

'Thundering Herd'

Newsletter of the 8th Armored Division Association



Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe

Summer - 2016 - Vol. V - No. 2

Dear Veterans of the 8th Armored Division, Members of the Association, Descendants, Family and Friends,

URGENT: We have learned that the decision to approve our memorial marker for Arlington National Cemetery in honor of the 8th Armored Division is NOW in the hands of the interim Secretary of the Army (Patrick Murphy) and it is his decision whether we will receive permission to place the marker or not.

I would urge you to contact your Congressman or Senator (I contacted both of mine - Congressman Brady; Senator Casey) and request that they contact the Secretary of the Army to approve our request! This is the last chance we have.

Welcome to the Summer - 2016 edition of the Association Newsletter. We visualize this newsletter as a means to communicate with the membership, share information, tell the stories of the veterans, and preserve the memory of this gallant fighting unit. Members are committed to commemorating the service of the veterans of the 8th Armored Division and are planning events, ceremonies and dissemination of articles on the history of the Division.

We invite all living veterans of the 8th Armored Division to join the Association as honorary members, no dues required, although donations are welcomed. We are also seeking members who share our mission and goals. Please take a look at the outstanding Division web site

<http://www.8th-armored.org/>

created by Okey Taylor, C-58th AIB and now and maintained by Scott Thorpe to obtain membership applications to fill out and mail to the Association address:
8th Armored Division Association

2345 E. Dauphin St

Philadelphia, PA 19125

Use the E-Mail address: 8thArmoredDivision@gmail.com

To communicate. We also feature a 'Facebook' account and ask all interested to enroll in order to stay in contact and share comments and information:

New Association 'Facebook' page

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/269231523148647/>

Our future plans include:

- * Placing a Memorial Marker at Arlington National Cemetery for the 8th Armored Division

- * Placing a Memorial Marker at the U.S. Army Museum at Ft. Belvoir, VA. for the 8th Armored Division

- * a WWII Reunion Tour in Europe following the 8th Armored through their combat service.

- * 8th Armored Division themed merchandise

We are in need of volunteers to assist with the following:

Newsletter Committee - we need an editor and assistants to put together an on-line version of the 'Thundering Herd' as a 'pdf' file to distribute to the membership who have an e-mail address. (For those who do not have e-mail, we will mail out a hard copy). They will also maintain contact with members via E-mail blast announcements.

Membership - to assist in maintaining the membership rolls and sending out membership cards

Publications - a Committee to help distribute published works or articles on the 8th Armored Division, especially by veterans, such as

Ray Ross' ('When Your Number's Up')

Vern Miller's ('My Brother's Keeper')

'In Tornado's Wake' (Division History)

Dr. Bernard Metrick's ('The Dentist')

Council - would be composed of appointed or elected non-executive officers who

can assist the Association through input, creative ideas, oversight of the affairs of the Association, and fill in when needed to help in any area of the Association.
Reunions - a volunteer committee to work on the details of a potential annual reunion/Association meeting where yearly business and elections and planning can be conducted.

Present Officers of the Association

President – Andy Waskie, Jr.

8thArmoredDivision@gmail.com

Vice President – Gloria Zuccarella Layne

laynes@peoplepc.com

Treasurer – Carol Neumann

carol.neumann@verizon.net

Membership Chair – Joseph Neddill

neddillj@ct.metrocast.net

Chaplain – Norm Olson HQ-49th AIB & Dr. James Christiansen

norm.olson1922@comcast.net

Association Web master – Scott Thorpe

scott@scottthorpeflyfishing.com

Newsletter Committee Chair – Rick Miller & Sally Shapiro

r-jmiller1@juno.com

sally.shapiro@email.rcn

Association Historian – David Clare

claredjcinc@aol.com

Unfilled positions (seeking volunteers):

Reunions/Events

Fund Raising

Communications

Projects underway to commemorate the veterans of the 8th Armored Division are:

1. Placing a memorial marker/plaque at Arlington National Cemetery
2. Placing a commemorative plaque at the U.S. Army MUseum to the memory of the fallen of the 8th Armored Division.
3. Updating the 8th Armored Division's outstanding web site, the creation of Okey Taylor.

4. Adding new merchandise to our stock and inventory

Present Merchandise

We still have 8th Armored Division caps:
Gratis to 8th Armored Division veterans
\$15 to all others

8th Armored Division Challenge Coins
\$5 per piece

8th Armored Division shoulder patches
\$10 a piece

8th Armored Division License plates
\$15 a piece

8th Armored Division Decals
\$2 a piece



Soon, we hope to have a beautiful 8th Armored Division wind-breaker jacket; polo shirts.

If you have any ideas for memorabilia, please let me know.

Please continue to send in your **membership dues**:

8th Armored Division veterans are GRATIS

Individual membership - \$20 per annum

Family membership - \$35 per annum

your dues support the work of the Association and are the life blood of the organization!

