

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN THE DIARY OF MY LIFE IN THE SERVICE

This simple record of my daily experiences and thoughts has given me pleasure in the writing of it. If for any reason it leaves my possession, I would like to have it forwarded to:

Name Mr Adelbert Meeker

Address _____

City Bretton State S. Dak



Entered service Nov 19, 1943
at Fort Snelling, Minnesota.
Came to Camp Wheeler, Ga.
Dec 8, 1943. Begin training
Dec 12, 1943. Went to Macon,
Georgia Xmas. Quarantined two
more weeks starting Dec 30,
for measles. Practiced rifle
marksmanship last week. Came
in first 20% on cross
country race. Was on the P.
New Year's day. Jan 2, conferred
to quarters with bad cold.

Finished Basic Training
April 7, 1944, Left Wheeler
April 11, 1944

All actual heroes are essential men,
And all men possible heroes.

—E. B. Browning



Bernard D. Meeker,

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION: CAPTAIN E. C. LAVELLE, CHIEF PRESS CENSOR

For some time I have been hoping I could tell you folks back home about this outfit of ours and the swell record it has made in World War II from the time it hit the Normandy Beach and began fighting on June 15. Censorship has kept our Old Hickory Division's engagements pretty much "under wraps" but we have made a record we'll stack up against any other division's and the Public Relations staff has made it easier for us to get the information back to you by summarizing the highlights of the 30th's great campaigns and getting this material cleared through the press censorship.

This is some of the information we can tell:

When the 30th Infantry Division troops charged through the greatest concentration of artillery and mortar fire then had not in the Western Campaign to storm the bunkers of the German Siegfried Line and establish a bridgehead in the Fatherland, they reached an objective for which, in three months of bitter fighting, they had been paving the way since the battle near the beaches.

Smashing the Siegfried Line in the sector north of Aachen where it was heavily manned and then aiding in closing the gap that forced Aachen's fall constituted one of the toughest jobs assigned any division in the Battle of Europe.

But the 30th Infantry Division received its baptism of fire on a tough assignment June 15 and its progress to the German frontier was marked by battles that have been vital in the master strategy of World War II.

The all-important breakthrough south of pulverized St. Lo on July 25, a date already historically significant, was spearheaded by the Old Hickorymen. A real fighting team, the troops of the 30th had qualified for that assignment—which battered open a passage through the hedgerow country allowing American armor to fan out over France—by a series of successful offensives against the Germans. At the outset the 30th drove the Germans back across the Vire River. Then in a spectacular dam attack the Old Hickorymen forced a crossing of the Vire River and opened the drive on St. Lo.

These battles in the hedgerow sector were real slugging matches, every foot of advance being skillfully and stubbornly contested and they were complicated by rough and frequent counterattacks.

However, some of the heaviest fighting remained to be accomplished by the 30th after it had given the "green light" to the armored drive.

That occurred in the Mortain-St. Barthelmy sector when the 30th took over the area of the First Division at a time when four German panzer divisions struck in the most powerful blitz effort of the campaign, to drive through to Avranches and separate the American First and Third Armies.

It was there that infantry riflemen with bazookas, artillery and tank destroyers, tanks, engineers, AAA units, cooks and messengers, with the help of U. S. planes and RAF rocket-firing Typhoons finally threw back the German tanks in a battle that saw-sawed for three days before the Germans concluded that they were no match for one American division.

In this same battle, the great defensive at Mortain-St. Barthelmy, a battalion was isolated on a hill near Mortain, cut off without food, ammunition and medical supplies for five and a half days and despite the fact the harassed infantrymen were under constant enemy observation, artillery and mortar fire, they refused repeated demands to surrender.

The 30th Infantry Division was commended for its heroic stand; for the courage and skill of its men who refused to let overwhelming odds discourage them in the battle against tanks at St. Barthelmy, and for the loyalty and stamina of the members of the "lost battalion" who defied surrender demands, their spokesman telling the German officer:

"Go to hell. We wouldn't surrender if our last round of ammunition was fired and our last bayonet broken off in a Jerry belly."

This battle of the 30th against the best of the German armor started on the night of August 7-8 and a week later the Old Hickorymen again were forcing the retreat of the Germans.

The 30th troops drove rapidly against the Germans to free Eyreux and Louviers, then crossed the Seine at Mantes Gassicourt to enlarge the bridgehead there and prepare for the next breakthrough, this time into Belgium.

An opposed infantry speed march record was made and another commendation won when on August 31 and September 1 the 30th dashed to Tournai, Belgium, covering 180 miles through enemy occupied territory in 72 hours. The march was motorized during the last two days and was screened by a task force of the division. The 30th was the first allied infantry division to enter Belgium.

