son, R. Brick Robinson



**Stanley
Sachs**

*So little time gone
—April 25, 2008,
But so sadly missed*

*Wife Beatrice
Children Jean and Dale*

Schmidt, Floyd E.
169 Amber Train
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
608 837-5512

Floyd was living at Watertown, WI when he went into the army. After serving a year in the 38th Division in the U.S., he transferred to the 79th Division and the 314th Regiment. A machine gunner in Co. E, Floyd served with his company through the Normandy and Northern France, and Rhineland campaigns, earning three battle stars on his EAME Ribbon. He was wounded once, earning a Purple Heart, which joined other awards: Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, Prisoner of War Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and others. He doesn't know just where his capture took place, but he spent eight or nine months as a prisoner of war in German stalags.

Floyd returned to civilian life in Wisconsin in November 1945. He and his wife, Dolores (now deceased), became parents of three children, David, Diane, and Dale. The immediate family included six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In his work career, Floyd was a steam-fitter. He retired to Sun Prairie, WI.

Special Memories

My memories were not good because the Germans did not give us much to eat. They thought we should work, so they hit me with anything they could. I could speak German, so they did look out for me a bit. But anything I could do to mess up their effort, I would do it.

Try to forget it. I did a good job of forgetting until my wife got me to talk. I just told her and the kids what I wanted to tell. I also spoke to school kids; I did like to tell them some things. I did not tell anyone the bad things I did. My brother got captured in the Battle of the Bulge, so we did talk about it.

I am so glad to be home I thank the Lord every day for helping me to get home.

We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in 1998, recalling many wonderful family memories.

Shaffer, Charles
111 Vernon Ave.
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
410 766-8499

Charles lived in Baltimore, MD before going to military service. November 1942 brought him to the 79th Infantry Division, where he served in Headquarters Company and the 79th Recon Troop.

Charles earned all of the 79th Division's campaign battle stars for his EAME Ribbon: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace. And he was with the outfit in its occupation duty in Czechoslovakia until his discharge in October 1945.

Charles was a Sergeant; he didn't list them on his form, but one can be sure he earned numerous decorations for the chest of his dress uniform.

We didn't get the facts of Charles's family either, other than his current 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. His current address has him near his own roots in Maryland.

Sibilia, Nicholas A.
Deceased October 1944

Nick joined the military from his home in White Plains, NY by way of his sister's home in Hartford, CT. He linked with the 314th Regiment in March 1943 and served in Co. I, 3rd Battalion. He died in Oct. 16, 1944 in a military hospital at Luneville, France.

Nick had fought in his company's campaigns in Normandy and Northern France. He had



earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and qualified for the Purple Heart and other awards and recognitions.

As reported by his nephew Frank and wife, Nick was born in 1923 and lived with his brothers and sisters (see their memorial on this page) in White Plains, NY.

Sinton, Edward H.
2020 Theon Dr.
York, PA 17408

Edward left Mt. Carmel, PA to enter military service. He was assigned to the 314th Regiment in January 1945 at Pont-a-Mousson, France, a replacement depot. He took his place in 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, of Co. I, getting handed the BAR. His service with the regiment earned campaign stars for his EAME Ribbon: Rhineland and Central Europe. Also he received the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, as well as Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, and others. A Tech 5, Edward served with the Regiment for occupation duty in Germany and Czechoslovakia.

When troop transfers began in summer 1945 to make up divisions of high-point veterans for return to the U.S., Edward was transfer to serve in HQ XV Corps and Third U.S. Army.

Edward returned to Mt. Carmel, PA when discharged, and there he married Doris Klawitter; also from Mt. Carmel. Their immediate family included two sons, David and Bradley, and three grandchildren.

After graduating with a B.S. in business from Lycoming College, he worked in industry as a manager of marketing research.

Slack, Philip Jr.
488 Barbara Way
Tarpon Springs, FL
727 942-6055

Phil's hometown was Philadelphia, PA when he entered the army. In October 1942, at Camp Blandings, FL, he joined the 314th Regiment where he became squad leader in the Anti-tank Company. His rating was Technical Sergeant.

Phil was wounded early in his action career, on 22 June 1944, less than two weeks into the regiment's distinguished record in its ETO combat. Over the succeeding months, Phil's EAME Ribbon picked up campaign battle stars for Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. The chest of his dress blouse also carried the Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and other medals and recognitions.



IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
NICHOLAS A. SIBILIA
FROM
BROTHERS AND SISTERS
John, Mary, Marge, Frank,
Grace

And deceased
Emily, Mike, Connie, Tony,
Louis, Lucy

Back at home in Pennsylvania, Phil attended trade school and became a brick-layer. He married (wife now deceased) and parented two sons, Fred and Philip. Four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren joined the immediate family.

In retirement, Phil lives in Tarpon Springs, FL.

Starkey, Otha C.
Deceased 1977

Otha was living in Sevierville, TN when he entered military service. His link with the 314th Regiment came in February 1944 when he joined at Camp Phillips, KS. He served in the I&R Platoon, HQ Company of the 2nd Battalion, first a rifleman for a month and then a scout-observer for six months until the capture of the 2nd Battalion at Drusenheim. His rating was Corporal. After release as a prisoner, Otha joined the regiment's service in occupation duty, being discharged in March 1946.

Otha's EAME Ribbon recognized his service in the Regiment's campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, and Ardennes-Alsace. Also, he earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, POW Medal, Distin-



In Memory of
Otha C. Starkey
1924-1977

HQ Co. I & R Platoon
314th Infantry Regiment
Feb. 1944-Jan. 1945



The Starkey and Neff Families

guished Unit Citation, and others.

As a civilian again, Otha married Mary Lois Patty, and they became parents of Caryn (a co-host of the 62nd Regiment Reunion) and Michael. Four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren became part of their immediate family. Other than some years in Chicago in the 1950s, the family lived in Sevierville, TN.

