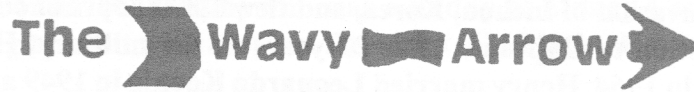


20th Combat Engineer Association of World War II



November 2012

Lost But Not Forgotten

Donald M. Wharff (1917-2012)

Donald M. Wharff (Warrant Officer, 1340th) died May 13, 2012, in Raymore, Missouri at the age of 93. He was born August 26, 1917, and after a semester at college in Des Moines, Iowa, he joined the 20th Engineer Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia. According to the record, Don stood in a line with twenty other recruits when **Colonel Eugene Caffey** asked if anyone can use a typewriter. Don and one other recruit stepped forward, and both were assigned to H&S/20th. Don subsequently became personnel manager as staff sergeant and later as warrant officer in the 1340th Engineer Battalion while in England getting ready for the Normandy invasion. Don always thought that his ability to type may have saved his life. After WWII Don commenced working as office manager for the Maytag Company in Minneapolis 1951-1969, and in 1995 Don and his wife Gretchen, moved to Missouri. From 1964, they both attended reunions until Gretchen died in 1999. In 2006 Don moved into the Foxwood Springs Living Center, a retirement facility in Raymore, Missouri, where he died. However, we have not been able to obtain information on the interment.

Henry Linton Smith (1922-2012)

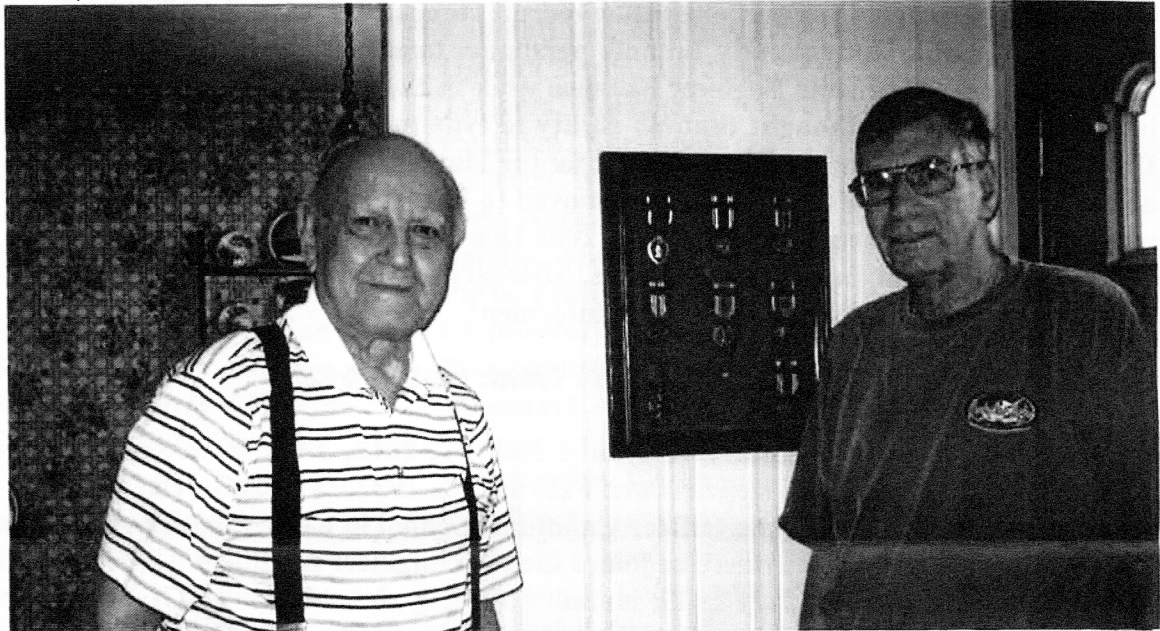
Henry Linton Smith (Officer, 20th) died June 21, 2012, after suffering from breathing problems for the past year. He was born February 2, 1922, in Alexandria, Virginia, and he graduated as 2nd. Lt. from the Officer Candidate School in early 1943. In April he shipped to Casablanca, North Africa, where he joined the 20th Engineer Regiment which was in Tunisia. After participating in the July 1943, invasion of Sicily, he shipped to Great Britain where Henry joined the 20th Engineer Battalion, Company A. On June 6, 1944, as the Higgin's boat with Henry's platoon approached the Normandy beaches, they unexpectedly landed on the British *Gold Beach*, miles from *Omaha Beach*. Henry and his platoon remained for three days with the British troops until they found their way back to 20th Engineers. After his promotion as 1st. Lt., all went well for Henry until he was wounded in Luxembourg on April 4, 1944. Henry returned from the English hospital to the 20th just before the December 1944 Battle of the Bulge. Henry celebrated the end of WWII on May 8, 1945, in Czechoslovakia.

