

20th Combat Engineer Association

of World War II



June 2005

In This Issue of the Wavy Arrow

"Was there a Willy and Joe in the 20th Engineers? (See page 3)
"Did the 1340th Ever Beat the 20th?" (See page 4)

But first, let's pay tribute to our recently deceased veterans.

Lost But Not Forgotten

Carl E. Markey (Officer) died April 2, 2005, at the age of 87 after having been diagnosed as being in the 3rd stages of Alzheimer (see the *Wavy Arrow* for March 2003 with a photograph of Carl and his loving daughter Patricia K. Slama). Carl Markey was an integral part of the 20th Combat Engineer Association from its very founding, having served as chairman at the third annual reunion dinner held April 6, 1949, in Atlanta, Georgia; and he arranged for the sixth reunion held August 21-22, 1953, in Cleveland, Ohio. Carl, his wife Catherine, and their daughter Pat Slama hosted the 26th Reunion held in Oak Brook, Illinois, August 9-11, 1973. When the Board of Directors was established in 1977, Carl was elected as one of six members, a position he held until illness forced his retirement in 2002. He served as Secretary *pro tem* from 1986 to 1989, but he is perhaps best remembered for organizing the Golf Tournament which commenced in 1982, and the following year he was made Honorary Chairman of the "Golf Classic." Those who attended our final Reunion in 2004 will remember that many members of Carl's family attended including Patricia K. Slama (daughter); Margaret Moore (daughter); Bruce Markey (son); Carl Markey, Jr. (son); Nancy Sanchez (daughter); Brian and Brett Slama (grandsons); and Sarah Slama (granddaughter-in-law). Carl was laid to rest on April 7th at the Calumet Park Cemetery in Merrillville, Indiana.

George T. Edwards (D/20th) died March 30, 2005, at the age of 94. Thomas A. Kerns (D/20th; A/1340th) writes that George Edwards and Thomas Kerns were drafted on February 21, 1941, and sent to Company D of the 20th in Fort Benning, Georgia. Edwards was wounded in Sicily in 1943 and sent back to the U.S. never to return to the 20th Combat Engineers. Kerns believes that he is now the only member of Company D of the 20th still left that lived near Charlotte, North Carolina.

John T. Harrell (A/20th) died April 10, 2005, at the age of 82. "J.T" had been in very poor health for sometime. The funeral, which was held in Merry Hill, North Carolina, was attended by Willie Carl Scott and George Spivey, both of A/20th. Burial with military rites took place at Hillcrest Cemetery.

Letters Received

Horace L. Cribb (E/20th & B/1340th) writes: "I have been thinking of the 20th Combat Engineers which creates lots of memories. My health is good for my age; I celebrated my 84th birthday on May 5th. I have been living by myself since 1998. Here is a contribution to help continuing the *Wavy Arrow* which I enjoy."

Angelina Kaczmariski (widow of John Kaczmariski, C/1340th) writes: I enjoy reading and keeping every issue of the *Wavy Arrow*. Each issue includes much history about World War II and the 20th and 1340th Combat Engineers in which my husband served first with Company F of the 20th in North Africa and Sicily, and then Company C of the 1340th in Europe from D-Day in Normandy to Czechoslovakia. Thank you for sending the *Wavy Arrow*.

Joseph Kleinfeld (H&S/20 & H&S/1340) writes: I just received the March 2005 issue of the *Wavy Arrow* and you are doing a great job of editing and publishing it. Sylvia and I are fortunate to now be great-great grandparents of three healthy girls.

Joseph Kenneth Noon (B/20th) writes: Your last *Wavy Arrow* was great as usual, and your "Memories in Western Sicily" brought to mind an experience that I had in France after we left Paris. I was given a map and some papers and was told to take the motorcycle to deliver them to a location marked on the map. It wasn't long before I came into a small town where I expected to see some people. However, all I saw was their heels as they ran into their homes. I didn't think about it at the time, but later I wondered why those people ran from a GI on a motorcycle. Were there German soldiers still in the town and the residents wanted to get to safety in case there was a fire fight? Did I liberate a small town and didn't realize it? We'll never know. Believe it or not but we have moved again. My new mailing address is 7804 Grant Avenue, Apartment #4, Overland Park, KS 66204. My new telephone number is 913-499-6846. My e-mail address remains the same which is <wavyarrow@kc.rr.com>.

Douglas Pulliam (F/20th and C/1340th) writes: I turned 83 a few days ago and am in good health. I go to a Senior Citizen's Club two or three days a week where I play pool. The Senior Citizen's Club in Weatherford only has one pool table and I was griping about it to an old friend in Fort Worth. He said I should come to the Senior Citizen's Club where he goes because they have three pool tables and you can nearly always get a table. So I have been going over there ever since. It sure was cold the day you and I fired for a record at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Being from the South, I wasn't used to such cold weather. [Editor's Note: Doug and your editor took basic training together at Fort Leonard Wood in early 1943; we then traveled together on the *HMS Andes* from New York to Casablanca, and joined the 20th Engineers near Bizerte, Tunisia, as the first replacements.]