Still disrupting German efforts toward an orderly withdrawal, the Old Hickorymen drove on to become the first allied troops in Holland, arriving there on September 12, after having captured the famous border fortress, Eben Emael, on September 10.

Meastricht, Holland, fell to the 30th on September 13 after which Old Hickory troops fought on into Germany, advance elements crossing the border at Horbach on September 14.

The attack on the Siegfried Line started October 2, continued for two weeks, to establish the bridgehead in what was reputed by the Germans to be their "impregnable West Wall".

More than 1,500 battle decorations have been awarded officers and men of the 30th Infantry Division for gallantry in action and meritorious service in the face of the enemy.

The 30th Infantry Division is commanded by Major General L. S. Hobbs who has been twice decorated.

Although it was originally built around troops from National Guard units of Tennessee, Georgia and the Carolinas, and thus gets its name, Old Hickory, from President Andrew Jackson, who led troops in that sector, the 30th's officers and men represent all states in the Union.

The Division climaxed a colorful World War I history by cracking the Hindenburg Line, paving the way for Germany's ultimate defeat there. Will history repeat itself?

Omitted Artillery Barrage.

WITH THE 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION IN GERMANY, Nov. 26 (P).—Staging what 19th corps headquarters praised as "the perfect infantry attack" the 30th division snatched two villages away from outwitted German defenders in a matter of minutes in opening its part of the United States 9th army Rhineland drive.

The boys scored the success in seizing the towns of Euchen and Mariadorf before the Germans knew what was happening.

"We fooled them by omitting the artillery barrage which normally preceded our attacks," said Lt. E. J. Kerrigan, of Aberdeen, S. D. "We didn't start the artillery until the infantry was charging a half mile across open fields to the towns. Before the Jerries could do anything about it we had taken our objectives."

A number of Germans were caught asleep. They were on the night shift that had been digging trenches.

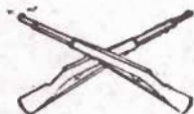
The 117th regiment, which took Mariadorf on the Aachen-Julich road had been tantalizing the Germans for some time before the attack by waving a red comforter at them when their shells missed.

The 120th regiment, commanded by Col. Hammond Birks of Chicago took Euchen.

The 119th annoyed the Germans by rigging up a daisy chain of dish-pans and rattling them by remote control at night. The Germans wasted a lot of ammunition on the foolish targets.

Sixteenth Infantry Training Battalion

Camp Wheeler, Georgia



Certificate of Proficiency

Know Ye, That PRIVATE BERNARD D. WEEKER By Doing and Performing All Manner of Duties Successfully, Has Satisfactorily Completed the Prescribed Course of Instruction of The Infantry Basic Training, conducted by the Sixteenth Infantry Training Battalion, Camp Wheeler, Georgia, between the 13TH day of DECEMBER 1944 and the 8TH day of APRIL 1944.

Given under my hand at CAMP WHEELER, GEORGIA this 8TH day of APRIL in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty FOUR

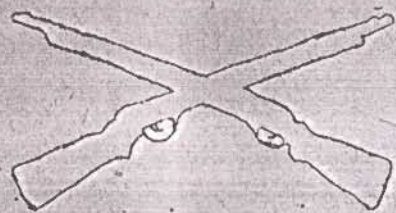
John F. Seence
JOHN F. SEENCE, CAPTAIN, INFANTRY
Company Commander

Allan R. Lawrence
ALLAN R. LAWRENCE, MAJOR, INFANTRY
Commanding Officer
Sixteenth Training Battalion

GRADUATION EXERCISE

Sixteenth

Infantry Training Battalion



9 April 1944

COMPANY C

OFFICERS

Spence, John F.	--	Captain	--	Company Commander
Condron, Harry D.	--	1st Lt.	--	Platoon Leader
Hollerbach, Eugene J.	--	2d Lt.	--	Platoon Leader
Maxwell, William	--	2d Lt.	--	Executive Officer
Pitt, Perry	--	2d Lt.	--	Senior Platoon Leader
Runyan, Hugh	--	2d Lt.	--	Platoon Leader

