

# 20th Combat Engineer Association of World War II

## The Wavy Arrow

\*\*\*\*\*  
April 2013  
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### Lost But Not Forgotten

#### **Douglas Marion Pulliam (1921-2013)**

**Douglas Marion Pulliam (F/20th and C/1340th)** died January 31, 2013, at 91 in Weatherford, Texas, after a stroke on August 2, 2011. He was born September 28, 1921, in Gatesville, Texas. Doug and your *Wavy Arrow* editor took basic training during early 1943 at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and we earned Sharpshooter Badges as Doug proudly recalled. We were then picked to depart April 17, 1943, aboard the *HMS Andes* along with 3,000 U.S. troops from every branch of service for a four-and-a-half day hazardous voyage from New York to Casablanca, out-running U-boats. U.S. troops and desperately needed military equipment was needed to replace the losses to Erwin Rommel's Panzer Tanks. After a ten-day train trip on Forty & Eight box cars, we joined the 20th Regiment near Bizerte, Tunisia. On July 10, 1943, we invaded Sicily after which we were shipped to England to become 1340th Combat Engineer Battalion for the Normandy invasion at Omaha Beach.

Doug was wounded on November 4, 1944, in the Hurtgen Forest. After the war, Doug married Patsy Ruth Daugherty on March 19, 1949, and had five children. Doug and his brother Doren established Pulliam Incorporated, did concrete work, and built swimming pools. He also maintained the 60 acre farm in Weatherford. Doug participated in the 1993 20th Tour which featured the installation of a 20th Engineer plaque on Omaha Beach. He also attended many of the 20th Reunions, and was accompanied at the 2004 final Reunion by his daughter Lea Crow and his grandson Joshua Hankins who reported at the time "we now both have a much greater appreciation for the accomplishments of the 20th Engineers during World War II." Doug enjoyed playing pool at the Senior Citizen's Club and corresponding with his Combat Engineer buddies. After a funeral at the Greenwood Chapel, Douglas Pulliam was interred at the Greenwood Memorial Park in Fort Worth. His widow, Pat, and his daughter, Lea Pulliam Crow, provided information for this obituary.



*Doug Pulliam With His  
Sharpshooter Badge*

## **Joseph Herbert Kleinfeld (1920-2013)**

**Joseph Herbert Kleinfeld (E/20th; H&S/1340th)** died January 10, 2013, in Tamarac, Florida. He was born April 23, 1920, and he joined Company E, 20th Engineer Combat Regiment, landing in North Africa, November 9, 1942. Company Commander Thomas Creegan transferred Joe to H&S/20th for the invasion of Sicily, July 10, 1943. While in England, the 20th Regiment was split into two Battalions, so Joe spent the rest of the war with Company B, 1340th Engineer Combat Battalion. After he was discharged at Fort Dix, New Jersey, in 1945, he married Sylvia with whom he had two children. He opened the Craig Shoe Shop at 114 Chambers Street in New York City. In 1952-1953 he served as Secretary-Treasurer of the newly formed 20th Combat Engineers Association. In 1953 the *Wavy Arrow* published a photograph of Joe with his two-year-old daughter Carol and his five-year-old son Steven. In 1974 the family moved to Elmont, New York, and soon thereafter to their final home at 7030 N.W. 107th Avenue, Tamarac, Florida. Joseph Kleinfeld is interred in Long Island, New York, next to his wife, Sylvia, who preceded Joe in death.

### **Co-Author of World War II Diary**

**Anne Eiland, Daughter of Alton Carpenter, Chaplain/20th**, writes, "I wanted to let you know how important your job has been in keeping the *Wavy Arrow* coming. We appreciate all the work it takes to put it together and get it out to all of us. I want to do my part in helping you to be able to continue to do that. and am enclosing a check to help make that possible. I look forward to reading the *Wavy Arrow* and have learned so much from doing so. You brave men should never be forgotten. (Editor's Note: We also thank Anne Eiland for having discovered in 1984 her father's WWII diary that was hidden and forgotten, and for the seven years it took to convince her father that the diary should be shared and published in the 2007 book titled *Chappie: World War II Diary of a Combat Chaplain*."

### **Grand Children Are Very Interested**

**Josephine Tarsi (Widow of Peter M. Tarsi, B/20th)** writes, "The *Wavy Arrow* marches on. Even though my beloved husband passed away three years ago [October 11, 2009], the children and grandchildren seem to be very interested in World War II, especially the 20th Combat Engineers. It is only through the *Wavy Arrow* that they have heard of the Hurtgen Forest, Omaha Beach, and other places the 20th was embattled which they heard about from Peter."

### **Introducing Two More Veterans**

**Roy Duryea**, member of Company D, 20th Regiment in North Africa and Sicily, which became Company A, 1340th Combat Engineer Battalion in England is being researched by his son, Robert Duryea, 370 Ramblebush Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360. In a similar fashion, William J. Howard, 15320 Shady Oaks Drive, Stagecoach, Texas 77355, is trying to learn more about his uncle, Archibald Howard, who was assigned in England to Company C of the 20th Combat Engineer Battalion. These are just two examples of an increasing number of sons, daughters, and family members are trying to learn more about the World War II experiences of 20th and 1340th veterans.