Join our 8th Armored Division Association 'facebook' page! It is an excellent way of staying in touch with other veterans, members and families.

Association 'Facebook' page. Please consider joining for updates and information!

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/269231523148647/>

Association web page: <http://www.8th-armored.org/>

Please send me any stories of service in the 8th Armored Division; any photos, comments, for use in our **Association newsletter 'Thundering Herd'**

Documents, memorabilia, reports and photos will be included in the Division archive,

which will be shared with members at Reunions and on request.

Next edition of the 'Thundering Herd' will be the Winter edition, due out in December.

Please send in article and stories!

I look forward to hearing from you! Our mission is to honor and commemorate the veterans of the 8th Armored Division and their noble and their gallant service in WWII!

Respectfully,

Andy Waskie, Jr. President (father – Lt. Andy Waskie, Sr. 130-HQ)

Survey:

1. **Would you like to see future Reunions of the Associations?**
2. **If so, would you attend?**
3. **Where and when would you like to hold a future Reunion?**

Please e-mail answers to our e-mail:

8thArmoredDivision@gmail.com

OR post on our Association 'facebook' page

In Memoriam

Robert C. Kemp – 58-A (aged 92)

died – 11/2/15

buried – Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego, CA

A MIRACLE... HOW MY MILITARY SERVICE ENDED

By Glenn E. Vance, 8th AD, 80th TB, Co C



I believe that my final few months in Europe made up probably the coldest winter that I've ever experienced. At times, our tanks would run out of fuel and we would have to sit for several days before the fuel would catch up with us. Much of the time, the ground would be covered with snow. The fact that the tanks had no heating system in them and they were made of metal just added to the already cold conditions.

Glenn E. Vance, 8th AD, 80th TB, Co C

The low temperatures lingered into the month of March that year.

It was March 29, 1945. My unit, Company C, 80th Tank Battalion, 8th Armored Division had been slowly moving all day with only sporadic resistance from the Germans. It was five or six o'clock in the afternoon. I was in the last of five tanks that were to enter this German town (either Dorsten or Marl; near Recklinghausen) ahead of the rest of the column to search out possible resistance. We were approaching an intersection where the buildings had been leveled with bombs leaving a wide-open space and large piles of debris. Each tank had a five man crew. I was the assistant gunner and radio operator. Suddenly, I was alone and the tank was full of smoke. I could see orange flames only two feet away. I immediately realized that the tank had been hit. The Germans had zeroed in on the intersection with an 88 millimeter gun.

I had been unconscious long enough for the rest of the crew to escape the burning tank. I knew that I had to get out quickly so I reached for the hand hold near the top of the turret and was able to pull myself to a standing position. One of the turret hatches had been left open when the other crew members escaped, and standing, my head and shoulders were outside the hatch. At that point, I needed to use my arms to lift my body through the hatch and onto the top of the turret, but as I tried, my left arm would not move. I reached for it with my hand and lifted it to the top of the turret, but it wouldn't support any weight. I then noticed that I couldn't feel my left leg and it wasn't supporting any weight either. There was no way that I could get through the small hole with only one arm and one leg. Had German soldiers been nearby, I would have been an easy target with my head outside the turret. The four tanks in front of me were also burning and I saw no one or any activity as far down the street as I could see. Things got worse. As the fire spread, my clothing caught fire.

Then the miracle happened. A soldier suddenly appeared from behind a pile of debris about 50 feet away. When he saw that I was in trouble, he ran toward the tank and quickly climbed to the top. He leaned over the hatch, grabbed me under the arms, and pulled me to the top of the turret. With his help, I let myself fall to the engine deck. He immediately put out the fire in my clothing. He then jumped from the engine deck and lifted me to the ground. He had a packet of morphine and gave it to me for the pain. He then said, "I'll go find the medics for you." I never saw him again, but the medics came shortly after he left. I pray that he made it home, too. Other than the medics, he was the only other person I saw from the time I regained consciousness until I arrived at the field hospital.

If he is still alive, he probably does not know whether I made it or not. I have wished many times that I could find him. With a battle developing in that area, I can't understand why he and I were the only two soldiers there. God must have put him there to save my life.

Things apparently were pretty critical as the two medics rushed me from the battle area to the field hospital. While one drove the jeep, the other one was working to stop some of the bleeding. I heard him tell the driver, "I don't think he is going to make it." I remember the tent hospital vividly. The room they took me to was already full of wounded soldiers with perhaps a dozen or more doctors and nurses working frantically. Someone immediately started cutting and stripping my clothing. As soon as they determined my condition, a team of doctors and nurses were ordered off less serious cases to work on me. They put me to sleep and continued to assess my injuries. I knew nothing more until late the next evening when someone was calling my name. I learned then that I had lost my left leg, my left arm was paralyzed, and I had multiple wounds in my right leg and scalp. My eyes had also been burned.