Special Memory

Captured, along with Capt. Chester Pasternak and 1st Lt. Lawrence Sigmund, and others. We were walked to Stalag 5A in Germany, where I stayed for seven days. Then I went by train to Stalag 11B. Here I did odd jobs, such as working in the kitchen and cutting wood. On 16 April 1945, the British 17th Armoured Division liberated us. *Taken by daughter Caryn from Report of Interview of Recovered Personnel.*

Stella, Nick
1905 Myer Ave.
McKeesport, PA 15133
unclenick@comcast.net

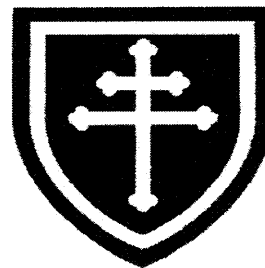
Nick entered military service from his hometown in Pennsylvania—actually from the same address where he's lived all these years. He joined the 314th Regiment in mid-November 1942 at Jacksonville, FL. He served

as a rifleman and BAR man in Co. C, 1st Battalion. Nick went onto the continent at Utah Beach in June 1944 and was in action until wounded in France on 2 October 1944. His EAME Ribbon noted three 314th campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, and Rhineland. He earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart, and Bronze Star. He was hospitalized for a long time at Naples, Italy and then returned to the U.S. His separation came in July 1945, then with a Private First Class rating.

Nick was a steel worker in his civilian career; he didn't marry.

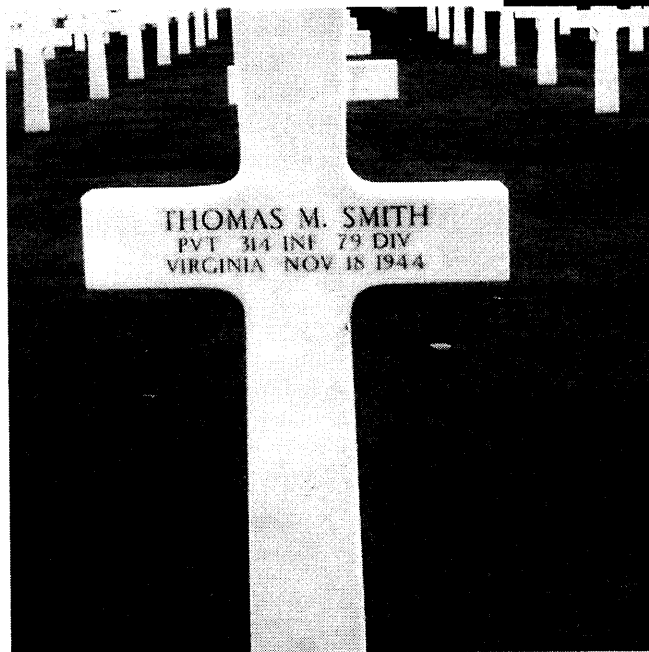
Special Memory:

D-Day + 8!



Honoring our Memory of
Pvt. Thomas M. Smith

*Killed in Action Nov. 18, 1944
Along the Moselle River
near Metz, France*



*American Cemetery
and Memorial
Epinal, France*

My mother displayed four stars in her window: three sons—one represented by a Gold Star, and one son-in-law, who just months later was taken prisoner by the Germans. The two surviving brothers returned home, joined the Reserve, and were called up to serve in Korea, seeing combat in two wars.

***By Buddie F. Smith
Parkton, Maryland***

Swan, Park (Pete)
700 Mount Gilead
Murrells Inlet, SC
843 651-4062
ppswan@earthlink.net

Pete was living in Knoxville, TN when he entered World War II service. Pete's route to the 314th was a circuitous one. His commission was as a lieutenant of artillery, earned at Fort Sill, OK; the next stop was Fort Bragg, NC, where he and the other young lieutenants from Fort Sill were told they'd been "hand-picked to become lieutenants of infantry." After some time at Fort Benning and then Camp Robinson, AR, he found himself with a shipment of young lieutenants headed overseas (as he had repeatedly asked) to England; they were a pool of replacements for infantry lieutenants—perhaps the most vulnerable officer post in all the military.

From England, Pete joined Co. E, 314th Regiment in France in September 1944. as company Executive Officer. His EAME Ribbon showed campaign battle stars for Northern France, Rhineland, and Ardennes-Alsace, earned in the months that followed.

It was in Lauterburg, France, in October 1944 that Pete sustained his first wound, and at Herrlisheim, France in January 1945 that he was wounded again. On that date, back again in Alsace in the Lauterburg Bulge action brought by the Germans, Pete was taken prisoner along with most of the 2nd Battalion; he was held until 8 May 1945. Not everyone, Pete says, knows how vulnerable was the 314th Regiment's 2nd Battalion at that time; it was replaced by units of the 42nd Division; and the battalion was ordered to leave its armaments for the 42nd troops. That left 2nd Battalion troops with little arms to defend themselves.

In his months in action with Co. E, Pete earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, plus, he wrote, "other stuff."

Pete, who attended the University of Maryland, made the military his profession. After leaving the 314th Regiment when captured in January 1945, and in his later career, he served 1st, 3rd, and 14th Divisions, 7th Field Artillery, and the 6th Infantry in Berlin, as well as serving in Fort Benning, Fort Sill, Fort Jackson, and (in his words) etc., etc., etc.

Pete's family included a son, Charles P. II, and a daughter, Sherry, and he had four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Special Memories

Battalion commander to Regiment [on the radio]: "Keep artillery falling on bridge in town. Over," saying it over and over. Then later prisoners assembled almost

on the bridge. Luckily all the shells went OVER.

(Pete's family military tradition went back a long way. His forebearers settled in Minnesota, and his grandfather was a Civil War Yankee drummer boy at age 16—years later, in 1880s, he moved to Knoxville, TN, where Pete grew up.)

Taschler, Anthony F.
22 Notch Park Rd.
Little Falls, NJ 07424

Anthony went to military service right after he graduated from high school in Clifton, NJ. After training with the 42nd Division, he joined the 314th Regiment at Camp Phillips, KS in January 1944. He was assigned to Co. F, 3rd Squad, 3rd Platoon. He was a rifleman and scout with Co. F when it entered combat in Normandy. A Private First Class, he was wounded on 30 July in Normandy, which ended his link with the regiment. He returned to the U.S. on a hospital ship and was discharged at Walter Reed Hospital, DC in August 1945.

Anthony's EAME Ribbon carried campaign battle stars for Normandy and Northern France, and he received the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation, and Distinguished Service Medal, along with others.

Anthony F. Taschler

Little Falls, New Jersey
Forward Scout
with Rifle Company F



After the war, Anthony attended New York State College and the University of Nebraska—where he took a B.S. in science. He worked as a chemist for 35 years at the Picatinny Arsenal, Dover, NJ. He married Agnes Turrin, also from Clifton, NJ, and they became parents of three children: Susan, Jayne, and Jeffrey. Three grandchildren joined the family.

