

Kansas Memory



John Lee Meyer, Jr. World War II scrapbook

Section 3, Pages 61 - 90

This is a scrapbook compiled by John Lee Meyer, Jr., who served in the First Infantry Division, 18th Regiment, Company F. It contains photographs, maps, newspaper clippings, general orders, and telegrams documenting his training and service during World War II. Wounded on November 29, 1944, Meyer received a Purple Heart. After the war, he participated in the renovation of the courthouse where the Nuremberg trials were held.

Date: 1943-1946

Callnumber: Accession no. 2017-212

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 443272

Item Identifier: 443272

www.kansasmemory.org/item/443272

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apparently was to reach the Reich border before American units. Many of the foe were left behind in the rapid withdrawal, and the 1st was kept busy mopping up as well as sorting out a vast amount of enemy materiel, including gasoline, tires and food. Several units lived on German rations for more than a week. During the first days of September, 390 prisoners of war, representing 24 different units, passed through the PW cage, an indication of the enemy's confusion. These men were picked up in small actions as the division progressed northward in the direction of Mons.

The steamroller advance was so long and so rapid that Special Troops at times had great difficulty maintaining service for the front lines. Nevertheless, they succeeded. The 1st Medical Bn., despite tremendous problems incident to moving its installations every few days, kept all casualties moving through its clearing stations at high speed.

Through Belgium to Germany

SIEGFRIED BARRIER IS BREACHED

BY Sept. 3, an advance unit had crossed the Belgian border and reported contact with a large body of enemy streaming eastward in the direction of Charleroi. It was the opening gambit of one of the most costly single defeats suffered by the enemy in the Franco-Belgian campaign.

This was the situation: the 3rd Armd. Div., operating on the 1st's right on Sept. 2, had pushed a long finger north into Belgium east of Mons, cutting across the intended escape route of five German divisions. Three had been drawing back into the 1st Div. sector, the other two were retreating on the left. These units had been directed to make an orderly withdrawal and occupy the Siegfried Line before the Americans arrived.

THEY were well on their way when they collided with the flank of the 3rd Armd. Div. southeast of Mons. As they attempted to punch through, their southern flank was suddenly attacked by the 1st Div. combat teams in the vicinity of Bavaï, Riez de Lereille and Maubeuge. Late Sept. 3, enemy casualties were estimated at 7000—5000 captured and 2000 killed and wounded. What resistance was set up centered around Bavaï and Maubeuge; otherwise, enemy action was chaotic. Almost equally disastrous was the loss of materiel, including a Mark V tank, which, during the height of the confusion, obligingly followed a column of division transports into a motor pool at the signal of an American MP. Large groups of enemy were left wandering around the division area. Eighty anti-aircraft personnel led by a major mistakenly attempted to march through the division CP in an effort to get out. At Bavaï, one company of the 1st Bn., 18th Inf., in five hours of fighting, killed or wounded 200 Germans, captured 460 prisoners and much equipment. During a night assault by a whooping, fanatical enemy, the 26th Inf. netted 700 PWs.

Throughout the ensuing three days, there were no front lines. Enemy units continued to fight their way out of the division area. Some finally arranged meticulous surrenders.

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The scrapbook page features a central image of an open book. On the left page, the top half shows a red and green magazine cover with a soldier holding a rifle. The bottom half contains two columns of text. The first column discusses the defense of Stolberg, mentioning heavy opposition and the terrain's suitability for delaying tactics. The second column discusses the fall of Aachen, noting its cultural and historical significance as a key point in the Siegfried Line defenses.

Meanwhile, the 1st's own punch into Stolberg was being heavily opposed. The defense was well-coordinated and stubborn, the terrain well-suited to delaying tactics. Every house in Stolberg was contested. Enemy artillery was more and more in evidence. Division patrols were blocked as soon as they crossed the lines. Yet in one attack by the 16th Inf. in the Ellendorf sector, Sept. 19, a single company neutralized 19 pillboxes while seizing its objective, Crucifix Hill.

In spite of the enemy's tenacious defense, reports of PWs and deserters indicated morale was not sound. Defeatism was spreading among smaller, makeshift units; little groups were prepared to surrender at the proper opportunity. Even so, the Germans continued to launch local counter-attacks.

Aachen Was More Than a Battle
WITH THE 1ST IT'S ALWAYS "DUTY FIRST"

WHEN the battered city of Aachen surrendered under the grinding pressure of a direct assault by the 1st Oct. 21, Germany lost more than a cultural and historical landmark, an armament and coal-producing center, a key point in Siegfried Line defenses. Aachen also was a symbol of heroic resistance for the Germans, as Stalingrad had been for the Russians. Its successful defense was to have been

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a guarantee of the Reich's invulnerability. The German people had been positively assured that it could not be taken. Its defenders had been ordered by the commander of the Seventh Army to hold to the last man: "Your fight for the ancient imperial city is being followed with admiration and breathless expectancy. You are fighting for the honor of the National Socialistic German Army." But unlike Stalingrad, Aachen crumbled and Nazi honor received a shattering body blow.

From the beginning, the Germans, expecting the major attack to develop from the south, had massed their strongest

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forces there. Even after Oct. 1, when the city had been contained on the west, south, and east and division patrols were probing the inner defenses, the Germans maintained strong positions in the south, counter-attacking mostly only to prevent complete encirclement. But the plan came apart at the seams.

A counter-assault preceded by 3500 rounds of heavy artillery hit the 18th Inf. from the east Oct. 3. When the bitter close-in fighting was over, half the attacking force were casualties and half the big guns were knocked out. Five days later the 18th Inf. retaliated with a ferocious assault on Crucifix Hill, commanding ground northeast of the city. Each pillbox was taken separately after its defenders had been flushed with flame or by direct artillery fire. At the same time, the 28th Inf. moved into Forst and Beverau Wood. With these and the Verlautenheide ridge securely held, the last escape road to the north was brought under fire.

Again a savage counter-attack was launched from the east. The ferocity of the fighting can be judged from the fact that after Co. I, 18th Inf., had beaten off an assault with bayonets, more than 250 dead Germans lay in front of the company positions.

The city surrounded, even more bitter fighting for its rubble-strewn streets was in prospect. An ultimatum for its surrender was carried into Aachen by the S-2, 28th Inf.