I remained in the field hospital for eight days and was then moved to the 158th General Hospital near Salisbury, England where several more operations were performed before I was put on a hospital ship on June 30, 1945, and sent to Charleston, South Carolina. From there I was sent to Lawson General Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. After several more operations and almost one full year of recuperation, I was discharged on March 20, 1946.

I returned home to Bristol, Tennessee that spring of 1946 and met my future wife in the fall. We were married in January of 1947 and have a son and a daughter.

THE BULGE BUGLE, August 2013

Thanks to David Clare – January 1, 2016

71 yrs ago (January 1, 1945) Dad landed in LeHavre, France and went into Harm's Way. The 8th Armored Division was immediately rushed 350 miles to help finish plug gaps in The Battle of the Bulge. 21 yrs old in a foreign country, cold, scared not knowing what's in the next town. All they had was each other....in 4 months he would be one of twelve in a 45 man platoon not killed or wounded. This May (2016) I will travel to Holland to remember 23 men who remain Forever Young there.....Happy New Year we can say because men like them & men today sacrifice all. God Bless The Greatest Generation & all Soldiers in uniform!!!

Timeline Photos

69 yrs ago today my Dad Landed in LeHavre, France w/The 8th Armored Division. He would spend the next...

Historic courtyard where paratroopers took a break from the hell of war in June '44
https://www.facebook.com/david.j.clare.3/media_set?set=a.1538177539340.2069350.1381944228&type=3

Reynold F. Reber – 88th Cavalry Recon Battalion Troop B, 8th Armored Division

1924 – 2011

He served in the Army as a T5 in Troop B 88th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron mechanized 8th Armored Division in Worldr II, where he was a reconnaissance and scout car driver and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, earning the Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars, and the World War II Victory Medal

Reynold F. Reber, 86, of Pottsville, passed away Thursday at ManorCare Health Services, Pottsville. Born in Port Carbon, Nov. 7, 1924, he was a son of the late Elmer and Verda Mae Reichert Reber.

He graduated from Schuylkill Haven High School. He served in the [Army](#) as a T5 in Troop B 88th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron mechanized 8th Armored Division in [World War II](#), where he was a reconnaissance and scout car driver and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, earning the Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three [Bronze Stars](#), and the World War II Victory Medal.

He worked as a miner, then for Lumphold Roofing Co., Reading. He was a member of Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Schuylkill Haven, and he was a lifetime member of Citizens Fire Company.

A religious service was held at 10 a.m. Monday from Robert A. Evans Jr. Funeral Home, 208 Pike St., Port Carbon, with the Rev. Kathleen Ash-Flashner officiating. Interment with military honors was held in Our Lady of Calvary Cemetery, Pottsville. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to New Minersville Fire Company, 500 Line St., Minersville, PA 17954.

Published in Republican & Herald on Aug. 6, 2011

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/schuylkill/obituary.aspx?n=reynold-f-reber&pid=152894473#sthash.PTXzQ5b2.dpuf>

David Clare – January 5, 2016

My visit w/ Marshall was nice....he is in poor health so we couldn't talk much but he had some moments of real clarity. He was able to tell me that he(my Dad) C Co.58th AIB was in the Langenstein Camp. He being Jewish was affected by those days leading him to be active in Holocaust Center in Miami. Also that stayed in military until 1946 where was discharged as a

Lt in military intelligence w/ the 4th Armored Div.

David J Clare

- January 21, 2016

71 years ago this week The 8th Armored Division was committed to the last days of the Battle of the Bulge. Though they had some casualties they would see the first KIA's from contact w/the Germans. Combat Command A would be tasked w/ attacking the German towns of Nening, Berg, & Sinz on the southern shoulder of the Bulge.

David J Clare

- January 22, 2016

Today we Remember Pvt Arvel A Bradley of 7th Armored Infantry Battalion Co. unk. KIA Jan. 22, 1945 he remains Forever Young buried. at The American Luxembourg Cemetery. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten

David J Clare

January 22, 2016

On Jan. 22 Let's Remember these 11 fine young men from Troop F - 88th Armored Recon Battalion. KIA on the last days of the Battle of the Bulge. 2Lt Homer B Young T/5 Lawrence Cortese T/5 Ernest R Pecenka T/5 Joseph J Visalli Jr S/Sgt William W Tweedell Sgt John J Stwobridge (buried Luxembourg) Sgt George D Smith (buried Luxembourg) Pvt William M Graham (buried Luxembourg) Pfc Russell H Hammond (buried Luxembourg) Cpl Anthony Spino (buried Luxembourg) Pfc Sidney L Mayberger

David J Clare

January 22, 2016

Today we Remember Pvt Robert C Johnson a member of Co. A 7th Armored Infantry Battalion. KIA 71 yrs ago in the attack of Nennig.....he was only 19 years old. He was first buried @ Luxembourg American Cemetery then 1946-47 his family had him returned to Forest Cemetery Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Your Sacrifice Will Not Be Forgotten.