Special Memories

Years after the war, I went back to Normandy with my family—my son rented a chateau outside Cherbourg, where General Collins of the VII Corps accepted the surrender of Gen. von Schluren. We also visited Fort du Roule, which the 2nd Battalion captured, and Ste. Mire Eglise.

Tomory, Gay W.
801 Park-Harbour Dr.
Boardman, OH 44512

Campbell, OH was the hometown from which Gay entered military service. The end of May 1942 brought him into the 314th Regiment at Camp Pickett, VA. Pre-service experience in warehouses of the A & P grocery chain brought him assignment to supply in the regiment's Service Company. (A numerologist might interpret something unique in the fact that Gay's birth date, March 14, can be represented as 3-14.)

Gay's service from then on was with the 314th Regiment, all the way to his separation in October 1945. His EAME Ribbon carried campaign battle stars for Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace; and he was with the regiment in its occupation duty in Germany and Czechoslovakia. He listed only the Good Conduct Medal among awards and recognitions. His rating was Staff Sergeant.

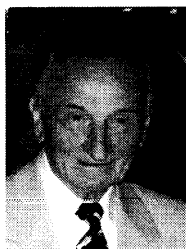
Gay married Mary—also from Campbell, OH, before he went to war, and they became parents of a son, Dennis. From 1948 on the family has lived at Boardman, OH—which remains their home at this time.

Gay's post-war career included stints as a supervisor, a business owner, and business executive.

Special Memories

I spent my first anniversary with Mary at Fort Hays, Columbus, OH, and spent my third anniversary on Utah Beach, Normandy on D-Day + 8. This year marks our 67th anniversary.

The best memory of the war was returning home!



West, Theodore M.
1226 E. Cambridge
Springfield, MO 65804

Cuba, OH was the hometown from which Ted entered the military. He was an early-arriver to the 314th Regiment, joining in June 1942. First assigned to Headquarters Company of the 3rd Battalion, he later became Company Commander of Co. K in combat.

Wounded in Normandy, he came back to the company through all the regiment's campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace. He was then a captain and stayed with the regiment until July 1945. (Ted wrote "several" under the heading that asked for medals and commendations but didn't name any. We can assume several, prominent among them the Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart, Victory Medal, and Army of Occupation Medal, and—if a typical CO, one or more of the Stars for valor.)

Ted remained in the military, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1966. He attended the University of Maryland and married Catherine Scott, from Conway Springs, Kansas.

Special Memories

"Too many to list."

Witmeyer, J. J., Jr.
139 Imperial Woods Drive
Harahan, LA 70123
504 737-6729
jjwj@bellsouth.net

J.J., WW II historian and a stalwart in shaping and maintaining the 314th Infantry Regiment Association, lived in New Orleans, LA when he left home for military service. Early in that service, June 1942, he joined the 314th Regiment at Camp Pickett, VA. He went into France with the regiment as an enlisted man—rifleman and scout; when he left the regiment after the end of combat, he was a Captain—commissioned as captain on the battlefield, with a chest full of medals and ribbons. His EAME Ribbon had all of the 314th Regiment's campaign stars: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace. Wounded twice in 1944—at La Haye du Puits, France in July and at the German border in Alsace in November, he had earned the Purple Heart with oak-leaf cluster, the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star with "V" and three oak-leaf clusters, Battlefield Commission Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, Good Con-



duct Medal; and the French government had conferred the Fleur de Guerre and he had two U.S. Congressional Unit Citations.

J.J. separated from the Regiment in July 1945. He had further service with the 14th and 16th Armored Divisions and was in the army reserve during the Korean Conflict and the Cold War.

J.J. and wife, Thais Audrey, became parents of four sons: John, Jr., Michael John, Kurt John, and Eric John; they had two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. After many years of adding her support to J.J.'s work on behalf of the association, Thais, now deceased, is interred at the National Cemetery in Arlington, VA.

Special Memories

Let us never forget the 400,000 servicemen who gave their lives in the unthinkable slaughter of WW II—those who lay in the graves on foreign soil or in the deep seas of the world. Remember also those who served in other wars and those who are presently in harm's way. May God continue to bless all of us.

Yates, Richard T.
6626 Monroe Ave.
Sykesville, MD 21784
410 781-4950
ryate3s@carr.org

Here is Dick's own account of his military experience.

I had the chance of being deferred from the draft as I was still in high school, but most of my fellow students and neighborhood buddies were all gone into one of the services. I had made a mistake and had taken my Mom to a movie entitled *Air Force*. I think everybody in the movie was slaughtered, and she made me promise not to join the Army Air Corps. She agreed not to stop me from going into the army.

I quit school and took a defense job in one of the shipyards in the Baltimore harbor area so that I could leave her some funds to see her through until I drew what funds I would get from the army. It wasn't long before I was inducted and sent to Fort Lee, near Richmond, VA for processing, and then, in September 1943, I was sent to Muskogee, OK at Camp Gruber to begin building the 42nd Rainbow Division. I remained with them until February 1944, when I was sent with several hundred others to Camp Phillips to meet the 79th Division near the city of Salina, KS. The division was being reconstituted after losing some older men on maneuvers held in Arizona.

We left there and shipped overseas on 7 April 1944, arriving nine days later, on 16 April, at Liverpool; we

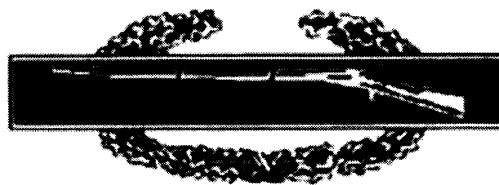
were trucked to the little town of Knutsford in Cheshire, England. Our training there consisted mainly of long forced marches until the invasion; then we were shipped to Southampton and boarded ships for France on D-Day + 11. With others from Co. K, we experienced the first incoming 88mm rounds from Germans two nights later just outside our objective, the port of Cherbourg. There came the first deaths we were to encounter as we lost close buddies. Several days later in Cherbourg, we lost more of our men, but this time the Germans paid for it, big time!

My own combat career ended on 3 July on Road No. 9 into La Haye du Puits: my body received eight "insults" delivered by the Germans. I was sent back to England for several operations and stayed there until September when we returned to the U.S. on the liner Queen Elizabeth. A hospital in Staunton, VA was my place of recuperation until I was sent to Fort Story, Virginia to be mustered out and returned home.

