

# 20th Combat Engineer Association of World War II

## The Wavy Arrow

\*\*\*\*\*  
March 2003  
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### Message from President J. Kenneth Noon

It's that time again! I don't know what that means for you, but for me it means that I need to get busy and start making arrangements for our 56th Reunion. I was looking through some of the old issues of the *Wavy Arrow* to find one of the "pep talks" by Ed Lutz. But while I was scanning early issues of the *Wavy Arrow*, and reviewing the history of the 20th and 1340th, it became clear to me that our role in history was that we completed our assignments during World War II in an outstanding manner for which we can be proud. So let's get together at least one more time to celebrate these accomplishments and to remember our comrades who are no longer with us. The 56th Reunion will probably be held in Fayetteville, North Carolina, either in late August or in early September. Watch for full details in the next issue of the *Wavy Arrow*.

### Tribute To Carl Markey

By Patricia K. Slama

Thank you all for the nice letters and cards that you have sent over the past several years directed to my dad, Col. Carl E. Markey. Adjoining is a photo of "papa" and I taken last year at Thanksgiving. He is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> stages of Alzheimer and lives in a guarded community about ten minutes from my home. He is comfortable, clean, and safe. He still moves around



on his own, but is very fragile. I take him every four weeks for a haircut, and every other month for a manicure/pedicure. He loves them both! I enjoy reading the stories and updates in the *Wavy Arrow* to my dad, and hopefully a few of the messages actually reach his mind. You can direct all mail to me at 12657 Treaty Line Street, Carmel, IN 45032, and I will read them to him. He is unable to read it himself and cannot write as he used to do so faithfully. At this time in our country's history, we should keep all our servicemen in our prayers. I hope to make the Reunion this year.

## Deceased Veterans

**Hubbard L. Dodd (A/20th)** died in September. According to reports, Hubbard had been suffering from cancer for sometime.

**Andrew L. Harvey (H&S/20th)** died October 17, 2002, in Columbia, South Carolina. Charles Blankenship obtained this information from Harvey's sister, Ms. Sara Harvey, who resides in Rome, Georgia.

**J. Fred Herman (C/20th)** died June 9, 2001, in Landis, North Carolina. The information was provided by Ben Cipra.

**James T. Riddick, Jr. (C/20th)** died November 3, 2002. His widow, Audrey P. Riddick, has now been made an honorary member so she will continue to receive the *Wavy Arrow*.

## Address Changes

**Maribel Auld**, 2601 Yuma Circle, Sacramento, CA 95827. Telephone: 916-363-0675

**Carl A. Brenot (A/20th)** 7797 North Allen Road, Cochran, GA 31502. See letter from his daughter, Cathy Brenot Duell, elsewhere in this issue.

**Bernard McDonnell (Officer)** New E-mail address: <mcdonnelbp@comcast.net>

**Louis W. Morgan (A/20th)** 901 Cove Circle, Birmingham, AL 35244. Telephone 205-733-1080; See letter from his daughter, Beverly M. Kelley, elsewhere in this issue.