Henry Smith's Obituary
Continued on next page

Henry Smith then joined the reserves for active duty during the Berlin Airlift. He also went to flight school where he learned to pilot single engine *L5s* and *L16s*. When the Korean conflict erupted on June 25, 1950, Henry was shipped to Korea where he participated in the September 1950 invasion of Inchon, Korea, and flew 1,800 hours of combat missions which earned him a promotion to Captain. After 22 years in the military, Henry was promoted to Major and retired in 1964. Henry married **Leonardo Koenig** in 1949 and he sold real estate in northern Virginia to support his three children through college. When his wife died in 2000, Henry moved to Florida where his mobil home was badly damaged by Hurricane Charlie. In July 2008, Henry moved into Westminster where he and your editor could exchange war stories. Henry was interred with military honors on July 3, 2012, at the Quantico National Cemetery.

A Visit With Stephen Drevicky

Stephen W. Drevicky (C/1340th) received **Sam Bonino** (Nephew of **Charles Bonino** C/1340th) and his wife, **Eilene**, as visitors on September 10, 2012, at his home in Cleveland, Ohio. Sam Bonino reports, "Steve is very proud of his service as demonstrated by his eagerness to share with me his memorabilia including service medals" as can be seen in this photograph with **Stephen Drevicky** on the left and **Sam Bonino** on the right.



Sam Bonino tells us that, "The most poignant stories were about Drevicky being captured and interred as a POW. Drevicky described the train ride with 90 prisoners in a *Forty and Eight* box car to the prison camp and the sordid living conditions endured for seven months. I found it interesting that while in prison camp, Drevicky was assigned to slice the allotted loaf of dark bread to be shared by the prisoners. This was done by using a string to make 15 equal slices since no utensils with blades were allowed." The March 2012 issue of *Wavy Arrow* tells us that the Germans did not want to take the POWs behind the lines, but POW **Sgt. Joseph Szvetitz** (who spoke German) kept the Americans from being executed. It also describes how Drevicky and 75 other POWs escaped the prison camp a week before VE Day and were flown to a processing camp in La Havre, France, for over 120,000 Allied POWs.

Charles Bonino (C/1340th)

We have often mentioned Sam Bonino's uncle, but we have never published a biographical sketch of **Charles Bonino (C/1340th)** who was a buddy of **Sidney Cousans (C/1340th)**. Sam called Sidney during his visit with **Stephen Drevicky (C/1340th)**. Here is what Sam provided:

Charles Bonino (C/1340th) was born October 6, 1912, and inducted July 12, 1943, at Fort Dix, New Jersey; basic training at Fort Belvoir, Virginia; and was shipped to England in March 1944 joining Company C of the 1340th, same as Sidney T. Cousans and Stephen W. Drevicky. All three participated in the June 7, 1944, invasion of Normandy at Omaha Beach. Bonino was wounded in Hurtgen Forest on November 7, 1944. After convalescing in Cherbourg and Southampton, Bonino returned to the 1340th in Kubice, Czechoslovakia, shortly after VE Day, May 8, 1945. After he was discharged, he entered the machine trade and was employed by Mobil Oil Company. He retired in 1977 after 35 years of service, and Charles Bonino died July 19, 1996.