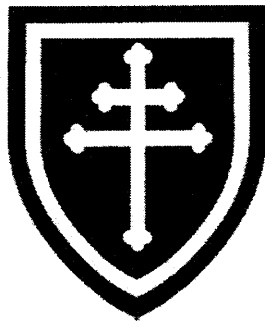
At home again, I met and married Mary L. Dawson; our marriage produced three children, Julia, Donald, and Kenneth.

It was in the summer of 1961 or 1962 when we heard of the reunions of the 314th Regiment. Mary and I have made most of them over the years since. Mary's sister, Rose Marie Lewis, lost her husband in 1995, and she now attends with us.

(See also Dick's account [p.46] of a 1991 return to Europe to help find a place for locating a memorial in France to the 79th Infantry Division.)



***Our Thanks and Gratitude
to the Men of the
79th Infantry Division***



***for your sacrifices to
insure our freedom***

***God Watch Over
You***

The Starkey and Neff Families

Maglaras, Constantine (Gus)
19944 23rd Ave.
Whitestone, NY 11347
718 352-3590

Gus was living in Brooklyn, NY when he went to military service in the army. He linked with the 314th Regiment on 20 Oct 1944 at Luneville, France, where he was assigned to Co. C. Less than a month later, at Barbas, France, he was wounded; he returned to the company and was with it until, when the high-point men went home, he was transferred to the Cannon Company of the 1st Division's 18th Regiment.

Gus took part in three of the regiment's campaigns: Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace. He earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, American Defense Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. His highest rating was as Technical Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant.

He was discharged from service in March 1946. He graduated from New York University as a civil engineer. He and Bessie, from Whitestone (Queens, NY), became parents of three sons: Nicholas, Thomas, and George. And they have eight grandchildren. They have lived their lives in the New York area, Brooklyn and Whitestone.

Special Memories

Originally I signed with the Enlisted Reserve Corps on Oct. 23, 1942; entered into active service on June 19, 1943; was sent overseas to Europe on Sept. 11, 1944 and arrived there on Sept. 19, 1944. Discharged from service on March 10, 1946.

Congor, Milton
PO Box 294
Burlington, CO 80807

Milton was living in Burlington, CO when he entered military service. In September 1944 he joined the 314th Regiment as a replacement, going into L Company where he served as rifleman and platoon runner—3rd Platoon. He was wounded in the next month in action at Foret de Parroy, France. His awards included Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart, American Service Medal, Victory Medal, and Good Conduct Medal plus campaign battle stars on his EAME Ribbon for Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace. A Private First Class, Milton stayed with the regiment in occupation duty in Germany and Czechoslovakia. He was mustered out in January 1946.

Milton returned to Burlington, CO after military

service. A carpenter and contractor in his civilian career, Milton and his wife were parents of three children: Linda, Nancy, and Connie with 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Special Memories

I traveled with the 79th Division reunion to France in 1997 and was honored to present to the Mayor of Cherbourg a U.S. flag that had flown over the Capitol in Washington, DC.

Boes, W.J.
14 N. Perry St.
New Riegel, OH 44843

Pete lived in Tiffin, OH when he went to military service. He joined the 314th Regiment as a cook in Co. F, serving in its campaigns shown in battle stars for his EAME Ribbon: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. And he was with the company until October 1945; his rating was Tech 4.

In his civilian life, Pete was a contractor. He and wife, Hildegard, became parents of four sons: Richard, John, Gary Joe, and Thomas, welcoming to the family seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Maier, James W.
43 Avon Road
Towanda, NY
716 835-7543

James was living in Racine, WI when he entered military service. His service with the 314th Regiment began in December 1944 in the Alsace, France. He joined Co. A as rifleman and was later a clerk with the company. In addition to the Combat Infantryman Badge, James earned the Bronze Star and Distinguished Unit Citation, plus others he didn't list. His EAME Ribbon carried campaign battle stars for Rhineland and Central Europe. His rating was Corporal, and he served with the regiment on occupation duty in Germany and Czechoslovakia until September 1945, when he was transferred to the 1st Division (G Co. of the 18th Infantry Regiment)

An aerospace engineer in his civilian career, James earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in electrical engineering at the University of Wisconsin. His wife, Lucille Hotzelt-Maier, came from Syracuse, NY. They had no children.

Cronin, Dennis L.
131 Washington Ave.,
Chelsea, MA
617 884-1594

Dennis was living in Peabody, MA when he entered military service. He joined the 314th Regiment in December 1942 at Camp Blanding, FL. Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion was his unit, in which he served as an engineer and in the Pioneer Platoon. A Private First Class, Dennis's service took him through all of the Regiment's campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes-Alsace. In addition to the Combat Infantryman Badge, and a unit citation earned at Cherbourg, he received other awards. His service with the regiment continued in occupation duty in Germany and Czechoslovakia until his discharge in December 1945.

In civilian life, Dennis was a self-employed carpenter. His wife, Eileen, was also from Chelsea, MA; they became parents of a son, Paul, and a daughter, Eileen. Three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren joined the family. Dennis and the family lived in Peabody, East Boston, and Chelsea—all in Massachusetts.

Special Memories

Dennis recalls his training with the regiment: We went through basic training at Camp Blanding, FL, then went into our new company [HQ 2nd Battalion]. In April we went to Tennessee for maneuvers, three months training. When we returned to Camp Forest, TN, we were told we were going to Camp Laguna, AZ. After four months of more training, we thought we were going to Africa, but were sent to Camp Phillips, KS. We received new clothing and were told that they had to be tested, some to 5 degrees below zero. After more training there, we were sent to Camp Myles Standish, MA; it was an embarkation camp. We sailed from Boston to England, landed in Glasgow and billeted on a golf course in Lancashire, England in April 1944. The rest is history of the 79th Infantry Divison.

And Dennis added this truly **special memory**: When I was separated from the service in 1945.

Dennis sent this photo with his notes. He is in the middle. To his right is Jones, to his left, Murphy, who was KIA in July 1944.

Manzi, Andrew
14 Manzi Drive
Millbrook, NY 12545

Andrew lived in Millbrook, NY when he went to military service. In October 1942 he joined the 314th Regiment, serving in communications with HQ of the 3rd Battalion. He went with the battalion through campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. He was a sergeant.

Andrew came back to Millbrook and based his post-war life there. His profession was in the tavern and restaurant business.

