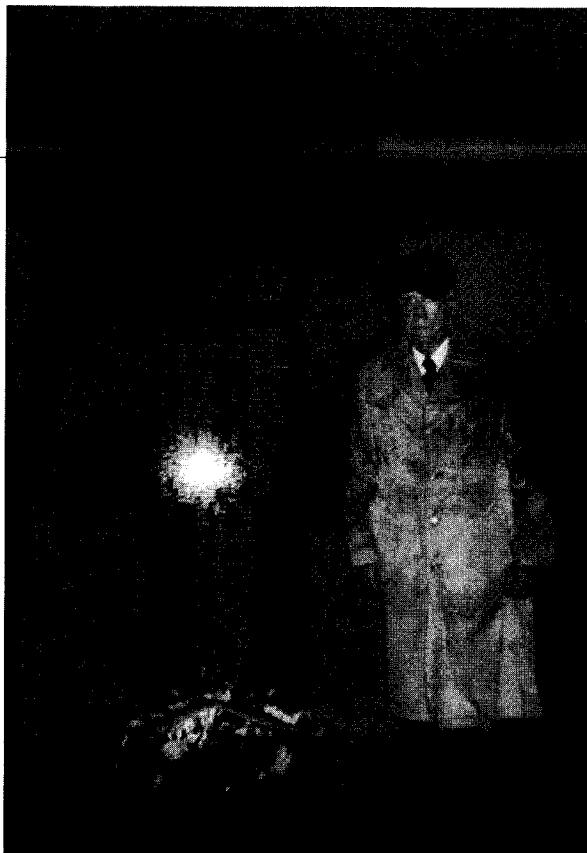


# 20th Combat Engineer Association of World War II

The  **Wavy Arrow** 

\*\*\*\*\*  
December 2005  
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## 20th Engineers Honored



Edmond "Mick" Daley, son of the 20th commanding officer Edmund K. Daley, laid a wreath at the 20th Engineers monument on Omaha Beach during a November 8-17, 2005, visit to Normandy. Mick also discovered a second plaque honoring the 20th Combat Engineers in the mayor's office in Colleville sur Mer during a ceremony. The visiting group consisted of 24 veterans of the First Division 16th Infantry Regiment whom the 20th supported during the D-Day landing on June 6, 1944. Mick served from 1966 to 1968 as company commander of A Company, 2nd Battalion of the 16th Infantry Regiment of the Big Red One. Thanks to the efforts of Mick Daley we are also including in the center of this issue a copy of the certificate in which the First Infantry Division decrees that all members of the 20th Combat Engineer Association of World War II are honorary members of the Society of the First Infantry Division in recognition of outstanding combat support of the Big Red One during WW II. You may want to frame this certificate or include it in your scrap book of memorabilia.

## Lost But Not Forgotten

**Garbiel C. Delulio (H&S 20th; H&S 1340th)** died October 31, 2005, at the age of 84 in Syracuse, New York. Robert Pearson (B/20th), who also lives in Syracuse, sent a copy of the obituary that tells us that after WWII Gabriel worked variously at his father's Delulio's Corner Market, in the meat department at the Chicago Markets, and for 20 years in the deli department of Peter's Supermarket, all in Syracuse.

**Edward P. Kassab (B/20th)** died October 19, 2005, at his home in Casselberry, Florida, at the age of 82. After WWII, Ed served as an auto mechanic, and assisted at the 1994 Reunion in Columbia, Georgia. His daughter, Shawn Parker, contacted your editor to advise us that Ed would be interned at Arlington National Cemetery on November 22, 2005. Your editor attended the internment representing the 20th Engineers.

## **Origin of Term "Combat Engineers"**

**By Truman H. Setliffe**

About a year ago, the Library of Congress established a Veterans History Project. The official partners include a national network of local and regional historical societies, veterans organizations, schools, colleges, universities, and community organizations. The partners conduct oral histories (both taped and transcribed), and collect various memorabilia associated with all 20th century wars. The heaviest emphasis is on World War II because of many WWII veterans are passing away. Thousands of oral histories are on file either in local repositories or at the Library of Congress. One of these transcriptions is an interview with a Corp of Engineers WWII officer who was asked to explain the origin of the term "Combat Engineers." It is obvious that this officer had been there as apparent from the following testimony:

"During World War II the Army Corps of Engineers were organized and equipped to perform specific functions such as water supply, mapping, bridge supply, heavy construction, combat, and other functions as needed. Combat Engineer units (companies, battalions, groups) traveled with and supported infantry and armored divisions, each of which had its own Engineer Battalion. These Combat Engineers were combat oriented and trained on expedient-type functions, including mine placement and removal; road construction and maintenance; bridge repair or replacement; fortification building, and other required activities.

"In addition, Combat Engineers received basic weapons training in the use of rifles, machine guns, and bazookas. This prepared these units to serve as Infantry troops and to provide security for their own projects. Basically, the Combat Engineers work with the 'front line troops' to overcome obstacles and allow movement of troop units, their equipment, and their supplies. Generally the Combat Engineers were on the cutting edge with the lead infantry, hence Combat Engineers."

This description certainly fits the units of the 20th Combat Engineers. They received training in the U.S. before landing in North Africa on November 8, 1942. The two African campaigns gave us "live ammunition combat training," particularly road maintenance, mine clearance, and infantry action in clearing enemy troops from Bizerte, Tunisia, in May 1943.

