

20th Combat Engineer Association of World War II

The Wavy Arrow

August 2008

Officers of the 20th Engineer Battalion Headquarters

Thanks to Dominick A. Funaro (H&S/20th) we are able to picture this photograph of the officers of the 20th Engineer Battalion Headquarters. The photograph was taken in Truro, Cornwall, England soon after January 21, 1944, when the 20th Engineer Combat Regiment was reorganized. The identifications were pencilled in on the back of the photograph and their identity has been confirmed by Gerald M. Goodman.

In the front row from left to right are:

Clarence O. Magee	Major	Died 2008
Gerald M. Goodman	Captain	Living in Illinois
William H. West	Lieutenant	Died 1972
John W. Welch	Captain	Died 1996
Bernard P. McDonnell	Major	Living in Oregon
Johnathon E. Sonnefield	Colonel	Died 1974

In the second row from left to right are:

Robert Houston	Lieutenant	Status unknown
Bernard Sachs	Lieutenant	Died 2000
Charles J. Speer	Captain (Medic)	Died 1973
Howard H. Dukes	Captain (Dental)	Died 1994



Lost But Not Forgotten

Bernard Truman Fries (H&S/1340th) died October 18, 2007, at the age of 82 in his home town of Bakersfield, California. His son, Lloyd Fries, writes that his dad was a truck driver and was proud of his service with the 20th Combat Engineers.

Thomas R. Murphy (A/20th) died April 1, 2008, at his residence in Peoria, Illinois. He joined the 20th in time to participate in the June 6, 1944, D-Day landing in Normandy, and he was wounded on November 8, 1944, in the Huertgen Forest. After WWII, he served as planning engineer at Caterpillar for 40 years until his retirement in 1980. His daughter, Mggie Murphy Severino, tells us that "My dad was so proud of his service to the 20th Engineers, and his friendship with John Hamilton (A/20th) who died in 2000, and Charlie Kish (A/20th) who died in 1992) meant so much to him. He was a member of St. Mark's Catholic Church, and he enjoyed bowling, golfing, and playing poker with his friends. He loved reading the *Wavy Arrow*, and in his memory, please accept my enclosed donation."

Letters From Veterans

Dominic A. Carini (B/1340th) writes: "Reading the *Wavy Arrow* brings back many memories. Please keep it coming. I have been in and out of the hospital three times in the past year. It has been a struggle trying to recover from a severe back operation and learning to walk again. I have now moved to an Assisted Living Complex which is about ten minutes from my daughters home where all of my mail goes. The address is 91 Barrington Way, Glastonbury, CT 06033-4344. Her telephone number for messages only is 860-633-5491."

Dominick A. Funaro (H&S/20th) writes: "I am in pretty good health for an old man. Mary and I have just celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary. I never believed that I would last this long, but no regrets. I am planning on driving to Canada this fall regardless of gas prices." Editor: See photograph provided by Dom on the first page.

Bernard McDonnell (20th Regimental Adjutant) writes: "I greatly appreciate each issue of the *Wavy Arrow*. I am currently in the third rehab center in the past six months. Hopefully there is some light at the end of the tunnel. I am trying to return to independent living so that I can return to my daughter's home. The mailing address at my daughter's home is 22755 South Woodview Lane, Beaver Creek, OR 97004. Please accept this check as a small token to keep things going."

Anna M. Russ (Wife of Peter J. Russ, C/1340th) writes: "Peter has now reached the age of 90 and he tries to stay active by taking strolls using his walker. The biggest blow to his ego was having to stop driving his car. He keeps in touch with James Salerno by telephone. They went through a lot together during the war and have stayed in touch ever since. Since writing is not one of Peter's favorite chores, he has asked me to write once in a while so that he can keep in touch with his colleagues via the *Wavy Arrow*. We are enclosing a contribution to help support the cost of printing and mailing the *Wavy Arrow*."

Sally Brown Shares Photographs

Sally Brown (330 South "S" Street, Livermore, CA 94550-4249) writes: "Thanks much for continue sending me each issue of the *Wavy Arrow*. In response to the last issue, I sent Colonel Porter for his website photographs from my late mother's album of some of the 20th boys who shared our hospitality while they were at Camp Kilmer awaiting to be shipped overseas."