Notes from these six comrades arrived after we had begun putting the booklet together, too late to locate them in their alphabetical order. We're delighted to include them here.



**DEDICATED TO
THE MEN OF THE INTELLIGENCE AND RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON
314TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
79th DIVISION—WW II**

* Charles W. Farrior, 1 st Lt	** Homer T. Merrill, T/SGT	* John Q. Aven,
** Ellis Johnson, Sgt	* John F. Ryals, PFC, Medic	Horace M. Ryan, PFC
* Donald D. Derrow, T/5	* James A. Davis, T/3	* J. Alex Lazenby, T/Sgt
* Charles R. Regan, Pvt	Edward A. Morrison, PFC	* John J. Grasso, Pvt
* Donald Frey, Pvt	* John McNulty, PFC	* Sam Hacker, Pvt
* Gus Cocco, Pvt	* Ralph W. Blake, Pvt	* John Marauinac, PFC
* Harry Stolzenberger, S/Sgt	* John Bogus, Sgt	Robert M. Morgan, T/5
*** Marion Koslovich, Sgt	Manuel L. Rapoza, PFC	Leroy Spayd, PFC
*** Herbert Sandage, Sgt	*** Raymond McGhee T/5	**** Lewis E. Hall, PFC
*** Earnest Sullivan, T/5	Harry Ruderman, T/4	Marvin Jenkins, Cpl
Bill Colleran	**** Earnest D. Rebert, Cpl	

* Captured ** Killed *** Wounded **** Battle Field Commission



Back Row: Alex Lazenby, Lewis Hall, Marvin Jenkins, Marion Koslovich, John Q Aven,
Donald D. Derrow

Front Row: Ellis Johnson, John McNulty, Horace (Red) Ryan, Earnest Rebert,
Frank Ryals (Doc)

Page provided by John Frank "Doc" Ryals (Updated from 2006 and 2007)

General Patton's Victory Letter

Headquarters
Third United States Army
APO 403

GENERAL ORDERS

9 May 1945

NUMBER 98

SOLDIERS OF THE THIRD ARMY, PAST AND PRESENT

During the 281 days of incessant and victorious combat, your penetrations have advanced farther in less time than any other army in history. You have fought your way across 24 major rivers and innumerable lesser streams. You have liberated or conquered more than 82,000 square miles of territory, including 1500 cities and towns, and some 12,000 inhabited places. Prior to the termination of active hostilities, you had captured in battle 956,000 enemy soldiers and killed or wounded at least 500,000 others. France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia bear witness to your exploits.

All men and women of the six corps and thirty-nine divisions that have at different times been members of this army have done their duty. Each deserves credit. The enduring valor of the combat troops has been paralleled and made possible by the often unpublicized activities of the supply, administrative, and medical services of this Army and of the Communications Zone troops supporting it. Nor should we forget our comrades of the other armies and of the Air Force, particularly of the XIX Tactical Air Command, by whose side or under whose wings we have had the honor to fight.

In proudly contemplating our achievements, let us never forget our heroic dead whose graves mark the course of our victorious advances, nor our wounded whose sacrifices aid so much to our success.

I should be both ungrateful and wanting in candor if I failed to acknowledge the debt we owe to our Chiefs of Staff, Generals Gaffey and Gay, and to the officers and men of the General and Special Staff Sections of Army Headquarters. Without their loyalty, intelligence, and unremitting labors, success would have been impossible.

The termination of fighting in Europe does not remove the opportunities for other outstanding and equally difficult achievements in the days which are to come. In some ways the immediate future will demand of you more fortitude than has the past because, without the inspiration of combat, you must maintain—by your dress, deportment, and efficiency—not only the prestige of the Third Army but also the honor of the United States. I have complete confidence that you will not fail.

During the course of this war, I have received promotions and decorations far above my individual merit. You won them; I as your representative wear them. The one honor that is mine and mine alone is that of having commanded such an incomparable group of Americans, the record of whose fortitude, audacity, and valor will endure as long as history lasts.

G. S. Patton, Jr.

G. S. Patton, Jr.
General

A Tale of Togetherness: Two Times

By Joseph Campbell
Wireman, HQ 3rd Battalion

The significance of this article is not so much what happened during the war but what happened after the war—because of the war. My role in it came from my fortunate rescue from Drusenheim that fateful night of 19 January 1945. What happened that night to the 314th Regiment is the basis and source for this article.

The morning reports—or lack of the same—for 20 January 1945 revealed that the regiment needed a 2nd Battalion as well as lots of replacements for all the line companies. The weather, the enemy, and the Bulge up north had taken a heavy toll in personnel and equipment. To restore it to strength would be no small undertaking. After a few days the plans called for the regiment to move to the general area of Ponta-Mousson. Headquarters and HQ Company located in Jezainville, a rural village that was returning to freedom as best it could from four years of unwelcome occupation by German soldiers. At that particular time, we were a ragged bunch of American GIs, but a welcome sight for those French people who had been denied so much for so long.

By nighttime, our travel had taken us far enough that it was safe to use the headlights, in itself a memorable experience. We had not seen light from headlights since leaving the States in April 1944, 10 months earlier. We reached our destination the night of 6 February and our five-man crew was billeted at 38 Grande rue with the Nave family: Mama, Papa, one boy, and four girls ranging from 13 months to 14 years.

We trained during the day and visited with our hosts at night. They were gracious and entertained us as best they could, considering their limited resources. Neither we nor they could speak the other's language, but that was no barrier. One night we played Kiss the Bottle game. The country boy from rural Tennessee had never heard of such a game. A bottle was passed around, and you kissed it. When I kissed it, there were snickers, but I didn't know why. After the bottle made the cycle, you had to kiss the person next to you at the location where you kissed the bottle. The person next to me was Bernadette, the 14-year-old—but she could have passed for a few years older. I had kissed the bottle where it enlarged below the neck. Yes! That's where I had to kiss Bernadette. I'm not sure about her, but everyone else got a big kick out of my ignorance.

Time passed quickly. Orville Goldsworth, from Waterloo, IA, became our Jeep driver, replacing John "Pop" Mravinac, from Chicago, who was captured in Drusenheim. The telephone line between regiment HQ and 2nd Battalion HQ was out of order, and it was our turn to find the problem and fix it. Pop and I separated where the line crossed the railroad because we couldn't get the Jeep across the tracks. Pop was to go around and meet me on the other side. Enemy fire gave Pop two flat tires before he got to the other side. I never saw or heard from him after that. (About 15 years ago I learned that he had made it back to Chicago, married, and—not long before that—had died.)

