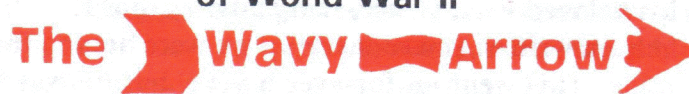


# 20th Combat Engineer Association of World War II



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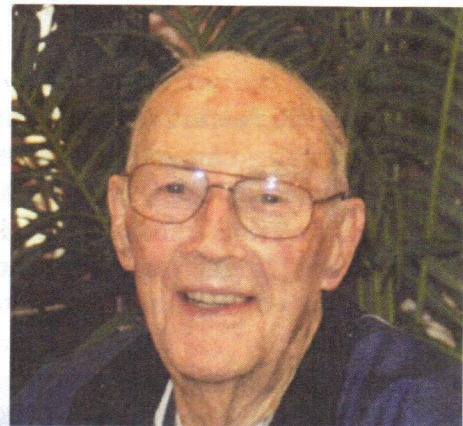
May 2010

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## **Truman Holt Setliffe (1919-2010)**

**Truman Setliffe (Commander of the 1340th)** passed away March 11, 2010, at Adams Place, a health center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, with his daughter, Cindy McFarlin, beside him. A memorial service was held on March 16th with many of his care givers, old friends, and family in attendance, and he was interred at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Murfreesboro, next to his wife, Dorothea Marchand, whom he married on May 19, 1948, and who died July 19, 1986. Their daughter, Cindy, was born May 8, 1950.

Truman was born December 20, 1919, in Lynchburg, Tennessee, and received a 1941 B.S. in mechanical engineering from Louisiana State University. He joined the 20th at Fort Benning on August 20, 1941. He became personnel adjutant of the 20th while at Camp Blanding, landing with the 20th at Casablanca in November 1942. He landed at Licata, Sicily, on July 10, 1943, as the regimental operations officer. When the Regiment was reorganized in England on January 21, 1944, he was selected as the 1340th Battalion commander. On June 6, 1944, he landed at Omaha Beach in Normandy, and served as 1340th commander until hostilities ended May 8, 1945.



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Upon returning to the states in 1946, he received his master's in civil engineering at the University of Illinois, and taught one year at West Point. Among his final major assignments were chief of the operations for the Army Engineers 1950-1952 training troops bound for Korea; executive officer 1952-1953 managing construction of airfields at Atlantic bases; and logistics officer for the Military Assistance Advisory Group in Indochina, 1953-1955 conducting joint operations with the French in Vietnam, a full decade before the U.S. became involved on a large scale. In January 1955 he was promoted to full colonel.

After retiring from the Army on July 1, 1963, Truman became president of the Philadelphia-based Liberty Corporation, a concrete and asphalt paving firm. In 1972, he left to take over a similar firm in the U.S. Virgin Islands. On April 1, 1974, he joined Wagner-Honus-Inglis where he served for 25 years in various capacities until his retirement at the age of 80. In December 1999 he moved to Lascassas, Tennessee, to be near his daughter, Cindy. Over the past dozen years Truman has been a frequent contributor to the *Wavy Arrow*, describing his experiences during World War II.

## More Very Sad News

We reported in the last issue of the *Wavy Arrow* that Roy Oscar Hays (20th Officer) was still living. However, his beloved wife, Grace, sadly advises that Roy died January 26, 2010. Grace writes, "I should have written you sooner, but we were hoping that he could overcome his urinary tract infection. This went on for over a year, but he was hospitalized January 10th, went into a coma January 17th, and passed away January 26th." During the "Service of Death and Resurrection," scripture readings were delivered by grand-daughters Alana Van Horn, Elizabeth Hays, and Laura Hays. Among the pall bearers were sons Roy Louis, Todd, David, and Richard who gave a very moving eulogy, each son speaking to a specific attribute of Roy's character: humor, tenacity, faith, and love of family. Internment was held at Lakemont Memorial Gardens in Davidsonville. Grace added, "Roy was hoping to reach his 92nd birthday, but couldn't make it until May. Had he lived until September, we would have celebrated our 68th wedding anniversary. He looked forward to getting each issue of the *Wavy Arrow*, and would have especially enjoyed reading the last issue providing brief biographical data of the 20th veterans who are still living. For those who would like to send condolences to his widow, Grace, you can reach her at P.O. Box 46, Galesville, MD 20765-0046. Her telephone number is 1-410-867-3213.

We also reported in the last issue that Steve Poulos (B/20th) was still living. Dennis Poulos (2117 Hull Court, Naperville, Illinois, 60565) advises us that his uncle died January 11, 2010, at the age of 95. Dennis reported that Steve "was strong and alert until the end fighting the effects of bladder cancer. He was very proud of his service in the 20th Combat Engineers and on many occasions he shared with me various stories in the *Wavy Arrow*." The funeral was held at the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church and internment at Elmwood Cemetery in River Grove, Illinois. As executor of his estate, Dennis Poulos has sent a \$100.00 contribution in the memory of his uncle and our fellow veteran.

We also reported that we believed that Lee L. Barbier (20th Medic) was still living. However, our mailings of the *Wavy Arrow* to 2606 Brom Bones, Pearland, TX 77581-5506 were undeliverable. We have now learned from an obituary in the *Courier Journal* of July 17, 2007, that Lee Luke Barbier of Pearland, Texas, died July 13, 2007, at age 92. He is survived by his wife, Vera Kennedy Barbier, and three sons of Louisville, Kentucky.