Editor's Note: The 20th Combat Engineer Regiment spent eight weeks at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, arriving on July 24, and departing on September 21, 1942. Sally Brown has previously explained in the *Wavy Arrow*, "Shortly after Camp Kilmer opened, several off-duty soldiers from the 20th Engineers on their way to a bus trudged past our house on School Street in Piscataway Township, New Jersey. My father was sitting under the willow tree listening to Gabriel Heater's radio news broadcast, and invited them over so that my mother could make coffee for them. I was only 14 years-old and was delighted that our willow tree soon became a home away from home for many members of the 20th Engineers."

Widows of Veterans

Ruby P. Toomey (Widow of Walter Glenn Toomey, A/20th) writes, "I really enjoyed the excerpts of the diary by Captain Alton E. Carpenter, chaplain to the 20th Combat Engineers. I hope that ny small contribution will help with the *Wavy Arrow*." **Editor's Note:** See the obituary in an earlier issue of the *Wavy Arrow* of Walter Glenn Toomey who died February 5, 2007.

Martha Dudenhoefer (Widow of James J. Dudenhoefer, Officer) has moved to 5981 Commane Road, La Fayette, NY 13084-9644.

Joan Griffenhagen (Wife of editor George Griffenhagen) died June 23, 2008, after suffering a full year from cancer. She loved to proof-read the *Wavy Arrow*.

Grace K. Horn (Widow of George Horn, Officer) has moved to live with her daughter, Edna McCauley at 83 Stoneshire Drive, Glassboro, NJ 08028; Telephone: 856-863-1524.

Willyne Scott (Widow of Willie Carl Scott, A/20th, who died November 17, 2006) has moved to 501 Martin Road, Anderson, SC 29626-5261.

Eugene Mead Caffey Remembered

Eugene Mead Caffey, commander of the 20th Engineer Combat Regiment in North Africa is remembered in a featured article in the June 30, 2008, issue of *Army Times*. Authors Fred L. Borch and Robert F. Dorr describe Caffey's "distinguished career as an engineer and judge advocate as both unusual and remarkable." You can find a number of articles in back issues of the *Wavy Arrow* describing this soldier whose heart was always with the 20th Engineers. We thank Edmund K. Daley for sending us a copy of this article.

Praise For Chappie's Diary

Francis P. Knorr (A/20th) writes: "In the January *Wavy Arrow* I read that the diary of Captain Carpenter has been published. I ordered a copy and received a nice letter from Anne Eiland, Chappie's daughter, with the book. I read the 240-page book from cover to cover and enjoyed it very much. I am now passing it around to the family and my granddaughter has ordered her own copy.

"As I read the book I started to think back as to what I was doing on the various dates mentioned by Chaplain Carpenter in his diary. One of the events that brought back memories was when I was on guard duty at the villa in Casablanca. It was 2:30 a.m. when someone appeared at the gate. I ordered him to halt and clicked off the safety on my rifle. Our unexpected visitor identified himself as the Secretary of State but he didn't know the password. A captain rushed out from the villa and yelled, 'Sentry, don't shoot.' The captain then opened the gate and admitted our visitor who was wearing a black suit, top coat, a Hamburg hat, and carrying a briefcase. The captain explained to our distinguished visitor that the sentry was only doing his duty and explained, 'If you have to stay out later hereafter, you will have to know the password.' After the captain and the Secretary of State disappeared into the villa, everything was quiet again. I often wonder what Colonel Caffey would have said to me had he been there."

Those who want to obtain their own copy of *Chappie, World War II Diary of a Combat Chaplain* can order the book for \$21.50 postpaid from Anne Eiland, P.O. Box 51851, Mesa, AZ 85208.

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.

Sally Brown (See letter elsewhere in this issue)	\$25.00
Donald A. Funaro (H&S/20th)	\$25.00
Francis P. Knorr (A/20th)	\$25.00
Bernard McDonnell (20th Regimental Adjutant)	\$50.00
Shawn Parker (Daughter of Edward P. Kassab, B/20th)	\$25.00
Peter J. Russ (C/1340th)	\$50.00
Maggie Murphy Severino (Daughter of Thomas R. Murphy, A/20th) . . .	\$100.00
Ruby P. Toomey (Widow of Walter Glenn Toomey, 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.