Oct. 10. No answer signaled the beginning of the main attack. Fighter-bombers hammered defense positions and artillery pumped 5000 rounds into the eastern end of the city. For the next three days the men ground slowly forward, house by house, street by street.

Meanwhile, counter-attacks continued. Another bitter struggle centered against the 18th Inf. around Crucifix Hill. An even stronger attack was launched, Oct. 15, by the 3rd Panzer Grenadier Div. against the 18th Inf. For two days Germans threw tanks and infantry against the dominating ridge of Observatory Hill on the northern edge of the city. Miserable weather prevented use of air support and limited artillery shots, but close-in fighting with bayonet and hand grenade finally beat the attackers to their knees.

While the division parried with one fist it socked hard with the other. From Oct. 16 on, the enemy was reduced to parachuting supplies to its garrison defenders. By Oct. 20, remaining resistance centered around Technical High School on the western edge of town. Next day Col. Gerhard M. Wilck, commanding officer, surrendered unconditionally.

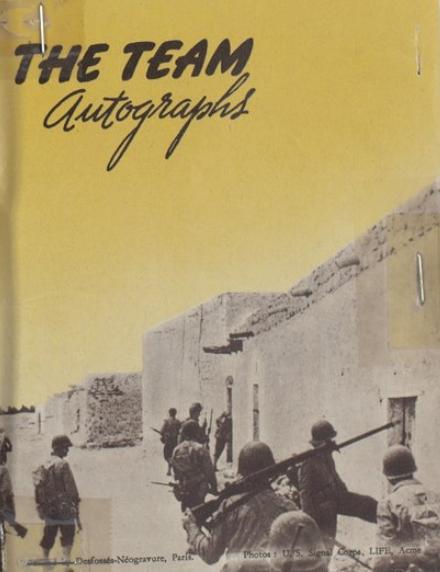
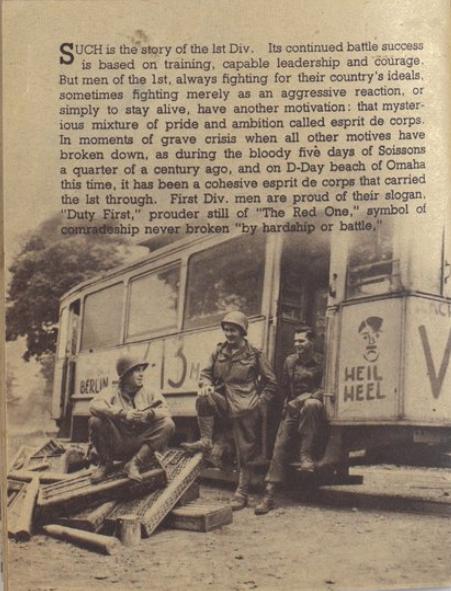
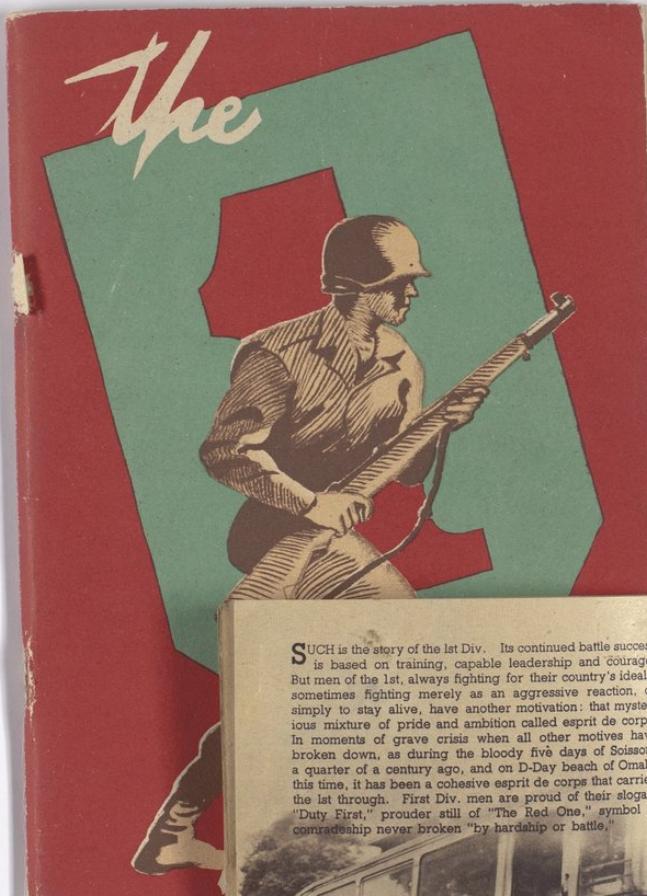
Big guns were silent over a dead city—a devastation of burst sewers, broken gas mains, bloated animals, of shattered glass and dangling power lines, of masses of shapeless rubble. Not one building remained intact.

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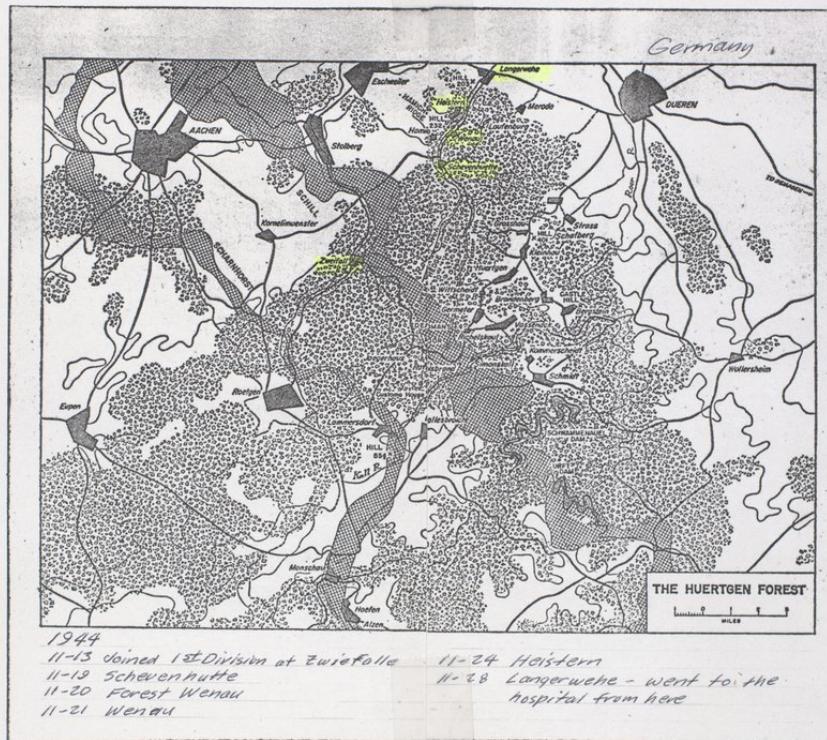