We departed Jezainville, and our dear French friends, and headed to Belgium on 14 February. The training and rest had started our preparation for crossing the Rhine River. I received a few hand-written post cards from Bernadette during the year that passed before I was discharged in February 1946.

Now fast-forward to 1990. A newspaper article from a nearby town aroused my interest and curiosity for news of the Nave family. On 19 December a letter was on its way to "Residents, 38 Grande rue, Jezainville, France." Early January 1991 broke the 45-year silence. The postal service had gone through Ponta-Mousson, and the postman serving Jezainville asked a cousin of the Nave family to forward the letter. Exchanges of letters after that brought information about the families. Bernadette, at age 23, had married and moved to Forbach, many miles away near the German border.

In April 1993, I was part of a tour group that went to France to dedicate the beautiful monument at La Haye du Puits, financed by veterans of the 79th Infantry Division. In the first week, the tour covered Normandy and in the second week, Alsace-Lorraine.

During the first week, I mailed a letter to Bernadette advising that we would be in Rittershoffen on the next Saturday and Sunday. She received the letter on Saturday and called the Rittershoffen police department to ask if they knew where the Americans were staying. "No," was the response, "But we will call you back in 10 minutes." As we entered the motel late that afternoon, I heard the message, "Joe Campbell, telephone." I couldn't understand a word I was hearing, but our tour guide helped me: Bernadette and her husband wanted to come to Rittershoffen the next day to visit us. What a pleasant visit! It would take volumes to tell the pleasures and satisfactions that we have gained from this experience and friendship. Sometimes such feelings can't



Joe is to the left of center in the photo above; Bernadette is to his right—his hand is on her shoulder. Her younger sisters are also in the photo. Youngest is the babe in arms at the left.



Four sisters survived when Joe met them again in 1991. Bernadette is the one at the left. Two of the other three still live.

be expressed, but thank goodness they can be enjoyed. I agree fully with the words of Millie Jean Coppedge's book title, *War Memories are Forever*.

So many things seemed determined by fate: It was my turn to go to Drusenheim to repair that broken wire; as I approached the point of the break, two wiremen from the 2nd Battalion were already repairing it. Had I been hiding in a basement instead of standing out in the dark in front of the house; if the I & R crew had not seen me as they came into town to see what was going on. (They found out: they drove right into the face of the German attack and turned back.) In less than three minutes they were on their way out of town, and I was with them.

Pop, however, did not get out. Without these fateful elements, who knows? You might not have this account before you.

The totality of this experience, the ramifications, odds against the way it unfolded after 45 years (plus the 18 years since we reestablished contact with the Nave family) comprise the significance we mentioned in the first sentence.

Bernadette and I exchange letters at least once a year. Of the Nave family only she and two of the other girls are left.

The Night Drusenheim Fell

By Frank (Doc) Ryals,
I & R Platoon

The place was Drusenheim, France; the date was 19 January 1945; I was the Medic for the I & R Platoon, 314th Regiment, 79th Infantry Division.

In mid-January, we were given a mission to keep check on the areas between Bischwiller, Rohrwiller, and Drusenheim. The 2nd Battalion was headquartered in Drusenheim. Word was that Lt. Farrior, I & R Platoon Leader and Lt. Col. Huff, 2nd Battalion Commander were good friends. Because of that, we set up headquarters in Drusenheim, about 75-100 yards from the 2nd Battalion. One of our squads would go out and set up an outpost between Rohrwiller and Drusenheim for 12 hours, and then we would rotate. The enemy was constantly sending in sporadic harassing fire. At 1800 hours on the 19th, they unleashed heavy artillery and mortar fire on the town. This lasted for a long time, probably an hour, with sporadic fire after that. The attack was on. The only big guns we had were two Tank Destroyers and three wheel-mounted 57 mm cannons. These were soon out of commission, either destroyed or overrun. One of the Tank Destroyers parked at the steps to the house we were in. Fighting was all around us. Our boys, led by Sgt. John Aven and Sgt. Ellis Johnson, were firing out the windows and doors of our house. Ellis was wounded and had to be evacuated. This went on until around midnight. This house was typical French with the manure pile in the back. The town was small, probably less than one mile wide.

At one point, a German soldier tried to climb up on the Tank Destroyer parked at our doorstep. Someone hollowed, "He doesn't speak English, shoot him". He was killed. A special point, the weather was terrible. There was lots of snow and I have read in our history that the temperature was 20 below. Even though it was night, it was light outside with the snow.

Around midnight, the Germans had surrounded the town, going house to house and were in complete control. Col. Huff had been calling for help but no help arrived. At this point, it was obvious that we could not get out. We were told to try to make our way to the 2nd Battalion HQ, since it had a basement and maybe there would be more safety in numbers.

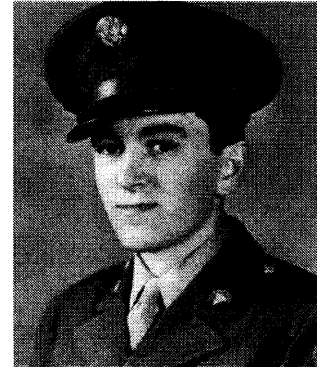
On signal, one of us would try to run to the HQ.

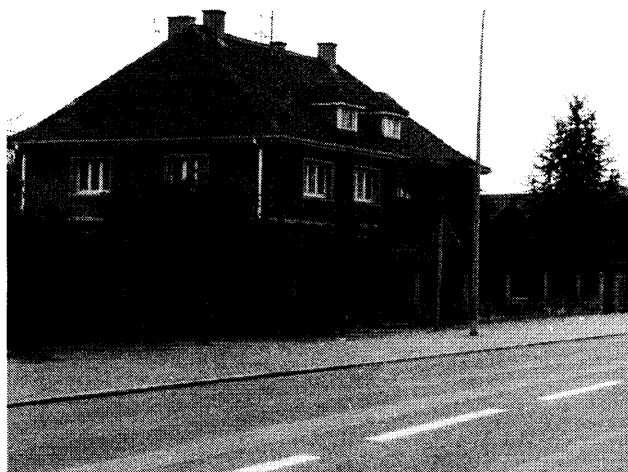
Believe me, that was a big leap of faith to step out that door and try to run 75-100 yards, get to the door and be sure to remember the pass word. Then hope that the guy on the door was not too trigger-happy and we could get the password out before he shot. We did make it to the basement. It was pitch black and crowded.