President Noon On the Move

As Ken Noon writes in his letter published above, his new mailing address is 7804 Grant Avenue, Aptment #4, Overland Park, KS 66204. His new telephone number is 913-499-6846. His e-mail address remains the same <wavyarrow@kc.rr.com>.

Was There a Willy & Joe In the 20th Engineers?

Even though we previously reported on the death of the legendary newspaper cartoonist, Bill Mauldin, whose cartoons of Willy and Joe we all enjoyed, we are publishing the following tribute that appeared in the Winter 2002-2003 newsletter of the Army Historical Foundation.

Born in New Mexico in 1921, Bill Mauldin gained fame for his characters Willie and Joe, a pair of cynical, unshaven, and dirty GIs that made their way across war-torn Europe during World War II. In battling the enemy, the elements, and the disillusionment that many faced while fighting, these cartoons provided a dry sense of humor in a sarcastic manner that many of the real GIs found comforting. His frank portrayal of the physical and mental strains the war endeared Mauldin to his fellow soldiers.

After attending the Academy of Fine Art in Chicago, Bill Mauldin enlisted in the Army in 1940. He was assigned as a rifleman in the 180th Infantry and started drawing cartoons for the 45th Infantry Division's newsletter. Once sent overseas, *Stars and Stripes* began publishing his cartoons. His often anti-authoritarian drawings delighted the GIs, but tended to get Mauldin in to trouble with the senior officers. In particular General George Patton was incensed and threatened to stop the distribution of *Stars and Stripes* to the Third Army if they did not stop publishing these cartoons. Knowing of the popularity of Willy and Joe, General Dwight E. Eisenhower feared a serious drop in morale if the GIs no longer had access to their beloved cartoons. He arranged a meeting between Mauldin and Patton where Mauldin was to listen to a lecture on the dangers of producing anti-officer cartoons. Responding with the argument that the soldiers needed an outlet to express their legitimate grievances, Mauldin departed the meeting in no better standing with Patton. Despite Patton's clear misgivings, Mauldin continued to draw.



Mauldin's cartoons on World War II won the Pulitzer Prize in 1945. He was the youngest person, at age 23, to be awarded the prize. He went on to write and draw sixteen books and to act in two movies including the 1951 production of *Red Badge of Courage*, which starred another famous WWII veteran, Audie Murphy. On January 22, 2003, the world lost one of the 20th century's preeminent editorial cartoonists when Bill Mauldin died at a Newport Beach, California, nursing home.

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In the cartoon to the left, Joe tells Willy, "Yestiddy ya saved my life an' I swore I'd pay you back. Here's my last pair of dry socks"

Honor Roll at the National D-Day Museum

The National D-Day Museum in New Orleans has announced that they will soon be installing an Honor Roll to recognize those who have generously donated to help create America's National World War II Museum. The Honor Roll kiosk will be initially located at the entrance to the existing museum in the Memorial Pavilion, and subsequently will be moved to the newly expanded museum when it is opened. The Honor Roll will also be placed on-line. For those who have not yet made a contribution, and want to be included on the Honor Roll can send their contribution of \$25.00 to the National D-Day Museum, National Processing Center, P.O. Box 97336, Washington, DC 20090-7336.

Did the 1340th Ever Beat the 20th?

Sixty years ago this month, the 20th took on the 1340th in a baseball game. The following report of this game appeared in the *Wavy Arrow* published in Czechoslovakia on June 18, 1945. Only the first names of players were added to the original story.

Carl "Chief" Setterberg of the 1340th stepped on the mound with a bad case of laryngitis and a fast ball to take on the 20th Engineer officers. Both teams had a runner on base in the first inning. Harry Staikoff of the 20th was stranded on second when Fred Lyon flied out to left field for the third out. Bernard Sachs opened the second inning for the 20th with a single and a double by Tom Beatty. Bernard McDonnell followed with a double to score two runners. Ed Lutz grounded out; Clyde Bankston flied out advancing McDonnell to third; but Coons fanned out to end the rally. The 1340th scored four runs on four hits and a walk in the third. McCarthy led off with a single; Jim Orban walked; Jake Jacobi advanced both runners with a fly; and Jim Abercrombie doubled to score both runners. Truman Setliffe followed with another double to bring in two more runs. The 1340th scored two additional runs in the final inning on three hits and an error. McCarthy, Orban, and Setterberg each singled, and Tom Creegan reached first when Sachs juggled a bounder to the shortstop. The 1340th Engineer officers had beaten the 20th Engineer officers by six to two.

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.

Horace L. Cribb (E/20th & B/1340th)	\$100.00
Angelina Kaczmarski (widow of John Kaczmarski, C/1340th)	\$10.00
Joseph Kleinfeld (H&S/20th & H&S/1340th)	\$20.00
Nannie Morrow (widow of Ruppert Morrow, A/20th)	\$50.00
Joseph Kenneth Noon (B/20th)	\$50.00
George N. Spivey (A/20th)	\$25.00

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. If it is more convenient, you can send it by e-mail at <ggriffenhagen@aphanet.org>.