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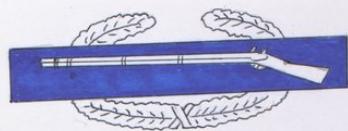


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RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS 18TH INFANTRY
APO 1, US ARMY

5 December 1944

(GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 38)

Under the provisions of War Department Circular Number 186, dated 11 May 1944, the following named officers and enlisted men are awarded the "Combat Infantryman Badge", effective on dates indicated, for exemplary conduct in action against the enemy:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
<u>COMPANY "F"</u>			
MENGLE, ROBERT W.	1ST LT	0-460578	20 Oct 1944
Cramer, Ernest A	S/Sgt	36104845	19 Nov 1944
Folds, Asa F	Pvt lcl	14029269	19 Nov 1944
Hale, Charles E	Pvt lcl	6987808	17 Nov 1944
Hanes, Arry J (KIA)	Pvt lcl	34376262	19 Nov 1944
Prentiss, Robert S	Pvt lcl	12097561	19 Nov 1944
Wilkes, Thadus O	Pvt lcl	34166579	15 Nov 1944
Burkhart, Harry O	Pvt	32243036	29 Oct 1944
Delaney, William R	Pvt	37593598	19 Nov 1944
Franklin, James L	Pvt	34967663	19 Nov 1944
Geisler, Glen M	Pvt	34987082	19 Nov 1944
Hagen, Alvin M	Pvt	39927901	19 Nov 1944
Haisley, Howard H	Pvt	35833114	19 Nov 1944
May, Philip S Jr	Pvt	34792814	19 Nov 1944
McMeans, Kenneth	Pvt	38405078	19 Nov 1944
Meyer, John L Jr	Pvt	37517977	19 Nov 1944
Niewiadomy, Edward J	Pvt	36967246	19 Nov 1944
O'Keeffe, Lawrence J	Pvt	31340775	15 Nov 1944
Penna, Robert C	Pvt	12125454	19 Nov 1944
Perdue, Charlie W	Pvt	34966983	15 Nov 1944
Portis, Charles A	Pvt	36891813	19 Nov 1944
Powell, Harold E (KIA)	Pvt	33709867	19 Nov 1944
Quigley, Carroll A	Pvt	33806150	15 Nov 1944
Speelman, George E Jr	Pvt	33849857	15 Nov 1944
Stump, Forest J	Pvt	35837159	19 Nov 1944
Thiele, Carl J (KIA)	Pvt	37683639	15 Nov 1944
Thomalia, John O	Pvt	37361000	15 Nov 1944
Wasilke, Charles	Pvt	42115474	19 Nov 1944
Waugh, Louis G	Pvt	34974133	19 Nov 1944
Weaver, Louis F	Pvt	35081856	19 Nov 1944

By order of Colonel Smith:

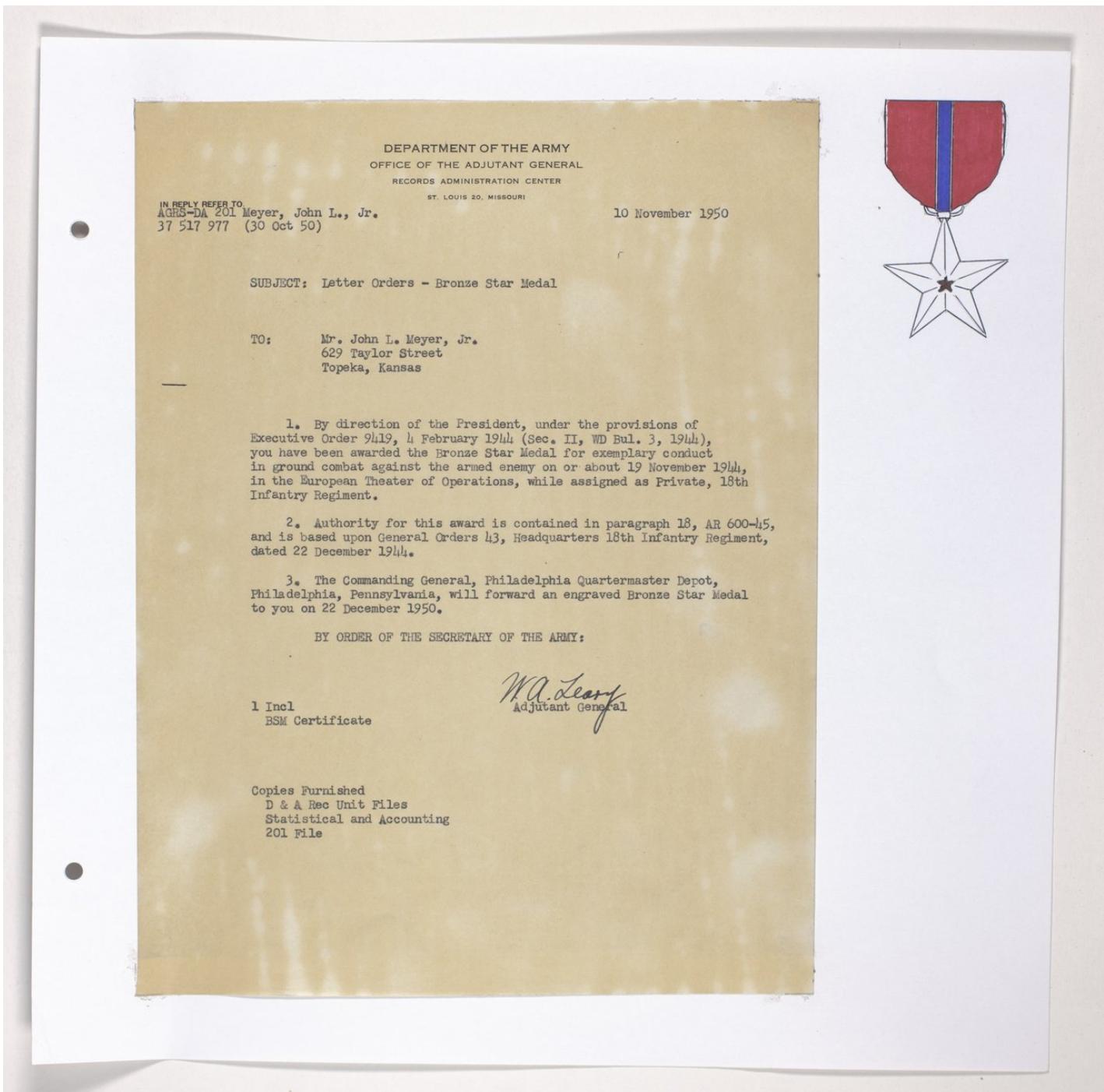
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ADJ