## Miller L. Petty (1917-1990)

We haven't published biographical information on Miller Petty (D/20th, A/1340th) until now when his widow, Kathleen Petty, provided the following details. Miller (nicknamed "Doc") was born September 28, 1917, in Charlotte, North Carolina. He enlisted in the Army in February 1941, and was assigned to Company D, 20th Combat Engineer Regiment. After his marriage to Kathleen in May 1941, he participated in the November 1942 invasion of North Africa and the July 1943 invasion of Sicily. He then sailed to England where his unit became Company A, 1340th Combat Engineer Battalion for the June 1944 invasion at Omaha Beach in Normandy with the rank of T/5. Like many of his comrades, Miller was wounded in the Hurtgen Forest. After the war he worked for the Seth Lumber Company in Lincolnia, and later served as the shipping supervisor for Thrift Dye Works in Charlotte, North Carolina, retiring in 1982. Having been away for four-and-a-half years, he was very possessive of the time he spent with his family, including daughter Dana, as if making up for the lost years. Miller died July 1990 and was interred at Gaston Memorial Park in Gastonia, North Carolina. Kathleen Petty who lives at 795 Stanley Mountain Road, Gastonia, North Carolina, 20865



*Miller Petty Named His Truck For His Wife, Kathleen. See Her Name At Bottom of Photo*

added the following touching story.

*One day in 2012 my great granddaughter went to the post office in Sanford, North Carolina, wearing a shirt with the logo for the Spencer Mountain Fire Department. An elderly man approached her telling her that he lived there before the war. She explained that her Great Granddad, "Doc Petty" also used to live there. The elderly man was astonished and explained that he and Miller fought together in the Hurtgen Forest where Miller had saved his life. He hugged my granddaughter and told her "I would not be here today were it not for your grand daddy." Unfortunately my granddaughter did not get his name but it was a blessing to hear of this incident.*

### Widow Assists Senior Citizens

Neysa A. Miller, Widow of Frederick Miller, H&S/20th, writes, "I am O.K. but I miss my Fred and all of the wonderful 20th Reunions. I am now involved in developing a new service center for senior citizens of Westminister, Massachusetts, which keeps me busy and out of trouble. With the support of the board of Council on Aging and the building committee on which I serve as a member of both, a vote of the township authorized construction of a senior center with patio, a game room, an exercise area, and a kitchen with free groceries. We break ground in April 2013, and if all goes well, it should be completed by the Spring of 2015." (Editor's Note: Frederick Miller served as secretary-treasurer of the 20th Combat Engineers Association from 1989 to 1996. Neysa and Fred hosted the 1985 Reunion in Jackson, New Hampshire, and after Fred's death in 1999 she continued to assist with the registration at several other Reunions, and attended the final 2004 Reunion in Washington, D.C.)

## Death of Several Widows

**Gloria Deck**, widow of **Truxton Deck (B/20th)** has died. Gloria attended the 2004 Reunion representing her husband who died in 1988. She was living in Ft. Washington, Pennsylvania

**Elizabeth Doherty**, widow of **Henry R. Doherty (A/20th Officer)** has died according to her children. Their father, Captain Doherty, died April 16, 2004.

## New Information on 20th & 1340th Veterans Now Available

Your editor has compiled an 18-page list of all known veterans of the 20th and 1340th by company with data on those who were wounded, taken as prisoner, and killed in action. The 20th saw action from November 9, 1942, to August 6, 1945. A total of 234 veterans of the 20th were wounded, 28 of whom were wounded twice, and three wounded three times. Forty-eight were wounded in North Africa; seven in Sicily; 79 during the Normandy invasion; 20 in France, Belgium and Luxembourg; 91 in the Hurtgen Forest, and 22 from the Rhine to Czechoslovakia. Half of those wounded were not able to return to the 20th for additional action. Twenty-eight were POWs, mostly taken in the Hurtgen Forest. Forty-two 20th veterans were killed in action; six in North Africa; 12 during the Normandy invasion, and 19 in the Hurtgen Forest.

The 1340th saw action from June 6, 1944, to August 6, 1945, but no dates for the wounded are available. A total of 195 veterans of the 1340th were wounded including seven that were wounded twice, and four wounded three times. There were seven POWs, and a total of 29 were killed in action with 25 of them taking place in the Hurtgen Forest.

The complete 18-page list is available from the editor at a cost of \$5.00 to pay for the cost of duplication, envelope, and postage.

## Wavy Arrow Contributions

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

<b>Anne Eiland (Daughter of Alton Carpenter, Chaplain/20th)</b> .....	\$50.00
<b>Neysa A. Miller (Widow of Frederick Miller, H&amp;S/20th)</b> .....	\$30.00
<b>Kathlene Petty (Widow of Miller L. Petty, A/1340th)</b> .....	\$25.00
<b>Josephine Tarsi (Widow of Peter M. Tarsi, B/20th)</b> .....	\$65.00

Send Letters, Articles, Photographs, Obituaries, and other News Items for inclusion in future issues of the *Wavy Arrow* to editor George Griffenhagen, 12226 Cathedral Drive, Woodbridge, Virginia 22191-2232. His telephone number is 1-703-966-1739, and his e-mail address is <[gbriffenhagen@gmail.com](mailto:gbriffenhagen@gmail.com)>.