David J Clare

January 24, 2016

Today We Remember Pfc Robert L Bates of A Co. 7th Armored Infantry Battalion KIA 71 yrs ago in the attack on Berg Germany. Originally buried at Luxembourg American Cemetery then returned home to Canby, Oregon.

David J Clare

January 24, 2016

Today We Remember Pfc Joseph A Critelli of A Co. 7th Armored Infantry Battalion. KIA 71 yrs ago in the attack on Berg, Germany. He remains Forever Young buried at The Luxembourg

American Cemetery.Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten.

David J Clare

January 24, 2016

Just spoke to family member of 2 Lt Hall.Spoke to wife of the Lt's nephew who passed away last year at 72.Shirley Hall told me the family has pictures they are willing to share & asked if they could get picture of his grave. She was joyed to hear about my visits & the adoption of soldiers graves. She said the family will be so happy to hear flowers are done at Memorial Day, date the were KIA ,birthdays & other times during the year. Times like this make me proud to be an 8th Armored Division Association member.

David J Clare

January 22, 2016

I am posting this for Association members that have a Father who served in the 8th AD.I am trying to gather info on the different Battalion moves when they were in Holland. Could you contact me if your Father/veteran could help me??I want to document the different towns each battalion stayed Feb.1-14 1945 when the Division moved from France into southern Holland.For instance the 58th [Arm.Inf.Bn](#) was billeted in Cadier en Keer. Thanks!

David Clare

January 25, 2016

Hello Okey-

Hope you well & not as snowed in as we in the Northeast.I am writing to say after many times trying I finally found & contacted family of 2 Lt Hall.We will soon have a picture for the website & the cemetery one for there Faces of Margraten program they are now doing before Memorial Day.I will be speaking with family members again and wondering if you had any info/stories you could tell me.I have spoken w/ Marshall Berkson who was next to him when he was killed.The family member I spoke with was wife of Boggs nephew who recently passed.But she was filled w/ joy to hear about the website,visits made to his grave by so many & the desire to carry on the Legacy of The 8th Armored Division.She is working on putting together everything she can find for me.She mentioned a relative that is a history professor. She did tell me that Lt Hall had tried out for Washington Redskins and was friends with Vince Lombardi. Anyway I thought you like to hear even though slow at times....the search for information to add to you & your buddies legacy continues

David J Clare

January 25, 2016

Today We Remember Capt. Anthony H Maidment of Hq Co.18th Tank Bn KIA 71 yrs ago.He was awarded the Silver Star for his actions while attacking Berg, Germany on the last day of Battle of Bulge. When Co D commander & a platoon leader was wounded he took Command of D Co. He was killed when the tank he mounted to lead an assault was hit by anti-tank rocket. He was the Battalion S-3 and was from Bennington Co. Vermont.He is buried at the

Luxembourg American Cemetery. Your Sacrifice Will Not Be Forgotten!

G.O. No. 1, Hq. 8th Armd. Div., 8 Feb. 1945, Page 1 - Award of Silver Star, Posthumous

Maidment, Anthony H.

Captain (Cavalry), U.S. Army

Headquarters, 18th Tank Battalion, 8th Armored Division

Date of Action: January 25, 1945



Citation:

The Silver Star is presented to **Anthony H. Maidment** (0-1010740), Captain (Cavalry), U.S. Army, for gallantry in action against the enemy while serving with Company D, 18th Tank Battalion, 8th Armored Division, in Germany on 25 January 1945. During the attack on a very strongly-held enemy position in Berg, Germany, the company commander and the first platoon leader were wounded.

Captain **Maidment**, the battalion S-3, on his own initiative took command of the company and directed it into position so that the attack was continued. Later the same day the second platoon leader's tank became seriously damaged. In order that a planned assault by the platoon with combined infantry might be made against the strongly-held position, Captain **Maidment** mounted the second tank and led the assault. When within 100 yards of the enemy position his tank was hit by an enemy anti-tank rocket and Captain Maidment was killed. Captain **Maidment's** initiative, courageous leadership and heroic devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the Military Forces of the United States. Entered Military Service from Illinois.



David J Clare

January 25, 2016

Today Let's Remember Tec5 Raymond E Chubb of Hq Co. 7th Armored Infantry Battalion. KIA 71 yrs ago on last day of Battle of Bulge in the attack on Berg, Germany. He entered service from Pennsylvania and is buried at Luxembourg American Cemetery. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten!