Someone called for a Medic and I made my way to the sound. Someone had a cigarette lighter and I saw a sergeant who had a large piece of his skull (about 1½ to 2 inches) over his right eye missing. (If anyone has any knowledge of this, and especially if they know who the sergeant was, I would really like to hear from them.)

On a lighter note, remember the 2004 Presidential election, one candidate had a story about what he did under fire. If I ever run for President, (ha ha) I have a great line. I once did brain surgery, under fire, by a cigarette lighter.

At about 4 a.m., a German tank drove up to the front door of the house with the 88 mm gun pointed right at the door. The Germans demanded we surrender and came in the house. We started up the stairs and the first guy up was shot. It was dark and we could not see but had to walk over him to get out. That was very disturbing. At that point, we were taken prisoner and marched outside in the street. The I & R Squad that was on the outpost managed to escape. After a while, our captors started marching us in the direction of the house that we (the I & R Platoon) had been in. The Tank Destroyer was still at the door step and the dead German was lying by it. We were afraid that the Germans would take reprisal action when they saw that but luckily they didn't. We were forced to keep our hands above our heads and were marched through town toward the Rhine River. On the edge of town, we stopped for a long time but they would not let us put our hands down. This became difficult, and the cold was unbearable. Around 5:30 a.m., our own artillery, which we had wanted all night, started





This house was headquarters for the 2nd Battalion. It was destroyed in the battle but was rebuilt and on my later visits to Drusenheim it looked the same as I remembered it.

shelling, and they were hitting all around us. The Germans would not let us try to take cover. They rejoiced in telling us that it was our own artillery. The sergeant who had the head wound was forced to march with us and finally the Germans let some of our boys help hold him up. Some time later, several hours after capture, he was taken away, and we never knew what happened to him. The Germans had breakfast but we had nothing. We marched for about four days without food before reach-

ing the first temporary camp. Those who were in the area at that time, know that we did not have good winter clothes so it is a miracle that we survived. And so for us the war was over. In reality, another war to survive had just begun. God was so good to us because most of us did survive.

I had the opportunity to visit Drusenheim in 1977 and 1980. I immediately found the house that the I & R Platoon was in. The 2nd Battalion HQ house was destroyed. The rebuilt house looked very much like the original. We went to the police station and they found a lady (a teacher in a local college) who escorted us around. We visited with the family in the house where the 2nd Battalion had been.

As a footnote, someone decided that the Air Force should send some troops from England to see what it was like on the front line. Two Air Force lieutenants (Woodhurst and Speed) were assigned to the I & R Platoon for two weeks. They were captured.

This is written with gratitude to all of our troops that fought so gallantly against overwhelming odds. We were down to about half strength because of the Battle of the Bulge. The Germans had us greatly outnumbered with men and equipment, including many tanks, mortars and artillery.



Dick Yates Remembers

Finding a Place for the 79th Division's Memorial Monument in France

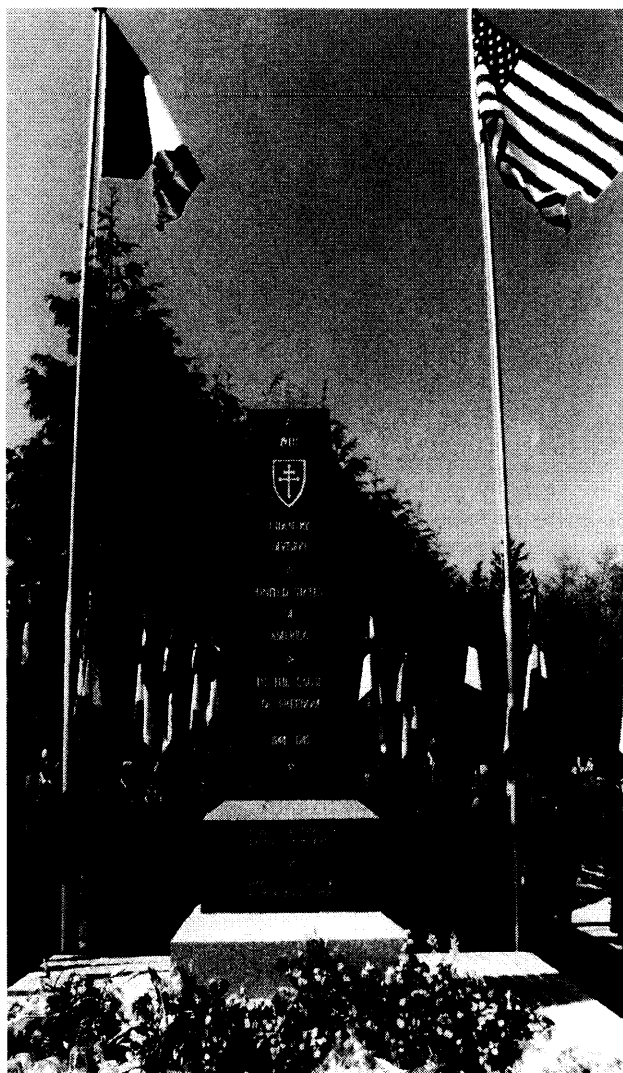
I was asked by Joe Campbell to write my remembrances of a trip to France and Germany in 1991. Seven ex-GIs were asked to find the best place in Europe to build a memorial to all our fellows of the 79th Infantry Division and the 79th Reconnaissance Troop who served with the division during World War II. The seven came from each of the regiments: Les Brantingham, Warren Honey, Glenn Welch, and Wiley Taylor of the 315th, Carl Lillo and Patrick Reilly, of the 313th, and myself, Dick Yates, of the 314th Regiment.

I had never met any of these guys, and I had no photos. All I knew was that I was supposed to meet them in Kennedy air terminal in New York on a certain day in September 1991. I flew out of Baltimore-Washington International Airport. I must have looked like a typical lost Dogface, because I hadn't looked long before someone pulled off my cap and put a 315th Regiment cap in its place. I swung around to see who was messing with me and discovered six other Dogfaces staring back at me. That was the only introduction I was going to get.

