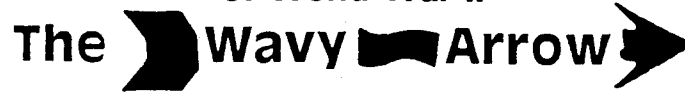


20th Combat Engineer Association of World War II



July 2003

56th Reunion Rapidly Approaching

This is the last call for the 56th Reunion of the 20th Combat Engineer Association of World War II that will be held September 18 to 21st, at the Radisson Prince Charles Hotel in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Make your reservations now using the enclosed Reservation Form, and remember that the deadline is August 25, 2003.

The deadline for hotel reservations is August 18, 2003. sleeping room rates for the 20th Engineers are \$79.00 (plus 11% tax) for a total of \$87.69 per night for single or double occupancy, including complimentary Continental breakfast. Hotel sleeping room reservations can be made in two ways. By telephone, call 1-800-333-3333 or 1-910-433-5555 using any major credit card for your room deposit. By mail to the Radisson Prince Charles Hotel, 450 Hays Street, Fayetteville, NC 28301, enclosing a check for one room night (\$88 made payable to "Radisson Prince Charles Hotel").

Special Banquet Attraction

In response to an invitation extended by your editor, Colonel Daniel G. Grey, Commander of the 20th Engineer Brigade (Combat) Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, has responded: "This command will provide a speaker to our honored World War II veterans at your banquet on Saturday evening. We currently have one battalion deployed to Iraq in support of IRAQI FREEDOM, and one company deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. As your Reunion draws nearer, we will do an assessment of who is the most appropriate person available to share their experiences with the veterans of the 20th Combat Engineers of World War II who were committed to defending our freedom."

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.

Joseph Alter (Officer)	\$20.50
Sidney T. Cousans, Jr. (C/1340th)	\$25.75
Ms. Anne Eiland	\$20.00
John B. Griffin, Jr. (C/1340th)	\$25.75
Guy A. Trifone (Officer)	\$100.00

Lost But Not Forgotten

Bernard J. Hall (B/20th) died March 28, 2003. His daughter, Brenda Hall Street (10324 Parahunt Parkway, Ashland, VA 23005-3397) writes: "My Dad was very proud to have been with the 20th Combat Engineers during World War II, as witnessed by the license plates on his car (20 ENG 42). He always enjoyed getting and sharing with us the *Wavy Arrow*. I attended reunions with Dad, and I really enjoyed hearing all of the stories and meeting all of his friends. I hope you have a good turnout and good time in September at Fayetteville."

Santino "Smokey" Marciano (B/1340th) died June 5, 2003. His wife, Rose Marciano, advises by telephone that he died after three weeks hospitalization at the St. Vincent Hospital in Staten Island. Smokey served as a station fireman until 1975, and they would have celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on July 24, 2003

Donald Hartwell "Jaybird" McRae (C/1340th) died May 21, 2003. An obituary sent by Willie Carl Scott reports that "Jaybird" was 83 years old, and was retired owner of the Wadesville Roofing Company in Mt. Gilead, North Carolina. He is survived by his wife, Viola Simpson McRae, one daughter, and one son.

News About Our Veterans

Joseph Alter (Officer) writes: "Received the *Wavy Arrow* today. I missed the last Reunion, but hope to make the Reunion in Fayetteville. I enjoyed the Reunion of Baltimore and look forward to a repeat. I noted the contribution competition, B Company of the 1340th ("Creegan's Creeps") will not be bested, so please find my contribution." [See *Wavy Arrow* contributions.]

Raymond R. Davis (A/20th) writes: "I will not be able to attend the 2003 Reunion, and will miss seeing the Airbourne & Special Operations Museum. Tell the fellas I will miss them, especially J. T. Harrel (A/20th), Charles Hurley (A/20th), and Bruno Lorbecki (C/20th)."

Mary Griffin writes: "Sidney Cousans (C/1340th) and John Griffin (C/1340th) celebrated D-Day anniversary in Biloxi at Mary Mahoney's (mentioned in John Grisham's *Runaway Jerry*). They wanted the anonymous contributors to know that Southern boys stick together and are enclosing contributions to maintain the delivery of the *Wavy Arrow*." [See *Wavy Arrow* contributions.]

Guy A. Trifone (Officer) writes: "Thank you for all the information in the *Wavy Arrow*; please keep them coming. Due to my limited capabilities, I won't be attending the 56th Reunion, to my regret." [See *Wavy Arrow* contributions.]

Condensed History of the 20th

A Condensed History of the 20th Engineers from World War I to Operation Desert Spring in Kuwait has been published. For a copy, write J. Kenneth Noon, P.O. Box 443, Hobgood, NC 27843, or take a look at it on the web: <<http://www.20thengineers.com/>>.