David J Clare

January 25, 2016

Today Let's Remember S/Sgt William E Curtis Co.unk.7th Armored Infantry Battalion. KIA 71 yrs ago on last day of Battle of Bulge in the attack on Berg, Germany he was 26 yrs old. He was buried at Luxembourg American Cemetery and in July 1948 returned home to Kilmichael, Mississippi, He left behind a wife, mother, father, 5 sisters, 3 brothers. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten!

David J Clare

David Clare

January 25, 2016

Today Let's Remember Sgt Earl V Springer of Co.B 7th Armored Infantry Battalion.KIA 71 yrs ago on the last day of Battle of Bulge in attack on Berg,Germany he was 27 yrs old.He left behind mother,father,4 brothers,5 sisters.He is buried at Luxembourg American Cemetery.He was arising baseball star in Baltimore with a year with Orioles.Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten!



Birth: 1918
Maryland, USA

Death: Jan. 25, 1945 (age 26)

Son of Harry Clayton Springer & Minnie G. Pitsnogle Springer.

Earl served as a Sergeant, 7th Infantry Battalion, 8th Armored Division, U.S. Army during World War II.

He resided in Washington County, Maryland prior to the war.

He enlisted in the Army on January 15, 1942 at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. He was noted as being employed as a sports instructor and also as Single, without dependents.

Earl was "**Killed In Action**" during the war and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Service # 33134335

Article:

Morning Herald, Hagerstown, Maryland, February 9, 1945

LOCAL BASEBALL STAR KILLED IN ACTION

Sgt. Earl B. Springer, 26, who in civilian life was a widely know local athlete, was killed in action in Germany on January 25, according to a War Department telegram received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Springer, 828 Chestnut Street.

A left handed pitcher, who appeared on the road to baseball fame, Springer played several games with the Hagerstown Owls after having served a year with the Baltimore Orioles. He previously starred on Hagerstown High School and University of Maryland teams, as well as with Sharpsburg in the Washington County League.

Inducted into the armed forces in 1942, Sgt. Springer received his training at Fort Knox, Ky., and with the Seventh Armored Infantry Battalion at Camp Polk, La. He went overseas in November, 1944, with the Seventh Armored Battalion.

Sgt. Springer was a member of Howard Street Methodist Church.

Besides his parents, he is survived by the following: brothers, Clyde and Lawrence, at home, Carl, U.S. Navy at Bainbridge, and Pfc. Robert Springer, in France; sisters, Mildred, Catherine and Jacqueline at home, Helen, McKeesport, Pa., and Thelma and Doris Springer, Baltimore.

New's Article found by: [Liz Cain](#)

Earl also has a "Cenotaph" in the Rose Hill Cemetery, Hagerstown, Maryland.

" [Click Here](#) " for that record.

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=130928363>

Note: Entered the service from Maryland.

Burial:

[Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial](#)

Hamm

Canton de Luxembourg

Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Plot: H Row 16 Grave 30

David J Clare

January 26, 2016

Today Let's Remember Capt.Grover M.Hermann Jr of Svc Co.7th Armored Infantry Battalion.KIA 71 yrs ago in the attack on Sinz,Germany.He was awarded The Silver Star for Gallantry in action and is buried at The Luxembourg American Cemetery.Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten

G.O. No. 1, Hq. 8th Armd. Div., 8 February, 1945, Page 1 - Award of Silver Star -

Posthumous

Hermann, Grover M., Jr.

Captain (Infantry), U.S. Army

Service Company, 7th Armored Infantry Battalion, 8th Armored Division

Date of Action: January 25, 1



Citation:

The Silver Star is presented to **Grover M. Hermann, Jr.** (0-349102), Captain (Infantry), U.S. Army, for gallantry in action against the enemy while serving with Service Company, 7th Armored Infantry Battalion, 8th Armored Division in Germany on 25 January 1945. Captain **Hermann** was given the mission of moving a portion of his company to the rear of a heavily fortified chateau from which the Germans had an excellent field of fire. Captain **Hermann** with a portion of his company succeeded in obtaining this objective. His outstanding demonstration of force and initiative enabled the battalion to complete its mission. Captain **Hermann** was killed in the accomplishment of this mission. Captain **Hermann's** personal bravery and inspiring leadership reflect great credit upon himself and the Military forces of the United States. Hometown: Cook County, Illinois.

David J Clare

January 26, 2016

Today We Remember Sgt John G Mahon of Co.A 7th Armored Infantry Battalion.KIA 71 yrs ago in the attack on Sinz,Germany.Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten

Birth: unknown

Death: Jan. 26, 1945

Note: Entered the service from Rhode Island.