OFFICIAL:

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION CENTER
ST. LOUIS 20, MISSOURI

IN REPLY REFER TO
AGRS-DA 201 Meyer, John L., Jr.
37 517 977 (30 Oct 50)

10 November 1950

SUBJECT: Letter Orders - Bronze Star Medal

TO: Mr. John L. Meyer, Jr.
629 Taylor Street
Topeka, Kansas

1. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 9419, 4 February 1944 (Sec. II, WD Bul. 3, 1944), you have been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for exemplary conduct in ground combat against the armed enemy on or about 19 November 1944, in the European Theater of Operations, while assigned as Private, 18th Infantry Regiment.

2. Authority for this award is contained in paragraph 18, AR 600-45, and is based upon General Orders 43, Headquarters 18th Infantry Regiment, dated 22 December 1944.

3. The Commanding General, Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will forward an engraved Bronze Star Medal to you on 22 December 1950.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

1 Incl
BSM Certificate

W.A. Leary
Adjutant General

Copies Furnished
D & A Rec Unit Files
Statistical and Accounting
201 File

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CLASS OF SERVICE
This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a special symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201

SYMBOLS
DL=Day Letter
NL=Night Letter
LC=Deferred Cable
NLT=Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

D14 31 GOVT=WUX WASHINGTON DC DEC 27 1944 134A

JOHN B MEYER=
RFD 2 PHILLIPSBURG KANS=

REGRET TO INFORM YOU YOUR SON PRIVATE JOHN L MEYER JR WAS SLIGHTLY WOUNDED IN ACTION TWENTY NINE NOVEMBER IN GERMANY YOU WILL BE ADVISED AS REPORTS OF CONDITION ARE RECEIVED=

DUNLOP ACTING THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

(820A)

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

J. A. Ullo
J. A. ULIO
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

1 Incl.

Hq 227 Convalescent Center
APO 68 % POSTMASTER
New York NY

DEAR Mr. Meyer:

I am pleased to inform you that on 24 Jan 1945 your
Son Pvt John L Meyer, 37517977
(Relationship) Convalescing from (Grade, name, Army serial number)
was *

Diagnosis Wound, moderate, left shoulder. Penetrating wound, left thigh.
Very truly yours,

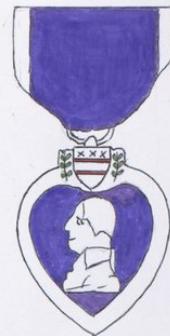
IRVIN H. SONNE,
Lt. Col. M. C.

H. S. Sonne
SONNE,
M. C.

* Enter present status as—
Health, physical improvement, Convalescing.
† Must be written in nontechnical language.

W. D. A. G. O. Form 234
9 November 1944

16-42109-1 APO



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WAR DEPARTMENT
IN REPLY REFER TO:
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
Pvt, Meyer, John L. Jr. 37,517,977 ETO bmb 2 January 1945.

Mr. John B. Meyer,
Rural Free Delivery #2,
Phillipsburg, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Meyer:

I am pleased to inform you that the latest report states that your son John, was making normal improvement on 9 December. You will be notified immediately when additional information is received.

Sincerely yours,

J. A. Ullo
J. A. ULLO
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

1 Incl.

Hq. 827 Convalescent Center
APO 68 % POSTMASTER
New York NY

DEAR Mr. Meyer

I am pleased to inform you that on 24 Jan 1945 your
(Date)
Son Pvt John L Meyer, 37517977
(Relationship) (Grade, name, Army serial number)
Convalescing from
was *

Diagnosis: Wound, moderate, left shoulder. Penetrating wound, left thigh.
Very truly yours, *N. Sonne*

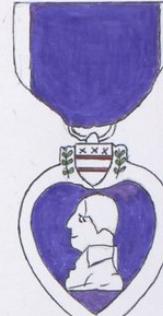
* Enter present status as—
Making normal improvement.
Convalescing.
† May be written in nontechnical language.

IRVIN H. SONNE,
Lt. Col. M. O.

W. D. A. G. O. Form 234
9 November 1944

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POSTMASTER
N.Y.
24 Jan 45
(Date)
Meyer - 37517977
(Grade, name, Army serial number)
and left thigh
N. Sonne
SONNE,
M. O.
10-42109-1 GPO

