

Sergeant Partridge

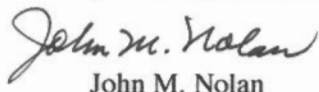
Sgt. Partridge and I were members of the 1st Platoon, Company "G", 119th Infantry, 30th Infantry Division. I believe his wife, children and grandchildren, and their children, and all his friends, and acquaintances need to know what this stalwart man did in World War II. He was first a rifleman, and as a squad leader in our rifle platoon he was a leader of riflemen. April 3d, 1945 was a day neither he nor I, nor anyone still alive who was there will ever forget.

Our unit the 2d Battalion, 119th Infantry Regiment received the Presidential Unit Citation that day. General Order 21, Department of the Army, Washington, DC. dated 5 December 1974 reads: "...on 3 April the battalion launched a combined infantry-tank attack, and, penetrating the final position, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and seized a town on the enemy-held side of the ridge."

The 119th Regimental history describes this action as follows: "The Battalion Commander... decided to adopt a bold plan of action of passing the comparatively fresh Company G through Company E in a narrow frontal assault to take a key road junction and house group in the rear of the enemy's reverse slope defense;At 1630 [4:30 PM] on the third [April 3d] all was in readiness, and the Battalion resumed the attack. Company G drove vigorously forward and overwhelmed the resistance in a narrow sector in Company E's front. They swarmed through the woods on the reverse slope and moved out into the open toward Pivitscheid and the strategic road junction employing walking fire, for which we were more or less noted. Two Mark IV tanks and one 75MM AT [anti-tank] gun opened up temporarily slowing the assault, but the speed and ferocity of the attack was such that 15 Germans were killed or wounded at the AT gun position and the gun was captured....Company G had seized the road junction and the first houses of the town and had joined in the fierce small arms fight with...[a German reserve force of] fresh troops....The mopping up in the woods and in the town of Pivitscheid was completed by 1830 [6:30 PM]. This action cost the enemy 239 prisoners, 79 known dead, two tanks, one half-track, one AT gun, and numerous light and heavy mortars and automatic weapons abandoned or destroyed."

During the time mentioned above when our platoon "swarmed through the woods...employing walking fire, for which we were more or less noted" Sergeant Partridge was wounded. Although we were firing our rifles as fast as we could, as we walked down the hill, we could not suppress all the return fire from the Germans who were dug-in on the slope. Sgt. Partridge was near me when he got hit. I probably said something more pungent than "damn" when I saw what had happened to him. I called for the medic to take care of him, and continued the attack with the platoon. The medic told us later that he was hit in the neck, and it looked like he would make it OK.

Clarence, you certainly did make it and what a pleasant surprise to have seen you, and met Fay, at our "G" Company reunion in Columbus, Ohio in 1987. Rosemary and I offer our congratulations on your 50th wedding anniversary and regret that we are unable to be there with you on October 30th, but we hope to see you soon at a company reunion.



John M. Nolan

October 1988