Finally, we reported in the last issue that Harold H. Johnson (H&S/1340th) was still living. We have since learned that Harold died April 25, 2008, with internment at Grace Memorial Gardens in Hudson, Florida.

## New Mailing Address for Wasinger

Emanuel J. Wasinger (A/1340th): We reported in the last issue of the *Wavy Arrow* that our colleague has dementia and now resides at Village North Retirement Community, Apt. 105N, 11160 North Village Drive, St. Louis, MO 63136. However, we failed to report that his mail should be sent to his sister, Lucille Grelle, at 890 Prigge Road, Saint Louis, MO 63138-3549.



## Finally Some Good News: Two More Veterans Still Living

Stephen W. Drevicky joined the 20th in England as part of F Company, 20th, which was changed to C Company, 1340th. He was captured in the Hurtgen Forest in November 1944 and was sent by the Germans to work on their railroads. After the war, he spent 43 years working for Alcoa. In 1981, he attended his first reunion in St. Louis, with his wife, Harriette, and continued to attend several more reunions. In 2008, he made a generous \$25 contribution. He is now 89 years old and legally blind. He is still living at 3681 West 102nd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111-3808. His telephone number is 1-216-941-1065.

Henry "Shorty" Roscoe Flowers served in B Company/20th, and played baseball at Fort Benning before deploying overseas. He was a charter member of the association and attended the 1949 reunion reporting that he was going to Agriculture School on the G.I. bill. In 1993 he survived a heart by-pass operation but was soon again dancing at the senior citizen's weekly bash. He attended the 1994, 1995, 2002, and 2003 reunions with Raquel Johnson and Gloria Flowers Norris, but was unable to attend the 2004 final reunion. His mailing address is 10149 Highway 210, Four Oaks, NC 27524.

### More on Veteran Peter Russ

Anna M. Russ (wife of Peter J. Russ, C/1340th) writes: "Hats off to the *Wavy Arrow*. What a nice gesture to list the names of the remaining veterans of the 20th Combat Engineers. I'm sure that your buddies really appreciate the honor you have bestowed on them with the last issue. Peter and I celebrated 63 years of marriage in 2009, and only the war separated us for four years. Peter is 92 years old and does not get around much after the 2nd set of knee replacements. He 'popped' a knee cap and now wears a brace on the right knee so that he can walk without falling down. He is too old to have anything more done about his knee; his heart would not take the strain. He is still able to get around with his 'pet' walker and the aid of the brace. Pete's buddy, James Salerno calls Pete quite often and they often chat for an hour. Our two children see to our every needs. We really love our home and are thankful to be able to stay here and enjoy our remaining years. I am grateful that I can still take care of him. Enclosed is a check to keep the *Wavy Arrow* coming to us.

Martha Lutz (widow of Edwin Lutz, 20th Officer) writes, "Since Ed was so *gung-ho* about the 20th Combat Engineers, I am enclosing \$100.00 in memory of my late beloved husband." (Editor's Note: Edwin Lutz died September 30, 2004.).

Send 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. His  
telephone number is 1-703-560-2413.

## 20th & 1340th Combat Engineers History

*History of the 20th Engineer (Combat) Battalion, Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, 1945.*

*History of the 1340th Engineer Combat Battalion, Klatovy, Czechoslovakia, 1945.*

*Three Battles: Aranville, Altuzzo, and Schmidt* by Charles B. MacDonald and Sidney T. Mathews, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C., 1952.

*Follow the Wavy Arrow: 20th Battalion, 1340th Battalion, 1171st Group* by George F. Rankin, Glendale, Arizona, 1975.

*Follow Me and Die (The Battle of Schmidt in the Huertgen Forest, November 2-7, 1944)* by Cecil C. Currey, Stein & Day, New York, 1984.

*The G.I.'s War* by Edwin P. Hoyt, Da Cappa Press, New York, 1988.

*An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa 1942-1943* by Rick Atkinson, Henry Holt and Company, New York, 2002.

*Chappie, World War II Diary of a Combat Chaplain* by Alton E. Carpenter and A. Anne Eiland, Mead Publishing, Mesa, Arizona, 2007.

*The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943-1944* by Rick Atkinson, Henry Holt and Company, New York, 2007.

*The 20th Engineers: A Condensed History* website at [www.20thengineers.com](http://www.20thengineers.com)

*Citizen Soldiers* by Stephen E. Ambrose, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1997.

This is one of the best books on a review of "the U.S. Army from the Normandy Beaches to the Bulge and the Surrender of Germany." On page 167, Ambrose describes that the Battle of Huertgen Forest "was fought under conditions as bad as American soldiers ever had to face, including the Wilderness in the Civil War and the Meuse-Argonne in World War I." The 20th and 1340th Engineers suffered 72% casualties in the Battle of Huertgen Forest.

### Wavy Arrow Contributions

We thank the following for making a contribution to keep the *Wavy Arrow* coming to you.

Roy Butler, Jr. (Son of Roy Butler, A/20th, and Willyne Scott) . . . . .	\$ 25.00
Irene Homa (On behalf of John Homa, H&S/1340th) . . . . .	\$ 20.00
Rita Izzo (Daughter of James Salerno, A/1340th) . . . . .	\$ 25.00
Martha W. Lutz (In memory of Edwin M. Lutz, 20th Officer) . . . . .	\$100.00
Dennis Poulos (Nephew of Steve Poulos, B/20th) . . . . .	\$100.00
Audrey Riddick (In memory of James Riddick, Jr., C/20th) . . . . .	\$ 25.00
Anna M. Russ (On behalf of Peter J. Russ, C/1340th) . . . . .	\$ 50.00