Burial:

[Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial](#)

Hamm

Canton de Luxembourg

Luxembourg, Luxembourg

[http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=mahon&GSfn=john+&GSmn=g&GSbyrel=all&GSdy=1945&GSdyrel=in&GSob=n&GRid=56062335&df=all&)

[bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=mahon&GSfn=john+&GSmn=g&GSbyrel=all&GSdy=1945&GSdyrel=in&GSob=n&GRid=56062335&df=all&](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=mahon&GSfn=john+&GSmn=g&GSbyrel=all&GSdy=1945&GSdyrel=in&GSob=n&GRid=56062335&df=all&)

David J Clare

January 27, 2016

Today We Remember Pfc Laurice E Kintigh of Co.A 7th armored Infantry Battalion.KIA 71 yrs ago in the attack on Sinz, Germany.He is buried @ The Luxembourg American Cemetery. Your Sacrifice Is Not Forgotten

David J Clare

January 27, 2016

Today We Remember Pfc Eugene C Derrickson of 7th Armored Infantry Battalion Co.unk.KIA 71 yrs ago in the attack on Sinz, Germany. Your Sacrifice Is Not Forgotten

David J Clare

January 27, 2016

Today We Remember Edward P Sherel of 53rd Engineer Battalion Co.unk.KIA 71 yrs ago in the attack on Sinz, Germany. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten

Birth: unknown

Death: 1/27/1945

Note: Entered the service from Pennsylvania.

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=sherel&GSfn=edward&GSmn=p&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=all&GSob=n&GRid=56063444&df=all&>

Burial:

[Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial](#)

Hamm

Canton de Luxembourg

Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Chuck Garrett

January 27, 2016

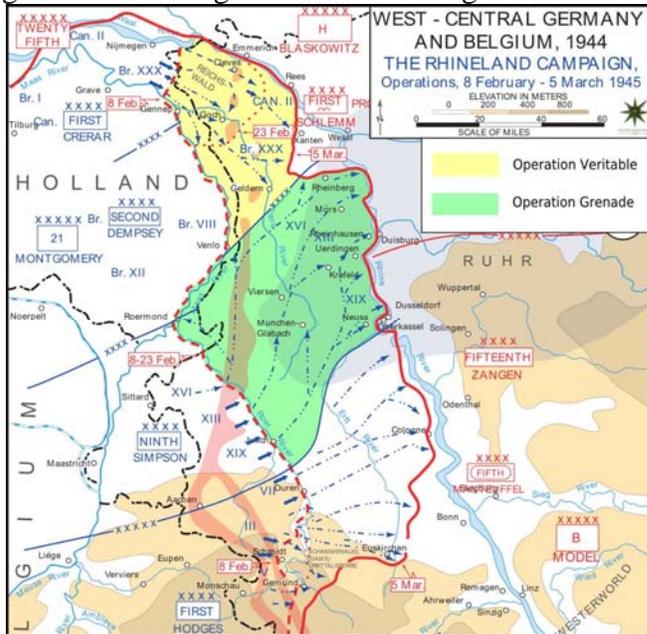
Thinking about you Dad 71 years ago at Sinz. You said the tracers were so heavy red and green that you could walk on them. You told my brother Bill that you and 35 other guys attacked a Chateau. Or Schloss that the Assault Gun Platoon had trouble with. When we asked about it You said you found the Wine Cellar and laughed and said no more.