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Gauch, Norman E.	--	1st Sgt	--	First Sergeant
Baskette, Robert M.	--	Tec Sgt	--	Senior Instructor
Colby, John W.	--	S Sgt	--	Mess Sergeant
Young, Marion J.	--	S Sgt	--	Supply Sergeant
Felts, Greenville W.	--	Sgt	--	Instructor
Phillips, Francis W.	--	Sgt	--	Instructor
Trozso, Lawrence A.	--	Sgt	--	Instructor
Freeman, Jessie H.	--	Tec 4	--	1st Cook
Mondillo, Domenico	--	Tec 4	--	1st Cook
Moore, Cecil D.	--	Tec 4	--	1st Cook
Clayton, Harry A.	--	Cpl	--	Instructor
Cole, Hugh A.	--	Cpl	--	Instructor
DeMont, Lawrence J.	--	Cpl	--	Instructor
Garrison, Staley F. Jr.	--	Cpl	--	Instructor
Hanley, William C.	--	Cpl	--	Instructor
Killgore, Bovil J.	--	Cpl	--	Instructor
Kovalcik, Francis	--	Cpl	--	Instructor
Lathem, Robert J.	--	Cpl	--	Instructor
Miller, Gus	--	Cpl	--	Instructor
Przelenski, John T.	--	Pvt	--	Instructor
Wachy, Metro	--	Cpl	--	Instructor
Whitener, Roy G.	--	Cpl	--	Instructor
Hall, Cecil C.	--	Tec 5	--	2d Cook
Johnson, Connard R.	--	Tec 5	--	2d Cook
Wisman, Maurice H.	--	Tec 5	--	Mail Clerk
Yongue, William W.	--	Tec 5	--	Armorer

TRAINEES

Addison, Cary L.	Pvt	Bartholomew, Johnnie B.	Pvt
Adelson, Henry A.	"	Barrett, Walter G.	"
Adkins, William J.	"	Bartell, Ivar J.	"
Alford, Roy B.	"	Bauer, Harold R.	"
Austin, Herman	"	Blackard, Marshall H.	"
Ball, Adron L.	"	Bodzy, Irving	"
Baker, Loy L.	"	Bradham, John W.	"
Barlow, W.T.	"	Brown, Jim R.	"
Barnett, Wilbert L.	"	Brown, Leon A.	"
Barney, Clifford W.	"	Burns, James M.	"

Cadden, James J.	Pvt.	Gilchrist, James J.	Pvt
Calvery, J. C.	"	Gillaspio, Wesley M.	"
Campbell, Lester R.	"	Glenn, Harold K.	"
Cariveau, Clifford S.	"	Glenn, William H.	"
Carr, Charles Jr.	"	Gomez, Mike	"
Carver, Jessie C. Jr.	"	Gosvener, Lenard J.	"
Carswell, Billy V.	"	Greenman, Harold	"
Castle, Linard N.	"	Griffith, Albert	"
Cherluck, Edward A.	"	Grimsley, William C.	"
Chesmore, Carl D.	"	Grobstein, Edward	"
Chinn, Clyde T.	"	Grozde, Joseph M.	"
Clark, Walter M.	"	Guoladdle, Arthur	"
Coffey, Elza E.	"	Hamilton, Onnie L.	"
Cogbill, Beodric	"	Harrison, Clayton F.	"
Colvin, Robert K. Sr.	"	Harrod, Raymond H.	"
Conner, Wayne R. Sr.	"	Hart, Lowell J.	"
Corea, Sammy	"	Harvey, Edd P.	"
Corn, Wesley H.	"	Haynes, Adam A.	"
Cowden, Forrest G.	"	Hegna, Verlyn D.	"
Cox, James M.	"	Henson, Riley W.	"
Cox, William N.	"	Hill, Horace J.	"
Crawford, Edward A. Jr.	"	Hill, Wilson C.	"
Cropis, Anthony J.	"	Hines, Robert	"
Culbertson, Eugene	"	Hocking, Robert J.	"
Dedman, John E.	"	Horn, John T.	"
Degner, Earl E.	"	Horne, William H.	"
Detroyer, John A.	"	Horton, Burford N.	"
Domebo, Joseph	"	Horwitz, Milton	"
Dougherty, Harry D.	"	Houck, Henry C.	"
Dowdy, J.D.	"	Huntstiger, Eugene A.	"
Doyle, Fred P.	"	Hunt, Walton	"
Duckworth, James L. Sr.	"	Huskins, James A.	"
Duncan, James A.	"	Irwin, Hall M.	"
Dye, Harry J.	"	Jahnel, Lawrence C.	"
Emmons, Calvin K.	"	Johnson, Sherman W.	"
Engle, William D.	"	Jonas, Ernest J. C.	"
Everson, Frank W.	"	Jones, Junior N.	"
Fannon, Harry W.	"	Jordan, Berdie W.	"
Farmer, William O.	"	Jorgensen, Alvin G.	"
Fleming, Tom F. Jr.	"	Kastle, Paul M.	"
Flournoy, Barney F.	"	Keen, Charles M.	"
Fountain, Charles R.	"	Keller, Harry G.	"
Franklin, Joe A.	"	Kolly, John W.	"
French, Fred H.	"	Korr, Alfred W.	"
Fritcher, Thomas R.	"	Kinch, Robert L.	"
Gablentz, Clarence P.	"	King, Ralph G.	"
Garcia, Felipe	"	Kirk, John F. Jr.	"
Gardas, Anthony R.	"	Kolasinski, Anthony H.	"
Gardner, Richard E.	"	Kopepasah, Alfred H.	"
Gereau, Ralph E.	"	Kraft, Donald A.	"
Gifford, James W.	"	Kuykendoll, Ervin V.	"
Gilchrist, Eford L.	"	Lara, Ellis H.	"