*Charles Bonino and Sidney Cousans
During World War II*

Family Deaths

Helen R. Finley, widow of **Orville Finley (A/20th)** died March 5, 2012, in Sylvania, Ohio, at the age of 84. She was preceded in death by her husband, Orville, in 2006. This information was provided by her daughter, **Lynnette Finley Mason**, 1203 Columbus, Holland, Ohio 43528.

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.

Sam Bonino (Nephew of Charles Bonino, C/1340th)	\$25.00
Gerald M. Goodman (Officer, 20th)	\$25.00
Audrey Riddick (Widow of James Riddick, Jr., C/20th)	\$25.00
Mildred Willis (Widow of Richard Willis, B/20th)	\$15.00

Unfortunately, if we don't receive more contributions, we will have to discontinue the publication of the *Wavy Arrow*. It costs about \$200.00 to publish and mail each issue.

Divisions Supported by 20th & 1340th Combat Engineers

From time to time we are asked in which division were the 20th and 1340th Combat Engineers. They were attached to many U.S. Divisions as well as those of France and Great Britain during the war. Here is a list including the location and the date(s) of the affiliation. Frequently the Engineer Companies were divided to support different divisions at the same time.

U.S. 3rd Infantry Division	French Morocco, North Africa . (November 10, 1942)
U.S. Army II Corps	Casablanca, Morocco (November 1942 - March 1943)
U.S. 1st Armored Division	Tebessa, Tunisia (March 24, 1943)
British IX Corps	Gafsa, Tunisia (April 6, 1943)
U.S. 9th Infantry Division	Sedjename, Tunisia (April 15, 1943)
U.S. 34th Infantry Division	Sedjename, Tunisia (April 17, 1943)
French d'Afrique Corps	Bizerte, Tunisia (April 31 - May 7, 1943)
U.S. Seventh Army	Sicily Campaign (July - August 1943)
U.S. 3rd Infantry Division	Licata, Sicily, Invasion (July 10, 1943)
U.S. 82nd Airborne Division	Castellamare del Gulfo, Sicily (July 24, 1943)
U.S. 45th Infantry Division	Cefalo, Sicily (August 1, 1943)
U.S. 2nd Armored Division	Mesina, Sicily (August 14, 1943)
U.S. First Army V Corps	England to Germany . . . (January 1944 - April 1945)
U.S. 1st Infantry Division	Omaha Beach, Invasion (June 7, 1944)
U.S. 2nd Infantry Division	Treviers, Normandy (June 9, 1944)
U.S. 2nd Armored Division	Castillon, Normandy (July 1, 1944)
U.S. 5th Infantry Division	Balleroy, Normandy (June 23, 1944)
U.S. 35th Infantry Division	Vire, Normandy (July 31, 1944)
U.S. 30th Infantry Division	Falaise, Normandy (August 18, 1944)
French 2nd Armored Division	Paris, France (August 24, 1944)
U.S. 5th Armored Division	Elsenborn, Belgium (September 3, 1944)
U.S. 28th Infantry Division	Welchenhausen, Germany (September 19, 1944)
U.S. 28th Infantry Division	Vossenack, Germany (November 1, 1944)
U.S. 5th Infantry Division	Germenter, Germany (November 20, 1944)
U.S. 1st Infantry Division	Robertsville, Belgium (December 20, 1944)
U.S. 69th Infantry Division	Weldburg, Germany (January 21, 1945)
U.S. 9th Armored Division	Rhine to Leipzig, Germany . . . (March - April, 1945)
U.S. 1st Infantry Division	Germany to Czechoslovakia (May 1, 1945)
U.S. Third Army	Czechoslovakia (May 6, 1945)
U.S. 16th Armored Division	Pilsen, Czechoslovakia (VE Day, May 8, 1945)

Send Letters, Articles, Photographs, Obituaries, and other News
Items for inclusion in future issues of the *Wavy Arrow* to editor
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22191-2232. His telephone number is 1-703-966-1739, and his e-mail
address is <gbgriffenhagen@gmail.com>.