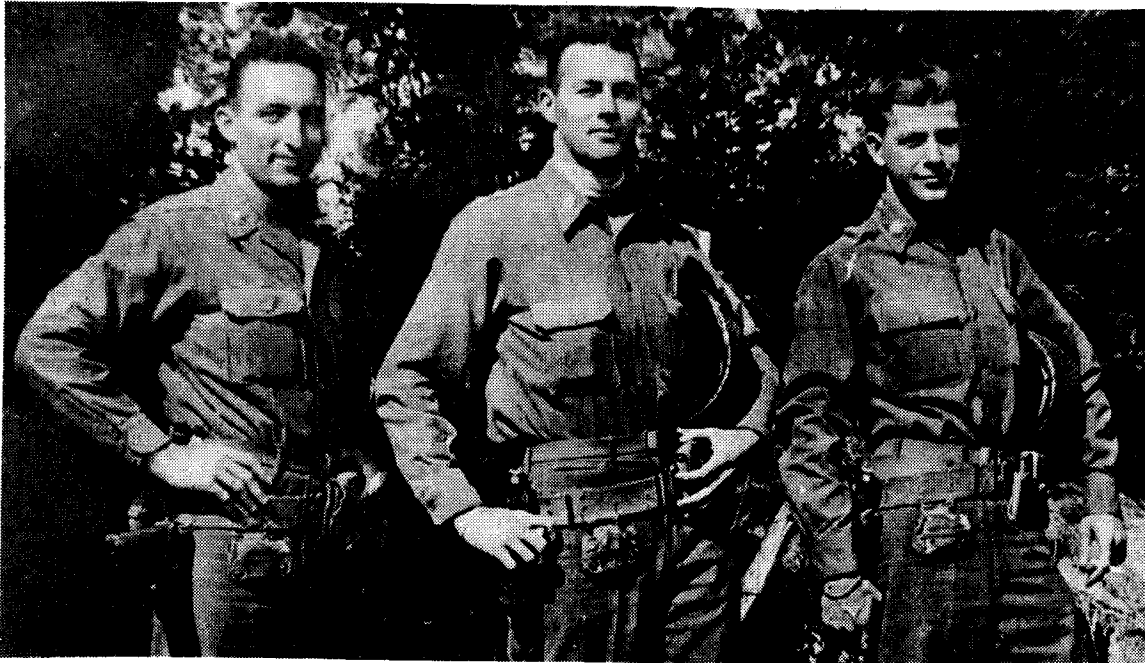
## Wavy Arrow Contributions

Many thanks to the following for having made a contribution during the past several months so that we can continue to send the *Wavy Arrow* on a regular basis.

<b>Albert Biggiani (H&amp;S/20th)</b> .....	\$20.00
<b>Dominic Carini (B/1340th)</b> .....	\$25.00
<b>Ben A. Cipra (C/1340th)</b> .....	\$20.00
<b>Gabriel DeIulio (H&amp;S/1340th)</b> .....	\$15.00
<b>Charles C. Libby (H&amp;S/20th)</b> .....	\$37.00
<b>Steve Poulos (B/20th)</b> .....	\$10.00
<b>Robert J. Rudd (H&amp;S/1340th)</b> .....	\$20.00
<b>Patricia K. Slama (Daughter of Carl E. Markey)</b> .....	\$100.00
<b>Henry L. Smith (Officer)</b> .....	\$50.00
<b>Frances Weber (Widow of Louis Weber, H&amp;S/1340th)</b> .....	\$20.00

>>>>>>> See the January 2003 issue of the *Wavy Arrow* <<<<<<<<  
for the recognition of ten earlier contributors.

Three officers of the 1340th Engineer Combat Battalion taken August 13, 1944, near Campeaux, France, after the breakthrough at St. Lo, and during efforts to trap the Germans in the Falaise Gap. They are (left to right) Major Bruce A. Renfroe (Operations Officer); Lt. Col. Truman H. Setliffe (Commanding Officer); and Major John G. Auld (Executive Officer).



Here are short biographical sketches of the three officers of the 1340th Engineer Combat Battalion as recalled by Truman Setliffe.

**John G. Auld** was a graduate in Agricultural Engineering, and worked for his cousin raising black angus cattle at Old Home Manor Farm/Ranch in Pennsylvania. At the age of 26 he reported to the 20th Engineer Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1941. He subsequently served as commander of Company D of the 20th Engineers. During the long voyage from Sicily to England in the late fall of 1943 aboard the *Royal Dutch Sloterdijk*, he met Maribel Dorton, a nurse with an Auxiliary Surgical Group. Both served in Europe in 1944 and 1945, and on February 2, 1945, they were married at Sart le Spa, Belgium, just after the Battle of the Bulge. Truman Setliffe walked Maribel down the aisle. John Auld reciprocated on May 19, 1948, in New York City when he was Best Man for Truman's wedding to Dorothea Marchard.

After World War II demobilization, John and Maribel settled down at Old Home Manor, and in the 1970s they moved to nearby Indiana, Pennsylvania. John died in 1979, and Maribel remained in Indiana, Pennsylvania, until mid-2002 when she moved to Sacramento, California, where she lives with her daughter, Jennifer, at 2601 Yuma Circle, Sacramento, CA 95827. Telephone: 916-363-0675.