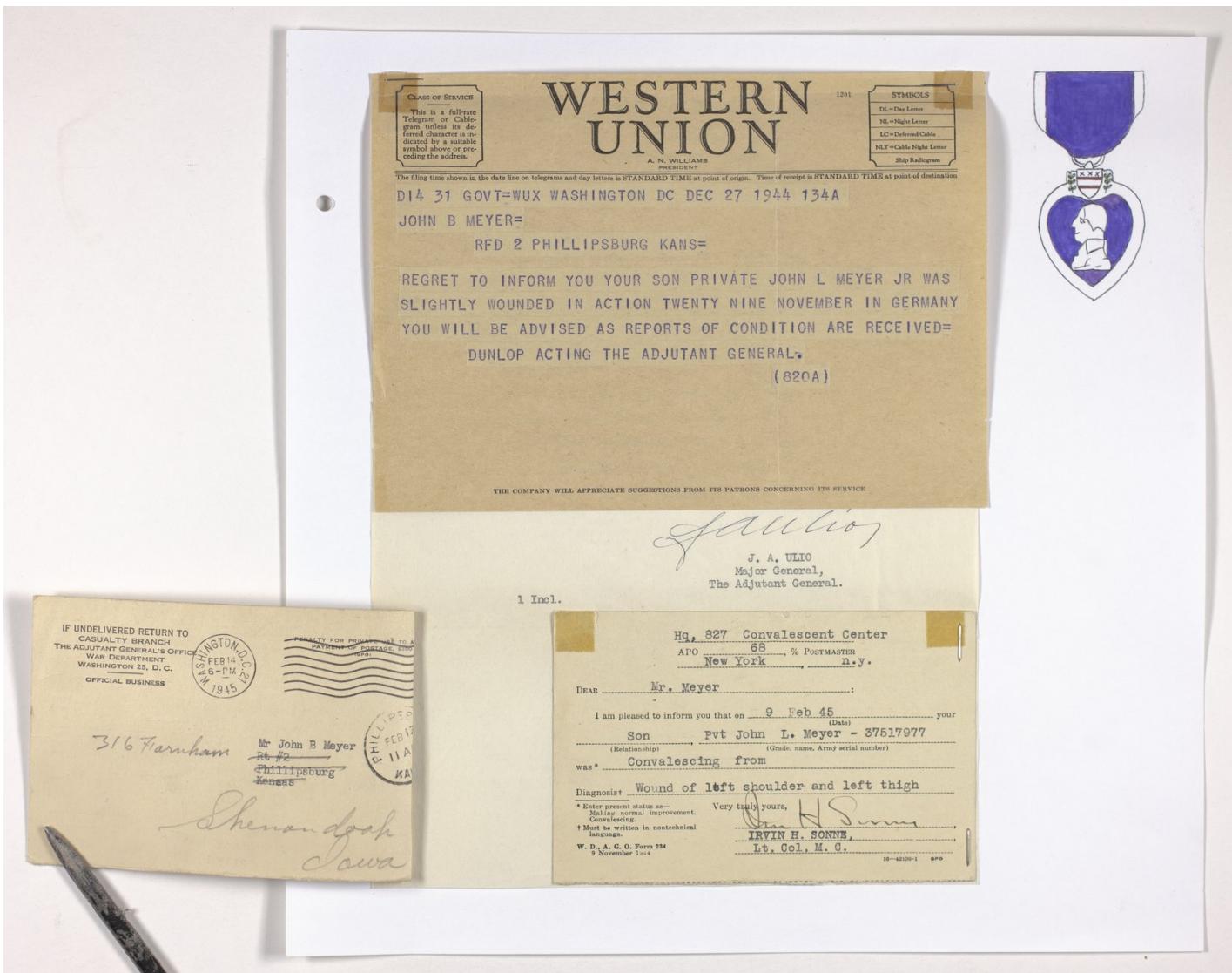
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10-42109-1 GPO



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KANSAS CITY MEDICS IN '77TH EVAC' HAVE UNEXCELLED WAR RECORD

By WAYNE HARLEY.

(A Member of the Star's Staff.)

On May 17, 1942, thirty-three physicians from the University of Kansas Medical Center left to join the army at Ft. Leonard Wood. Six months later, after a period of training that would have found most soldiers still in rookie status, the Kansas City doctors were treating front line battle casualties on the African beachhead at Oran.

Aided by fifty-two nurses and eight enlisted specialists from Greater Kansas City, plus 300 other enlisted personnel, the Kansas City medics formed the nucleus of the 77th Evacuation hospital—a combat treatment center with a record unequalled by any American military medical unit.

The journal of the "77th Evac," under the title of "Medicine Under Canvas," has recently been issued by the University of Kansas Medical Center. Dr. Max S. Allen of Kansas City, Kansas, a major in the 77th, edited the book. Most of the writing is by Dr. Allen, Dr. R. W. Postlethwait, New Martinsville, W. Va., and Marion A. Cross, a nurse of Wilson, Kas.

All the Way Against Hitler.

The 77th Evacuation hospital was one of two medical units that followed American action east of the Atlantic Ocean. It was the first to land at Oran, on Germany's surrender. From the two great American reverses, Kasserine Pass in North Africa and the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, tides of wounded flowed into its hospital tents. While lying

New Book, "Medicine Under Canvas," Tells of the Treatment of Battle Casualties by Big Emergency Hospital All the Way From Oran to Central Germany.

on one of the operating tables, a sass: Dr. Robert Forsythe, Kansas City, Mo., and Dr. Howard Poole of Iowa City, Ia., all lieutenants.

The ranks listed above were those held at the organization of the unit. Experience and expansion of the hospital resulted in many promotions to higher ranks.

Out With Seven Stars.
Original members of the 77th were awarded seven battle stars for the Algerian, Tunisian, Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhine, and Central Germany campaigns. An eighth star was worn by eleven medical officers and fifty-one enlisted men who participated in the invasion landing on Sicily.

Tom G. Duckett, Lamar, Mo.; Dr. Maurice Snyder, Salina, Kas.; Dr. James B. Fisher, Wichita; Dr. Howard Dukes, Dr. Tom R. Hamilton, and Dr. John Bowser, Kansas City, Kas.; Dr. Wendell Casperian and Dr. Robert E. Menes and Dr. Paul Harrington, all of Kansas City; Dr. Tom G. Duckett, Lamar, Mo.; Dr. Maurice Snyder, Salina, Kas.; Dr. James B. Fisher, Wichita; Dr. Howard Dukes, Dr. Tom R. Hamilton, and Dr. John Bowser, Kansas City, Kas.; Dr. Wendell Casperian and Dr. Robert E. Menes and Dr. Paul Harrington, all of Kansas City, Kas., all captains; and Dr. Robert Newman, Dr. Glenn Franklin, Dr. Allen, Dr. James B. Campbell, Dr. Melvin Rabe, Dr. Norman Gale, Dr. Gordon Voorhees and Dr. James E. McConchie, all of Kansas City, Kan.

Bronze Star awards were presented Lieut. Marion A. Cross (associate editor of Medicine Under Canvas); Dr. John Bowser, bacteriologist at the University of Kansas medical school; Capt. Elsworth Frederick of Ohio, personnel officer; Maj. Wayne Palmer, Wichita, Kas.; and Col. Dean M. Walker of Calif., a brigadier general who became a regular army commanding officer.

Purple Heart medals were awarded three nurses—Lieut. Violet Mahan, Lee's Summit; Lieut. Helen Bailey, Kansas City, and Lieut. Cleo Shirley, Winfield, Kas. They were wounded when a bomb struck the hospital at Verviers, Belgium.

