

Mr. Watson:

As per your request at Co. B.
reunion, I'll make an effort to
inform you of some of my
experiences during WW II.

Following is a letter from
Mike Pachuta who entered svc.
from West Virginia Oct. 1942 and
was assigned to Co. B. 119th Inf. of
the 30th Inf. Div. and stayed ~~at~~
with the same until being discharged
after the war ended.

The Regiment entered Normandy
and I fought as a Platoon Sgt.
of the 2nd Platoon and fought
through ~~part~~ of the five major
Battles that were fought in the
E.T.O., We fought through the
hedgerows and I survived the
bombing at St. Lo - ~~from~~
~~there~~ and then headed for
Mertain when engaged Enemy

in a small village and over-
took it quiet easily, at that
encounter, I was awarded a
citation for the Bronze Star Medal
for heroic achievements on Aug.
6, 1944

We reached Mortain on Aug.
9th and right into a severe
battle with the Germans and I
became wounded in the clash,
I had advanced out ahead of the
front lines to see what was ahead
of us, there I observed two of
our enemy advancing toward our
position; I was lying prone
and was ready to dispatch one or
both, if I could, just then a
mortar shell exploded just ahead
of and to the left of my position,
I felt the shrapnel impact my
face and shoulder, It stunned me
briefly. I made a quick check of
myself and realizing it wasn't bad,
I retreated to our position, gone

myself first-aid, then headed back to find an aid station, I found one but they couldn't help me. I waited for an ambulance to take me back to a MASH unit where I did get patched up and the bleeding stopped. I was eventually evacuated to an Army Hospital in England. I recovered nicely from the wounds; thanks to the wonderful Hospital staff.

From their excellent care I was declared fit for combat duty and returned to my outfit in Feb. 1945, just in time to make the Ruhr River crossing, after that Xing we advanced to the Rhine River and crossed it successfully.

Night after crossing the Rhine, I took a 12 man patrol down river approximately half mile to try and contact the British

which had crossed the River at the Town of Wesel. We had traveled several hundred yards when I stopped the patrol to have a look-around. We were passing a Dyke on our right, I climbed to the top and came face to face with a German soldier entrenched in a hole atop the Dyke, we stared at each other and he started to retreat, I asked him to halt, but refused my order and started to run, I threw a grenade ahead of him and when it exploded six German soldiers came out of the trenches and surrendered.

I had two of my better men to return back to the Company and disclose our situation ~~and~~ to get us some help out of this mess we were in. We were in the middle of a full Company of enemy

the two men had gone only a short distance when I heard shots fired from their directions. soon one man came back to tell me they were fired upon from atop the Dyke and his comrad ~~had~~ was shot, ~~we~~ but not fatally, we carried him to where we were, cared for his wound and made him comfortable as possible.

now I had six POW and a wounded man on my hands, couldn't go back or forward, I decided that we would go back up river the same way we came down. I hunted two poles to improvise a litter by using the poles and German overcoats. It worked very well and the prisoners were to carry our wounded back to the Co area. Our intentions were to go back up river and shoot anyone or

anything that tried to stop us.
all went well and we returned
safely.

After the Rhine we advanced
to the Elbe River. This was our
final objective and where we
were to contact the Russians.
We finally made official
contact and waited there for
the fighting to end.

Thanks
Mike Pachuta

P.S.

The photo was taken on
the bank of the Elbe River in
April 1945.