**Bruce A. Renfroe** graduated as an architect, and at the age of 26 he joined the 20th Engineer Regiment at Fort Benning. He subsequently became commander of the H&S Company

of the 20th Regiment, serving in Africa and Sicily. On January 21, 1944, he became S-3 (Operations Officer) of the 1340th when it was organized in England. He landed on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. After World War II demobilization, he established his own architecture firm in Lakeland, Florida. Bruce died in mid-1990; his wife (Lorraine) and two children still reside at 112 Hiawatha Trail, Lakeland, FL 33803-2131.

**Truman H. Setliffe** was born December 20, 1919, in Lynchburg, Tennessee, the home of Jack Daniels Sour Mash Whiskey. He received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1941 from Louisiana State University. He joined the 20th Engineer Combat Regiment at Fort Benning on August 20, 1941, and was sworn into the Regular Army's Corps of Engineers on September 5, 1941. He became personnel adjutant of the 20th Regiment while at Camp Blanding in early 1942, and landed with the 20th at Casablanca in November 1942. As Regimental Operations Officer (S-3), he landed at Licata, Sicily, on July 10, 1943. When the Regiment was reorganized January 21, 1944, he became Battalion Commander of the 1340th. On June 6, 1944, he landed at Omaha Beach where the following day he reported to Major General Leonard T. Gerow, Commander of V Corps, to facilitate the landing of the 1340th Engineers. (Readers have read in the last issue of the *Wavy Arrow* of Truman's relationship with Colonel Eugene Caffey and how the 20th and 1340th Battalions fared in the Huertgen Forest.)

### **Correcting An Error**

In the last issue of the *Wavy Arrow* we published Colonel Caffey's farewell message of May 25, 1943. In reporting the origin of the message, we got part of it wrong. Therefore, we publish below the full text as it should have appeared.

Colonel Caffey loved the 20th Engineers as is apparent from his May 25, 1943, farewell message which read:

"This is the thing I have dreaded more than all the Germans in hell or Germany - - to say goodbye to the brave and devoted soldiers of this Regiment, my only love in the Army. If I should live to be a thousand, every day I should have something different to remember you by -- some piece of cussedness, some funny little side issue, some heart-break, some job superbly done, some deed of bravery, some act of thoughtfulness or kindness or gentleness, or maybe a grin and a good morning from some recent member of "Company Q." There is no use running on -- everybody I know in the Army knows what I think about you. I am glad I can write this and run because I could never manage to say it to you. God bless you all and bring you safely home. S/ Eugene M. Caffey, Colonel, Corps of Engineers"

Truman Setliffe was at that time a Captain serving as the 20th Engineer Regimental Adjutant and Executive Officer. When Col. Caffey gave his hand-written message to Captain Setliffe, he included on the flip-side of the message instructions that read: "If it doesn't sound too damn Napoleon, please get it out to everybody." Setliffe had the message typed and distributed after Caffey left for his new assignment as Commander of the First Engineer Special Brigade.

## News About Our Veterans

**Stanley M. Blizik (B/20th)** writes: "I am very active in the V.F.W. and serve as sergeant of arms for the largest American Legion post in Indiana. I have now developed cancer of the stomach. After surgery and chemotherapy that did not help, I am now undergoing radiation treatment hoping that it will do some good. I enjoy the *Wavy Arrow*."

**Carl A. Brenot (A/20th)** daughter, Cathy Brenot Duell, writes: "My father moved back home in Cochran. He truly enjoys the *Wavy Arrow* and looks forward to receiving many more issues. My husband, Michael, and I are looking forward to bringing my father to the next Reunion." (See change of address elsewhere in this issue.)

**Dominic Carini (B/1340th)** writes: "The articles in the January 2003 issue of the *Wavy Arrow* brought back many memories. Thank you and the authors of these articles. In mid-June 2002 I was set back by a severe attack of rheumatoid arthritis after being in remission for ten years. The doctors are having a hard time finding a medication that will work with me since the one I had been taking for the past ten years is no longer being produced. Therefore, travel has been impossible since last June, but I am looking forward to licking this problem once again and be able to attend a Reunion."