A Lift to the Spirits, Too.
The 77th Evacuation hospital became noted for its ability to turn the hitherto element of civilian medical practice into the front line tent wards. Ranging from 750 to 1,000 beds, an evacuation hospital is a quick-turnover point for immediate treatment of wounded men before forwarding the severe cases to a general hospital outside the combat areas. The 77th had a remainder less than twenty-four hours.

Under this agency of haste and urgency, sometimes within sound of battle, the doctors of the 77th



IN THE HEAT OF AFRICA in the summer of 1943, little clothing was required in off-duty hours. Here is an officers' area of the 77th evacuation hospital near Bone, Algeria.

adopted a policy of interviewing each conscious wounded man before pocketing his clothes. American soldiers, exposed operating on him. The object was too long to fierce combat, were to establish a link of familiarity cracking up. Fifty-six per cent of the doctor and patient. It was the men going through the hospital good for the welfare of both, the 77th frequently worked as long as if it had been forced.

Of the wounded, the authors of "Medicine Under Canvas" write: "These men, as they lay on the operating table waiting treatment, old again and again their harrowing incidents and narrow escapes. Their stories were a far cry from the snappy stories provided by the snappy minds and trim marketing minds which one usually pictures in connection with the word 'army.' The most pathetic were those who had been injured on patrol or after an enemy counterattack and had been unable to make their way back to the lines. The pain, thirst, and exhaustion which they had gone through was indescribable. The spirit and attitude of these wounded

oldsters drew repeatedly the admiration of those who were caring for them. . . . There was no groaning, moaning, or grunting from these men. . . . If anything was said about the water or operation, the men . . . it always was done quickly, as the patient who shyly suggested to Captain Ashley: 'I have a wife and three kids, Doc, and may need that leg.' That shattered leg received the best attention the surgeon could give for he, too, had a wife and three children at home."

Casualties of Desert Race.
The evacuation group handled North African casualties from the beginning, and the end, of the campaign of the German Afrika Korps. The end of North African cases came on the final drives at Gafsa, El Guettar and Maknassy when Rom-

ee the same stage of development where combat soldiers wonder if they are expected to fight bare-handed, the medical soldier finds himself in a position of a boxer—knock-offs—a hot-water bottle surrounding. As time passed and America was producing better quantities of war material, the 77th became a well-equipped unit. But the early days were anything but encouraging.

Pup Tents and a Bed Pan.

A sketch of the early equipment at Ft. Leonard Wood is given in a report from the book:

"At this time (June, 1942), the unit was viewing its inception from the Second Army. The entire amount of equipment then available was brought forth and arrayed on the drill field, and a simulated evacuation hospital was set up. The equipment was primitive, consisting of pup tents set up in rows, each with a sign labeling it as the operating room, medical ward, registrar's office, or morgue. The other equipment, consisting of a few litter, a bed pan, a urinal, a folding operating table, a folding chair, leg splints, and a small field sterilizer, was distributed at strategic points."

In November of the same year, the 77th was in Oran to serve front line troops in the North African invasion. Equipment still was a problem, gathering from a paragraph telling of the action immediately after landing at Oran:

"As soon as the officers arrived, they brought out the few supplies of medication and instruments which they had carried in their packs. Maj. Mahan Delp had carried a tablet of penicillin in a zinc tie up in a sock and although this had seemed to be folly at several times during the long march,

(Continued on Following Page.)



THE MOST COMPLICATED SURGERY was performed under canvas. Tents were lined with sheets on the inside, for better lighting and as a dust preventive. Floors were covered with gravel when available. In the African campaign, six surgical units were in day-and-night operation.

I spent the night of Nov. 30, 1944 in this hospital in Verviers, Belgium. I received a shot of penicillin every hour for 24 hours to combat infection.



WEARY AMBULANCE drivers, hastening to find a hospital for their dangerously wounded patients, experienced a lift of the spirits when they drove up to this sign. Most wounded soldiers who reached the evacuation hospital lived to see home again.

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KANSAS CITY MEDICS HELPED THE BOYS SURVIVE A WAR

(Continued From Preceding Page.)

his foresight began to pay dividends as the tablets were passed out to the fever-ridden patients. Another officer had carried a spine puncture needed, a thoracostesis set, and a Levine tube. With the spinal drainage tube inserted, a seriously ill patient, who was brought in the second day unconscious from meningitis, was treated to recovery.... Many of the surgeons had carried instruments and with some borrowed from the 38th evacuation hospital, had set up medical batallions enough were assembled to start doing surgery.

Shielded by Geneva Cross. The Geneva cross shielded the evacuation hospital more effectively than one might expect in a mechanized war. The unit completed its service without a single member being killed in action. A Red Cross worker, Miss Ann Kathleen Cullen, was killed by a shell which struck a corner of a building at Werviers, Belgium, being occupied by the hospital.

As the Germans became hard pressed at the war's end, they had considerably less regard for the huge hospital cross. German flares October 11, 1944, strafed and bombed the camp, killing 10 men and wounding 20. The unit received patients the following day, December 20, 1944. German shells began falling within 300 yards of the hospital building at Werviers. At 4:30 o'clock the next morning the shell which killed Miss Cullen struck.

The 77th's theater tent was set up and a field ambulance mass was in progress early Christmas, but no one was injured. Two days later a bomb hit the 9th Field Hospital, killing fourteen and wounding more than fifty men. The 77th handled

"On July 12, the convoy reformed and began the return voyage to La Goulette where the patients were discharged, a new cargo of men and supplies taken on board, and the ship's stores replenished. During the action of the landings, the 77th personnel had treated thirty-five casualties in addition to those from the sunken LST, and in spite of the fact that there was a first rate field hospital available, they never had received combat training all the 77th men were well composed under fire, discharging their duties efficiently and in keeping with the best traditions of the medical department. In addition to the medical duties, the men were required as look-outs, gun crews, as sick bay and pharmacy attendants, as KP's as telephone operators, and as mess attendants, conducting themselves in a very commendable manner entirely above reproach."

To Germany July 7.

On July 7, 1944, a month after D-day, the 77th arrived on Utah beach of Normandy at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The transport unit had grown by this time to a 180-tent hospital, split up in four sections. By July 18, the hospital was erected near Ste. Mere-Eglise, and receiving its first patients in France.