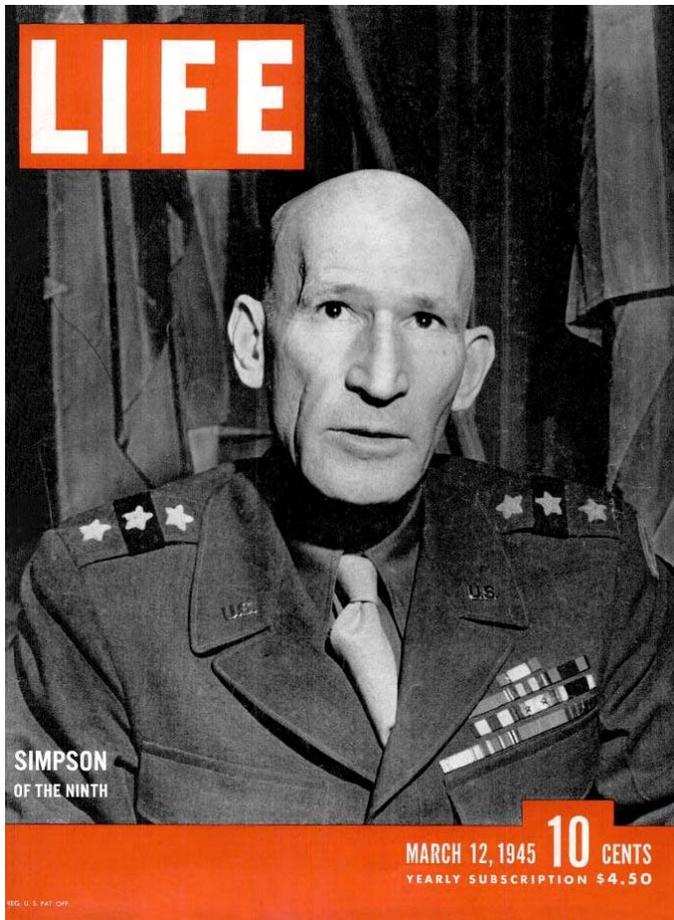
David J Clare
February 22, 2016

71 years ago the Battalion my Dad was in had their first heavy combat with the Germans. 23 Feb. 1945 Operation Grenade kicked off....it was designed to push the Germans back over the Roer River & keep pushing into Germany over the Rhine. The 8th Armored Division was assigned to Gen. Simpson's 9th Army would be charged with helping in cleaning out the Ruhr Pocket. The 35th Infantry Division on one flank, the 84th Infantry on the other. February they go through Sittard, Gangelt, Geilenkirchen, Randerath, Brachlen. In the coming days my Dad would lose his Best friend & 13 men from C Co. 58th Armored Inf. Your Sacrifice Is Not Forgotten



S/Sgt J.W. Burns - Sgt Paul W Clare - Sgt Clarence Lally – Co. C, 58th A.I.B.





Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson, Commander of the 9th Army

David Clare

February 24, 2016

Today We Remember T/5 John F McCall Jr of Crowley, Kansas. He served in B Battery 399th Field Artillery Battalion in the village of Montfort during Operation Grenade. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten

Wilbur Black (deceased December 8, 2015)

2082 Wallis Run Rd

Montoursville, PA 17754

member - Battery C , 398th Field Artillery

Dear Vernon:

It was good hearing from you. I am sorry I cannot help in any way for 8th Armored. I will be 90 in Oct. Not in the best of health. We were in that Sept. flood. Lost our home and everything in it. All furniture and clothes. We had a new home built It is a modular house.

Lots of luck in getting 8th started again. We had a wonderful time together plus some great over seas trips. Let me know how you make out. Wilbur Black.
wife – Pauline

Wilbur H. Black, 93, of Montoursville, died Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at Manor Care South, Williamsport.
(1922 – 2015)

Born October 8, 1922 in Northumberland County, he was a son of the late George and Margaret (Shoemaker) Black. On February 26, 1947 he married the former Pauline Milheim, who survives. Together they celebrated 68 years of marriage.

Wilbur was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U. S. Army as an auto mechanic and fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. He worked as a service manager for Fred Beasley Ford and Fran Wylie Volkswagen, both in Williamsport. Wilbur retired from Fairfield Group, Montoursville.

He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Turbotville. Wilbur was a life member of the Edward J. Smith Post 3428 VFW, Muncy, a member of the Roland Ritter Post 268 American Legion, Muncy, the Muncy Lodge #299, F & AM, the Williamsport Consistory and the Loyalsock Mens Club.

Surviving in addition to his wife are a daughter and son-in-law, Paula and Frank Fenstermacher, of Montgomery; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Benjamin and Liz Black, of Danville and Marvin “Mike” and Betty Black, of Lewisburg; four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews, including a close nephew, Lester and Cora Keener, of Turbotville; and his beloved cats, Sissy and Tiger.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a son, Wilbur R. Black; three sisters, Mildred Keener, Dorothy Elliot and Erma Bryson; and two brothers, Clarence “Sonny” and Howard Black.

Friends will be received from 1 to 2 p.m. Thursday, at Grenoble’s, 121 S. Main St., Muncy, where the funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Officiating will be Rev. David Jacobs, pastor of Clinton Baptist Church, Montgomery.

Burial with full military honors will follow in Muncy Cemetery.

HAROLD LLOYD PILAVIN, Co D, 88th Cavalry Recon Battalion, 8th Armored Division PASSED AWAY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2015. HE HAD JUST CELEBRATED HIS 92ND BIRTHDAY, AND, AS USUAL, WAS IN GREAT SPIRITS AND FELT ‘FANTASTIC.’ BUT THE FOLLOWING EVENING HE SPIKED A FEVER AND DEVELOPED COMPLICATIONS. THOUGH I HAVE COME TO THINK OF MY DAD AS INVINCIBLE, HIS BODY SUCCUMBED. IT IS A TREMENDOUS LOSS BUT A LIFE WELL LIVED.

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO:

· JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 1811 R STREET NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20009

- SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER
- HUDSON VALLEY HONOR FLIGHT, PO BOX 375 WALDEN, NY 12586
- DOWLING GARDENS; 190 KINGS HIGHWAY, SPARKILL, NY 10967
- JCC WWW.BOSTONJCC.ORG

Daughter - Tobi Winesteen
tobipilavin@aol.com

Pilavin, Harlod Lloyd 92, born on December 11, 1923 passed away on Wednesday, December 30, 2015, following sudden health complications precipitated by an infection. He was born in Dorchester, MA, and lived the majority of his long happy life married to the late Beverly (Gorodetsky) Pilavin in Newton Center, MA. He was known to be a very strong yet kind and gentle man who was the Co- President of the former Sport Appliance of Dorchester and creator of Handy Hooks Household Supplies. He was a loving, devoted and beloved family man. He lived out his final five-and-a-half years in the NY/NJ area, making his final residence at The Dowling Gardens in Sparkill, NY. He was dearly loved and will be very sorely missed.