Memories of Joseph W. Miller, B/20th Officer

Some time in April 1943, I was working with my platoon on road repair in Tunisia. Needing rocks to fill the potholes, we found what appeared to be a deserted, tumbled-down structure. We started tearing down the rock walls and loading them into our 2-1/2 ton GMC. However, several angry Arabs approached, and with pidgin-French, I learned to my horror that we had just destroyed a building housing a tomb of a local holy man. We got the hell out of there, and the holy man's shrine went into the potholes. That was the closest thing that I ever did that could have started a religious war.

Some time after the fighting ended in North Africa, the First Battalion was assigned to the murderous task of clearing the Sedjenane mine fields. On one of these assignments, I took a mine-removal detail to a higher elevation that had a small stream. It was hot; we were still wearing wool od's; and our canteens soon were empty. The water looked drinkable, so we filled our canteens. I handed out the Halogen tablets, warning the men to wait until the pills had time to work. About five minutes further along the stream, we found a decayed body of a German soldier lying in the stream. We all quickly emptied out our canteens, walked further along the stream where refilled up our canteens and put in new Halogen tablets. We never did find any mines on this detail.

I was leading the mine-removal detail when Col. Arnold got himself covered with fleas prowling through an Arab shack and met his untimely death (as reported Bernard McDonnell in the November 2002 issue of the *Wavy Arrow*). My men and I were also covered with revensous fleas. Later that day, I recall seeing one of my squad leaders, Sergeant Bill Bridgers, strip off his cloths and wash himself with gasoline from a billy can on one of our trucks.

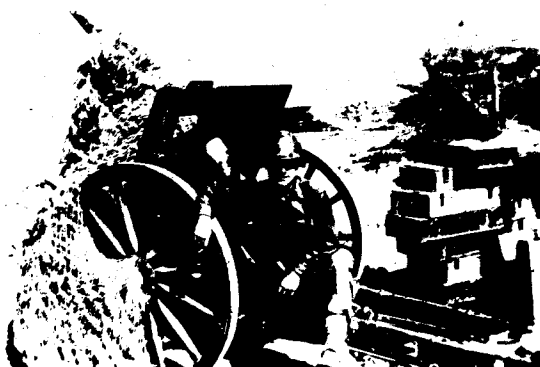
Immediately after we landed on Yellow Beach, east of Licata, Sicily, we were ordered to take up defensive positions in the hills above the beachhead. Every company seems to have a "company 8-ball." I was unfortunate enough to have one of these men in my platoon. When we reached our assigned area, I discovered that our sad sack did not have his tripod for our light, 30-calibre machine gun. "Where's the tripod," I growled. "It was too heavy," he whined. I lost my cool and I ordered him back to the beach to find the tripod. He apparently had a good sense of direction because he was soon back with the vital tripod.

After the dusty ride across the island following the 3rd Division to Palermo, we were assigned the task of clearing the docks from the damage inflicted by our Air Force. We were trying to clear out a mass of twisted concrete beams, and we badly needed a cutting torach. In its absence, we had to use blocks of TNT to cut the beams. In the midst of this hot work, a jeep drove up with a Brigadier General from the 7th Arm staff. He ordered us to stop work and line up for an inspection. The general was dressed in a Class A uniform complete with ribbons and shiny shoes. In contrast, we were a scruffy lot, none of whom had seen a shower since leaving North Africa. But the general proceeded to examine each of us, even noting missing buttons. I'm certain that his report was not complimentary. We were glad to move on to Cefalu to start repairing the costal railroad, without anymore insepcting generals.

More of Joe Miller's "Memories" while in England in the next issue of the *Wavy Arrow*.

Ed Lutz in Sicily

The photograph to the right was taken by Joseph Miller soon after the 20th landed at Licata, Sicily, on July 10, 1943. Ed Lutz is seated on one of the pieces of artillery the Italians abandoned. The photo was taken with a cheap camera obtained from the Italians, but was not developed until after the 20th Engineers established their own facilities for processing film.



Your Editor Goofed

We reported in the March 2003 issue of the *Wavy Arrow* that Ben A. Cipra (C/1340th) had made a contribution of \$20.00 to support the publication and mailing of this newsletter. It has come to our attention that we erred because Ben made a contribution of \$50.00 as confirmed by our bank account. This error was compounded when we reported in the May issue that an anonymous contributor made a contribution of \$20.25 "to top the earlier \$20 contribution made by Ben Cipra (C/1340th)." We appreciate contributions of any amount, and apologize to Ben Cipra for having erred.

Recap of Contribution Competition

Since the contribution from an Anonymous Contributor in the last issue of the *Wavy Arrow* has set-up a contribution competition, here is a recap of those we can identify.

Officers (20th and 1340th)	\$350.00
Company A, 20th	\$30.00
Company B, 20th	\$35.00
Company C, 20th	\$35.00
H&S Company 20th	\$57.00
Company A, 1340th	\$0.00
Company B, 1340th	\$165.50
Company C, 1340th	\$142.00
H&S Company, 1340th	\$60.00
Miscellaneous	\$30.00

Send items for inclusion in future issues of the *Wavy Arrow* to editor George Griffenhagen, 2501 Drexel Street, Vienna, VA 22180.