March 7, 1945, the 9th armored division swept to the Rhine and made its landing on the new famous Remagen bridge. Seven days later an advance party of the 77th was sent to Munchen-Gladbach, Germany, to select a site for the hospital and March 22 the main body.

"Medicine Under Canvas" devotes much attention to medical techniques of war but is much more concerned with the human side of the war. The primary reader target was the enlisted man who served with the outfit. Dr. Allen says, "It was presumed that former patients might read it, anyway. The book is crammed with sidelights on native customs, the off-duty experiences of personnel and the difficulties the average citizen encountered in doing things 'the army way.'

In August, 1942, on the S. S. Orkade bound for North Africa, the 77th platoon chief became acquainted with food "army-transport style." It was the sort of thing with which many a veteran became too familiar. Since the army morale sections constantly harped about the American soldier being "the best fed soldier in world history," many GIs indeed found quite a bit of satisfaction in assessing just how badly other armies could be fed and what foodstuffs were employed to make the worse feeding possible.

The Best They Had. Of the Orcades menu, the authors state:

"A striking commentary on the food is found in the fact that the one meal universally voted best by the men consisted entirely of boiled navy beans."

And that foul rumor, circulated either by the army or practical jokers, that has caused the more timid soldiers from 1776 to 1949 to take drastic action, they later regretted, came from the hospital personnel in the Orcades:

"Instructions had prohibited bringing liquor aboard the ship, but several canteens filled with the contraband were carried aboard. Early in the trip, someone started the vicious rumor that any alcoholic beverages in the canteens were possessed by the chemical action of the alcohol on the metal, and several nurses poured their precious stocks of this sea-sickness remedy down the drains."

"On one occasion Tech. Sergt. John P. Mainly prepared and taught his friends how to make a rabbit. Little time was wasted in skinning and cooking this delicious addition to the diet, and all the friends of the sergeant enjoyed

"Clothes were washed in gasoline tins, heating the water over pine knot fires. Besides the difficulties of getting the clothes reasonably clean, there remained the problem of finding a place to hang the clothes that would not be exposed to air observation."

"Considerable difficulty was experienced in convincing some of the nurses that a pair of scanties hung on a juniper bush in the open would attract insects, as well as attract the eyes of the enemy."

The wash tent in the

allied men's area was seldom used

as such, for the gamblers soon took it over..."

Contributing editors to "Medicine Under Canvas" are George Blaser, Jr., Athol, Mass.; Robert Block, Gothenberg, Neb.; Robert M. Buchholz, Lake Charles, La.; W. Glason, Akley, Minn.; William H. Hagan, San Francisco; George M. Haire, Ft. Dodge, Ia.; Rollin V. Jerome, Saginaw, Mich.; Harlan Y. Kesterson, New York; Kenneth F. McConnell, Merriam, Kas., and Walter L. Mason, Jr., Mebane, N. C.

"MEDICINE UNDER CANVAS"—A war journal of the 77th Field Hospital, edited by Dr. Max S. Allen (198 pages; the Sojourn Press, Inc., Kansas City, \$10).

their full share. It was not until later in the day that Cpl. James Mease came around looking for his pet rabbit that he had purchased from an Arab that it was realized what a mistake had been made."

Barter With the Arabs.

It was with the North African Arabs that the Kansas City medical soldiers developed their initiation in international trade:

"Money had little value among the Arabs, but the clothing shortage made any piece of material a valuable asset. Mattress covers had increased in value to the equivalent of \$20, and a ragged towel, a torn pair of pants, or even a bandana handkerchief could be exchanged for a chicken or several dozen eggs, if properly traded."

Personal laundry was among the many problems that the unit members had to tackle in that first winter in North Africa as the hospital camped on a snowy elevation known as Pine Ridge.



WARNING—The sign on the German border explained a basic rule of conduct at one stage of the war in Europe.

the casualties. An ambulance evacuating men from the 77th to a railroad hospital train was struck by two bombs. Two patients were killed but the drivers escaped.

When General Patton's forces invaded Sicily early in July, 1943, officer-and-enlisted teams chosen from the 77th evacuation hospital served on the invasion barges and beachhead. It was work directly under fire. Their first return to La Goulette (Tunisia) with casualties was reported:

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3-22-45 Frohnhardt, Germany
Remagen Bridgehead, 2 days of
rest - Sherman, Sgt. Danielson,
Bellanton, & Heigins.



2-45 Hurtgen Forest
Meister & Bellanton



Hurtgen Forest



Harz Mountains



4-45 Moving to clear a town
Artillery has set a house on fire.



VE Day, May 8, 1945
Einsiedl, Czechoslovakia
Alfo Bellanton



6-9-45, Einsiedl

18th Inf., Co. F CP
Lt. Col. Lt.
Patterson - Cook
Johnson - Barber
Hagen - Jeep Driver
Carlini - Communications Sgt.
Meyer - Clerk & Switchboard
Harris - Lineman
Frenchy - Interpreter
Jollman - First Sgt.
Kupis - Mail Clerk

Ernest Meister

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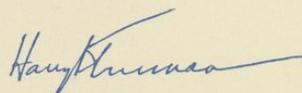
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JOHN L MEYER

To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Armed Forces to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt thanks of a grateful Nation. As one of the Nation's finest, you undertook the most severe task one can be called upon to perform. Because you demonstrated the fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example in further exalting our country in peace.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be that of Harry S. Truman, written over a horizontal line.