**Ben A. Cipra (C/1340th)** writes: "The articles by Setliffe were very interesting. Hope to see more of the same. I stay in touch with six buddies of C Company, 1340th. Interestingly, three of them were taken prisoners of war in the Huertgen Forest. They are Stephen Drevicky (Cleveland, Ohio), John Griffin (Pascagoula, Mississippi), and Joseph Szvetitz (Easton, Pennsylvania). I had the pleasure of visiting with Sidney Causans (Metairie, Louisiana) when I was in New Orleans a year ago. He is the perfect host. I strongly recommend a visit to the D-Day Museum while in New Orleans. [Editor's Note: See news item on last page of this issue.] Only one block away is the Ugly Dog Saloon, a fun place with good food."

**Gabriel R. DeJulio (H&S/1340th)** writes "I was first in the 20th and landed at Casablanca. I was then a member of the 1340th until we arrived at the Elbe River to meet the Russians. Long live the 20th; we brought great honor to America."

**Louis W. Morgan (A/20th)** daughter, Beverly M. Kelley, writes: "My father was hospitalized during the month of December and then moved to a nursing home. He has now recovered enough to be moved to an assisted living facility very near to my home, and he is doing very well now. All communications should be directed to me at 901 Cove Circle, Birmingham, AL 35244. Telephone 205-733-1080; E-mail: <KLKBMK@aol.com >

**Henry L. Smith (Officer)** writes: "I read each issue of the *Wavy Arrow* several times, and enjoy each. Of course, the news of deaths of 20th engineers isn't pleasant, However, I console myself with the fact that they lived to 80 rather than being killed in World War II. My oldest son and my daughter came to Florida for a visit with their three grandchildren, so I had a very enjoyable Holiday Season. God willing and if the creek doesn't rise, I hope to attend the next Reunion."

## **News From 20th Engineer Band Members**

**Charles C. Libby** (H&S/20th) writes: "The *Wavy Arrow* is really appreciated. The Huertgen Forest articles are especially informative. I never did really knew what was going on, but I still have my helmet with a hole made by one of our own 105s that fell short. In October my wife, Margaret, lost a long battle with Parkinsonism. We were married just short of 53 years. I met her in June 1942 when I was home on furlough from Fort Belvoir. I joined the 20th at Camp Blanding in July 1942, and she waited for me to return after the war as well as four years of college. I am very proud of her for having served in the WAVES from 1944 to 1946. We both had good years as public school teachers in Maine and Connecticut, and retired to Maine in 1974.

"I was in the 20th Band. Last year I contacted another member of the Band, Al Biggiani of Syosset, New York. I hadn't seen him since July 3, 1945, when I started out for home (see letter below). It is good to know that some of the Band members are still around. We did pretty well by organizing a Band, something that the 20th wasn't supposed to have."

**Albert Biggiani** (H&S/20th) writes: "I got the surprise of my life when I received a letter from Charles Libby of H&S Company (20th) whom I haven't heard from in over 50 years. We did some rehashing about our experiences [including our participation in the 20th Band]. I suffered a stroke over a year ago, but fortunately it wasn't too severe and I am decently mobile. It makes me sad to read about the men who are experiencing illnesses. What a contrast to when we were young and carefree as members of the 20th and 1340th, and all we had to worry about was the Germans during World War II."

## **National D-Day Museum To Expand**

The National D-Day Museum in New Orleans is expanding to encompass the entire scope of World War II in all theaters of operation, plus the home front. The museum, located at 945 Magazine Street in New Orleans, was opened June 6, 2000, and has already welcomed more than 800,000 visitors. Why is it located in New Orleans? Because it was the site where the famous Higgins landing boats were designed and constructed -- the very landing craft that took veterans of the 20th and 1340th ashore at Omaha Beach. Dwight D. Eisenhower credited Andrew Higgins as the man "who won the war for us." You editor will be visiting this unique museum in several weeks, and will include a report of it in the next issue of the *Wavy Arrow*. Meanwhile, you can review the scope of the museum on the web at [www.ddaymuseum.org](http://www.ddaymuseum.org)

Send items for inclusion in future issues of the *Wavy Arrow* to editor George Griffenhagen, 2501 Drexel Street, Vienna, VA 22180. Photographs are especially welcome if you can identify the people in the picture, approximate date and location when the photo was taken.