We flew into Orly air terminal in Paris. Pat Reilly was the designated driver of our rental car (he was the only one who knew anything about the French language), and he would have to interpret the road signs. I guess the jet lag got to us, so we just hung around Paris on that first day in Europe. Pat tried his French to get us a lodging. I remember him asking about a *maison*—I think the word means “room” in English. After obtaining rooms that first time, we went to have a meal and wine.

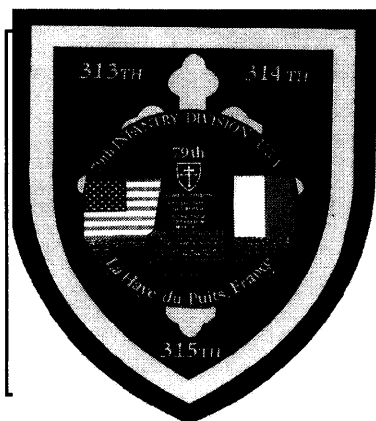
Funny things come to mind as to this trip, and I'll jot them down as they come to mind.

Next morning we got an early start and headed for a town named Loue. I was surprised by



the reception that was awarded to our group. I don't think the 314th fought in that town, but one of the regiments had in the June-July 1944 time frame. I learned that whatever unit had been there was loved by these townsfolk. Each of the seven of us was taken to a different home of one of its citizens. I had no knowledge of the French language, and my hosts knew only a few words in English. It made it a bit awkward; we most exchanged smiles. The townsfolk got us all together for a wonderful lunch of cheese and lunch meat and then took us for a review of the town of Loue. They presented each of us a medallion that had the official seal of the town imprinted thereon.

Les Brantingham and I kept hearing a word in French (actually it was *voila*) that sounded like “wah lah” to our American ears. We cornered one of our French hosts and asked why they kept saying that word: did it mean O.K. in English? The poor Frenchman scratched his head and withdrew from us. Les and I



broke up and didn't dare ask anyone else. Until this day I do not know if Les ever got the meaning of the word; I have not, but we had a lot of fun about it.

At supper time the citizens broke out the food. I cannot remember the exact amount of food, but there were about eight courses. As soon as we finished one course, they would bring out another—and I mean huge amounts of food on each course. I had to find out why we got such treatment from these strangers. I can't remember if it was Les Brantingham or Pat Reilly who told us the story of why. It was because of the quick deployment of the 79th Division. After we took the Port of Cherbourg, elements of the 79th rolled into the town of Loue. The Germans had stood all of the able-bodied, mostly young, men from the town against a wall to be machine-gunned. When our forward elements reached the outskirts of Loue, the Germans decided to hightail it out of there without the slaughter they were about to commit. Of course, the men of the 79th are forever the friends of Loue residents. We stayed another day and then were on our way again.

We criss-crossed France and some of Germany. This was all new territory to me, since I received severe wounds on the first day of the six-day battle at La Haye du Puits in Normandy. The rest of the trip was enjoyed most by the other fellows who had gone through the whole war with the 79th.

We went to Luneville and stayed a couple of days. I remember Warren Honey relating a story where he was during the battle for Luneville. He peered out of a little room from which he was observing German troop movements. A sniper zeroed in on him; the bullet went into his helmet from the front and exited from the side just about where his ear was. He said he remembered nothing until American troops took what they thought was his lifeless body out of the building and laid him on the sidewalk to be picked up. He said he couldn't say how long he lay there before he revived with only scrapes on his head and a huge hole in his helmet.

Next we went to Nancy, where most everything was painted gold. I'm not sure if they were having some kind of festival, but the sight was impressive.

We turned back toward La Haye du Puits; why La Haye? We saw no place that had more meaning. The losses we endured there were outstanding, close to 3,000 men killed or wounded. Yours truly was one casualty counted in that battle.

We had stopped in American cemeteries where some of our comrades from the first World War still lay: Verdun, where the battle took place before America entered that war, and Chateau Thierrey. Both are still maintained but not like what we wanted for our comrades. So

we went back to where our blood was spilled at La Haye du Puits.

We advised the town leaders that we needed a plot of land and wanted it to be maintained perpetually. They agreed, so the construction contracts were let. The site construction was completed in 1993, and a contingent of members, with wives and families in April 1993, attended the unveiling of our monument in the downtown area of La Haye du Puits—along that dreaded Route 9.

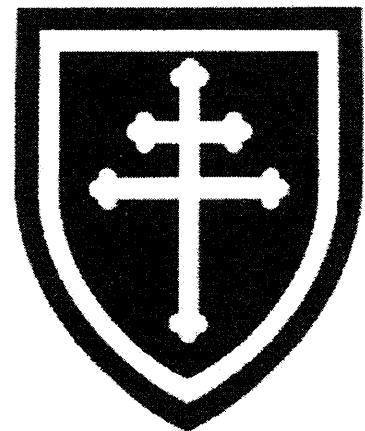
As I write this, I am reminded that I am the sole survivor of the seven who went on this search mission. I have recalled it as best I can. I wish I could reflect the fun we had in accomplishing the mission. I thank God for letting me know these six who have gone on before me. As long as I live, they will not be forgotten.

Yours in comradeship

Richard T. Yates

K Company,

314th Infantry Regiment



Les Fleurs de la Memoire: An Update

In the booklet that commemorated the 60th Reunion of our regiment, we told some of the story of one group of French citizens who gave action to their gratitude for the U.S. soldiers in the liberation of France. That action was to organize in the year 2000 *Les Fleurs de la Memoire* (The Flowers of Remembrance). It is made up of individuals who adopt graves of specific fallen U.S. soldiers interred the American Cemeteries of Normandy. The member visits that grave at least once each year, decorating it with flowers.

The organization continues in its mission and adds to its dedicated membership. It numbered about 1,500 when described in a media report in 2003. In August 2008, the membership had passed 8,790.

In the photo below are the founders of the association: M. Claude Lavielle, left, and Mde. Lavielle, right. The man holding the flag, Frank Towers, was in the 30th Division, which reinforced the 79th in the heavy fighting on the Seine Bridgehead at Gargenville, across the river from Epone. The flag had flown in the Normandy Cemetery at Omaha Beach.

M. Lavielle has said, "The American Cemeteries. . . are hallowed ground where we come to express our gratitude. In silence at the foot of each white marble cross or star of David, the one who comes to meditate feels with 'his' soldier."

You were so young, so full of expectations, so without fear, we feel you are, undeniably, a man of honor."