Lavergne, Floyd A.	Pvt	Rodrigues, Floyd P.	Pvt
Laws, David D.	"	Rogers, Alfred J.	"
Laws, Julius E.	"	Rominger, Ralph R.	"
Lawson, William A.	"	Rosberg, Holger J. Jr.	"
Ledford, Eugene	"	Rosenberg, Isadore	"
Leo, Herscholl H.	"	Roth, Alex H.	"
Litt, Girard H.	"	Rutherford, Carl J.	"
Lodico, Joseph F.	"	Sadler, John F.	"
Love, John M.	"	Sands, George W.	"
Lovell, Aubrey C.	"	Sandridge, Robert	"
Lower, Henry C.	"	Scamahorne, William R.	"
Lundblad, Einar L.	"	Schuch, George P.	"
Luternow, Virgil G.	"	Sell, Richard C.	"
McWilliams, Harry M.	"	Sewnig, Leroy F.	"
Mallon, Robert C.	"	Shepard, John H.	"
Marlow, John L.	"	Shinault, Hardy M.	"
Martin, Thurman A.	"	Singletary, Elzie	"
Martin, William J. Jr.	"	Sinnaeve, Julian J.	"
Matter, Frank T.	"	Sisk, Forrest E.	"
Mayhood, Lloyd R.	"	Sitton, Wilson	"
Medeweller, Edward C.	"	Skoda, George	"
Meeker, Bernard D.	"	Smith, Horace W. Sr.	"
Midyette, Johnnie C.	"	Smith, Junious	"
Michalski, Edward P.	"	Smith, Ralph B.	"
Miller, Eddie T.	"	Smolinski, Arthur D.	"
Miller, James M.	"	Spivey, Orville C.	"
Minke, Floyd E.	"	Still, James L.	"
Middleton, Harvey H.	"	Stephenson, Richard L.	"
Mortensen, Malcolm G.	"	Stodghill, Clyde R.	"
Murphy, Leon T.	"	Straubing, Irving C.	"
Needham, Paul A.	"	Striho, William S.	"
Nichols, Willio C.	"	Styles, Fred J.	"
Nickols, Woodrow	"	Stinson, Marvin L. Sr.	"
Nuce, Lawrence R.	"	Szotek, Peter P.	"
Norton, Eugene	"	Taylor, Charles A.	"
Oakes, William T.	"	Taylor, Clofus	"
O'Hollaren, Dean L.	"	Taxis, John B.	"
Ownbey, Dallas F.	"	Terry, John H.	"
Pennington, Carroll D.	"	Thacker, Robert E.	"
Perkins, Homer E.	"	Thompson, Paul J.	"
Phillips, James E.	"	Tipton, William R.	"
Pittman, Frank N.	"	Tomblin, Flaye T.	"
Plante, Leo J.	"	Tow, John H.	"
Polley, Pleas E.	"	Troxler, Frank H.	"
Price, Charles R.	"	Tucker, Joseph R.	"
Quinones, Liberio L.	"	Turowski, Stanley J.	"
Rhodes, Raymond K.	"	Vasiloff, Frank T.	"
Rice, Hubert J.	"	Vice, Wallace H.	"
Ripperda, Edward J.	"	Votava, Henry	"
Risner, Curtis	"	Wallace, Joel V.	"
Rivard, Aubrey P.	"	Wapienik, John A.	"
Roberts, Howard N.	"	Weekley, James B.	"

Wellington, Derall K.	Pvt	Woodard, Malvin S.	Pvt
Wesolowski, Joseph L.	"	Williams, Elvin M.	"
White, Charles C.	"	Williams, James A.	"
Whitefield, Orville N.	"	Williamson, Cecil	"
Winter, Richard L.	"	Wynn, Doyce E.	"
Wolff, Clifford W.	"	Yocum, Russell A.	"