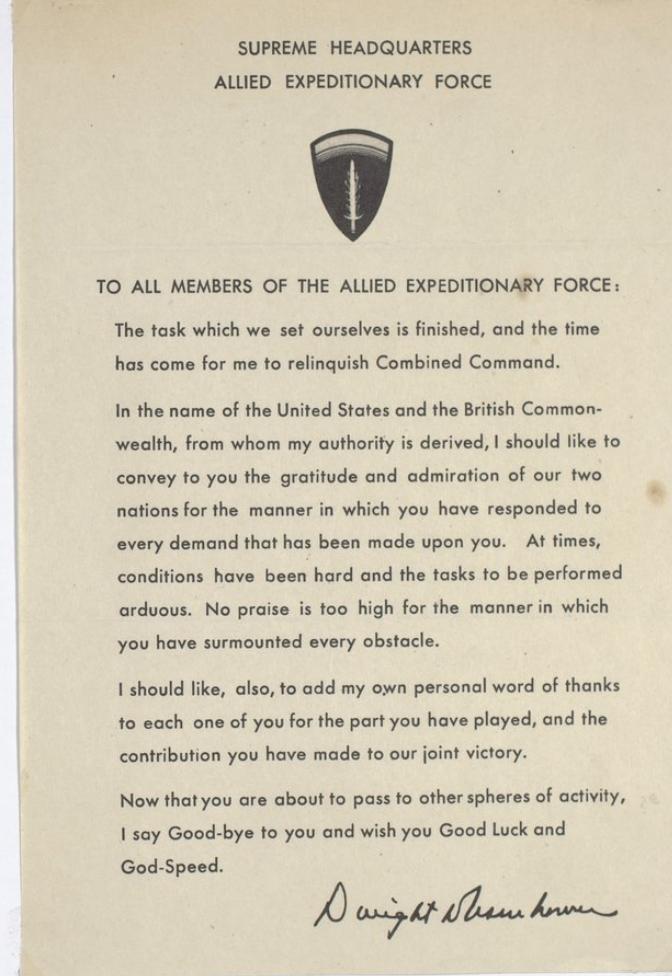
THE WHITE HOUSE

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22 Sept	44	Boston Mass.	USS Mariposa
29 Sept	44	Liverpool, England	
30 Sept	44	Warminster Eks, Warminster, England	
17 Oct	44	South Hampton, England	Empires Cutlass
20 Oct	44	Omaha Beach, Normandie	
21 Oct	44	Carentan France (three days)	
24 Oct	44	LeMans, France	
29 Oct	44	Paris (Passed through)	
1 Nov	44	Verviers, Belgium	
5 Nov	44	92nd Bn., 482nd Co. Hurtgen Forest	
13 Nov	44	Joined First Division at Zweifalzis, Germany	
19 Nov	44	Schevenhutte Germany (Intense Artillery fire initiating heavy casualties)	
20 Nov	44	Forest Wenau, Germany	
21 Nov	44	Wenau, Germany	
24 Nov	44	Heistern, Germany (Baptism of fire)	
28 Nov	44	Langerwehe, Germany	
29 Nov	44	To 97th Evac. Aachen, Germany (K4 Med. Center)	
30 Nov	44	To 77th Evac. Verviers, Belgium (Buzz Bombs plentiful)	
2 Dec	44	To 48th Gen. Paris, France	
24 Dec	44	To Cherborg, France	
25 Dec	44	South Hampton, England	
26 Dec	44	Kington, Wales (122nd Gen.)	
12 Jan	45	827th Convalescent Center, Warminster, England	
9 Feb	45	827th C. C., Burton Stacy Camp, Andover, England	
--		10th Reinf. Depot, Birmingham, England	
		South Hampton, England	
		Le Havre, France, 15th Reinf. Depot	
		11th Reinf. Depot, Givet, France	
		3rd Reinf. Depot, Verviers, Belgium	
		92nd Bn, 482nd Reinf. Co., Frechen, Germany	
19 March	45	Co. Kitchen (Remagen Bridgehead)	
20 March	45	Eudenbach Germany	
22 March	45	Frohnhardt, Germany (Day and a half rest)	
23 March	45	Bennenried, Germany	
24 March	45	Ukerath, Germany (Mark VI's & Tiger Royals)	
26 March	45	Rettenzen, Germany	
27 March	45	Kuchhausen, Germany	
28 March	45	Friedwald, Germany	
29 March	45	Burbach, Germany	
30 March	45	Rudersdorf, Germany	
31 March	45	Anzhauen, Germany	
1 April	45	Hegen-dori, Germany (120 Mile ride)	
3 April	45	Oestrichen, Germany	
4 April	45	Westrichen, Germany (Outpost)	
8 April	45	Nienover, Germany	
9 April	45	Schonhagen, Germany	
10 April	45	Norteim, Germany	
11 April	45	Horden, Germany (seven tanks shot out from under us)	
14 April	45	Lenau, Germany	
16 April	45	Hasselhelde, Germany (first Platoon slaughtered)	
		15 killed, 13 wounded)	
19 April	45	Wendefurth, Germany	
20 April	45	Wienrode, Germany	
24 April	45	Siebitterode, Germany	
27 April	45	Arzberg, Germany	
29 April	45	Krasna-Lipa Czechoslovakia	

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1 May 45 Schloppenhof, Czechoslovakia
5 May 45 Maiersgrum, Czechoslovakia
6 May 45 Mnichov(Einsiedl), Czechoslovakia
 Petschau, Grün, & Marienbad
9 June 45 Burgberneim, Germany

Visited on Pass:
Worminster, England
Bath, England
Andover, England
Winchester, England
London, England
Birmingham, England
Givet France
Verviers, Belgium
Paris, France

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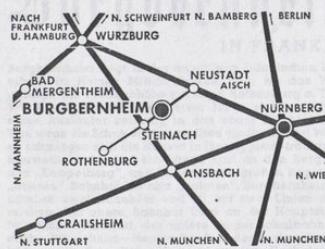
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1875 erbaut. Doch sind der Chor und ein Teil des Turmes von der früheren Kirche erhalten geblieben. Das romanische Portal, das aus dem 12. Jahrhundert stammt und eine seltene Perle des Baustils ist, und an den Sockeln der drei Pfeiler befindlich seilenartig Eckblätter aufweist, ist ein Meisterwerk mittelalterlicher Steinmetzkunst. Über die reiche Geschichte Burgbernhems unterrichtet das Burgberheimer Heimatbuch von Peter Hupfer 1932, das zugleich eine Fülle volkskundlichen Stoffes enthält.

Wer echte fränkische Art und das echt fränkische Land zwischen Würzburg und Ansbach, Neustadt a. A. und Rothenburg o. T. kennen lernen will, der verbringe seinen Urlaub in Burgbernheim mit seinen herrlichen Wäldern und Höhen, seinen interessanten Quellen und Baumgärten und seinen biederen fränkischen Menschen. Er wird es nie bereuen.



Überreicht durch:

Herausgegeben
vom Verschönerungs- und Fremdenverkehrsverein Burgbernheim.
Herstellung: Zereiss & Co., graph. Kunstanstalt u. Druckerei, Nürnberg.
Textbearbeitung: Gg. Ries, Burgbernheim. Fotos: K. Heckel, Windsheim.



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