Combat training continued in Sicily from July 10 to November 1943. Here it was airfield construction and railroad bridge construction using Bailey Bridges. When the 20th Engineer Combat Regiment arrived in England six months before D-Day in France, it was already a battle-trained Combat Engineer unit.

England brought reorganization on January 21, 1944, plus the construction of camps to house the troops for the D-Day build-up. There was also more training on bridge construction, assault tactics, first aid, chemical warfare, and mine warfare.

Continued "Origin of the Term Combat Engineers"  
 By Truman H. Setliffe

The 1171st, 20th, and 1340th Combat Engineers needed all of their prior experiences and refresher training for the landings and operations in the assault on Omaha Beach in Normandy on June 6, 1944. Fifty years after this invasion, one author wrote: "...the Americans were devastated at the site they would christened "Bloody Omaha."

Yes, we were "Combat Engineers" on the cutting edge of combat operations. These included three amphibious landings (Fedela, French Morocco, November 8, 1942; Licata, Sicily, July 10, 1943; and Omaha Beach, Normandy, France, June 6, 1944) and eight combat campaigns including two campaigns in North Africa (French Morocco and Tunisia); one combat campaign in Sicily; and five combat campaigns in Europe (Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe). The 20th Combat Engineers came out of them with a proud record.

**Units 20th Engineers Supported in Combat**

British IX Corps . . . . .	North Africa
French African Corps . . . . .	North Africa
French 2nd Armored Division . . . . .	Paris
U.S. Army II Corps . . . . .	North Africa
U.S. Army V Corps . . . . .	Belgium, England, France, Luxembourg
U.S. First Army . . . . .	Belgium, England, France, Germany
U.S. First Armored Division . . . . .	North Africa
U.S. First Infantry Division . . . . .	Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Normandy
U.S. Second Armored Division . . . . .	Normandy, Sicily
U.S. Second Infantry Division . . . . .	Belgium, France, Germany
U.S. Third Army . . . . .	Bavaria, Czechoslovakia
U.S. Third Infantry Division . . . . .	North Africa, Sicily
U.S. Fifth Armored Division . . . . .	France
U.S. Fifth Infantry Division . . . . .	France
U.S. Seventh Army . . . . .	Sicily
U.S. Eighth Infantry Division . . . . .	Belgium, Germany
U.S. Ninth Armored Division . . . . .	Germany
U.S. Ninth Infantry Division . . . . .	North Africa
U.S. Sixteenth Armored Division . . . . .	Czechoslovakia
U.S. Twenty-Eighth Infantry Division . . . . .	Belgium, France, Germany
U.S. Thirty-Fourth Infantry Division . . . . .	North Africa
U.S. Thirty-Fifth Infantry Division . . . . .	France
U.S. Forty-Fifth Infantry Division . . . . .	Sicily
U.S. Sixty-Ninth Infantry Division . . . . .	Belgium, Germany
U.S. Eighty-Second Airborne Division . . . . .	Sicily
U.S. Ninety-Ninth Infantry Division . . . . .	Belgium, Germany
U.S. Hundred and Sixth Infantry Division . . . . .	Belgium, France

## National D-Day Museum

As you all know, the Gulf Coast, New Orleans, and the National D-Day Museum were hit with not one but two devastating hurricanes -- Katrina and Rita. The ground floor of the Museum suffered the most damage and is being rebuilt. The upper floors where the bulk of the storage collections and the exhibits are located are in good shape and need only minimal work to get them ready for the re-opening of the museum that is scheduled to take place early next year. The National D-Day Museum is located at 945 Magazine Street in New Orleans.

### Letters Received

**Rita Izzo** writes: "My dad, **James Salerno (A/1340th)** really enjoys reading the *Wavy Arrow*. He remembers every detail of many of the stories in each issue. Please keep it coming."

**Angelina Kaczmariski (widow of John Kaczmariski, C/1340th)** writes: "I have just heard from **Sidney Cousans of Metairie, Louisiana (C/1340th)**, who lost his home and printing business during Hurricane Katrina. He is now safe with his family but wants to be sure that he eventually receives each issue of the *Wavy Arrow*." **Editor's Note:** We will send Sid all back issues of the *Wavy Arrow* once we learn his new mailing address.

**Byrd McBroom (H&S/1340th)** writes: "After service in the 21st and 40th Engineers, I joined the H&S Company of the 20th and 1340th Engineers. I then spent one year in Korea and retired as a Master Sergeant after twenty years. I then spent another twenty years working in the oil fields. I do enjoy receiving the *Wavy Arrow*."

**Joseph Norton, Sr. (son of James J. Norton)** writes: "Thank you so much for keeping the memories alive. Enclosed is a check in remembrance of my late father, James J. Norton."

### Wavy Arrow Contributions

We thank the following for having made a contribution to keep the *Wavy Arrow* coming to you on a regular basis. Please consider one if you haven't made a contribution recently.

<b>Lillian Geneser (widow Joseph Geneser)</b> .....	\$25.00
<b>Angelina Kaczmariski (widow of John Kaczmariski)</b> .....	\$10.00
<b>Byrd McBroom (H&amp;S/1340th)</b> .....	\$20.00
<b>Joseph Norton, Sr. (son of James J. Norton)</b> .....	\$40.00
<b>James Salerno (A/1340th)</b> .....	\$50.00

Send Contributions, Letters, Articles, Photographs, Obituaries, and other News Items for inclusion in future issues of the *Wavy Arrow* to editor George Griffenhagen, 2501 Drexel Street, Vienna, VA 22180.