Published in The Newton Tab from Jan. 4 to Jan. 11, 2016 - See more at:
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/wickedlocal-newton/obituary.aspx?pid=177129835#sthash.Rfl7T3oh.dpuf>

Ralph C. Flechsig (died – November 27, 2015)

RALPH CURT FLECHSIG, of Eaton Rapids, MI and formerly of Solon, OH passed away on Friday, November 27, 2015 at the age of 90. Ralph was born on March 10, 1925 the son of Kurt and Martha (Mueller) Flechsig in Cleveland, OH. He was a graduate of East Tech High School class of 1943. Ralph honorably served in the **8th Armored Division** under General George Patton during WWII. He served in Co C, 130th Ord-Main Battalion. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, VFW Post 1863, the **National President of the 8th Armored Division Association**, and very active at the Eaton Rapids Senior Center. He is preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy Flechsig; parents, and brother, Arthur. Surviving are his children, Nancy (Russell) Olejownik, Randolph (Laura Byers) Flechsig; grandchildren, Rebecca Olejownik, Kristina (Daniel) Latham, Harrison Flechsig, Clayton Flechsig. Burial in Mount Hope Cemetery, Miles Rd., Solon, OH.

Published in The Plain Dealer on Dec. 6, 2015 - See more at:
<http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?pid=176792417#sthash.MvLjrfiA.dpuf>

Daughter - **Nancy Flechsig Olejownik**

Dr. Raymond S. Ross

April 14, 1925 – December 23, 2015

TRAVERSE CITY (MI)— Raymond Ross, 90, of Traverse City, passed away Dec. 23, 2015 at his home. Raymond was born on April 14, 1925 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to the late Samuel and Agnes (Thorkildsen) Ross.

As a young man Raymond entered the U.S. Army (8th Armored Division) and spent a great deal of time in the European Theatre, where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He received a Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, Bronze Star and France bestowed the Legion of Honour medal in recognition of his acts of heroism. He earned the rank of Staff Sergeant at the age of 19 and was honorably discharged in 1945 after faithfully serving his country.

After the war he attended Marquette University, earning his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees, and Purdue University, where he earned a Doctorate in communication and psychology.

He went on to a teaching career at Ohio State and Wayne State Universities. He was a distinguished author and wrote over 20 college text books and directed many theses and dissertations. Additionally, he worked as a consultant with the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Michigan. In retirement he wrote “When Your Number’s Up” based on his war experiences.

On June 19, 1948 Raymond married the love of his life, Ricky (Jean Joy) Reichmann. Together they enjoyed working professionally in Birmingham before retiring to Traverse City to continue writing books while spending summers at the family’s treasured Paradise Point property. A memorial celebration will be held there this summer.

Raymond is survived by his wife of 67 years, Ricky; son, Dr. Mark (Kelli Stepka) Ross; son, Scott (Dawn Carter) Ross; grandkids, Pine Kopka-Ross and Shawnn Schaub; and his sister, Charlotte Kleinschmidt.

Please visit www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com to share your condolences and memories with the family.

On behalf of the 8th Armored Division Association, veterans of the 'Thundering Herd'; members, family and friends I would like to express our profound condolences at the passing of our member and brother 'Ray' Ross. He was a decorated veteran of Co. B, 58th Armored Infantry Battalion of the 8th Armored Division and was a Staff Sergeant. He performed gallant service in

the 'Battle of the Bulge' and through Central Europe, earning the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge', Bronze Star, and recently the Legion of Honor bestowed by France. Ray was the author of "When Your Number's Up," a non-fiction novel, an expanded account of service based on actual events which happened with the 8th Armored Division.

Ray was a distinguished College Professor of Psychology, a devoted family man and a dedicated member of the 8th Armored Division Association.

He will be greatly missed as he is mourned by all.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his beloved wife of 67 years, 'Ricky', his family and many friends and pledge to keep his memory alive and in our thoughts and prayers.

Andy Waskie, president

8th Armored Division Association



**In Loving Memory Of
Raymond Samuel Ross**

Born

April 14, 1925

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Entered Into Eternal Life

December 23, 2015

Traverse City, Michigan

Memorial Service

Reynolds-J onkhoff Funeral Home

Traverse City, Michigan

Monday, December 28, 2015, 11:00 AM

Officiating

Cherryland VFW Post# 2780

Please share your memories at

www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

*To everything there is a season, and a time to
every purpose under heaven:*

*A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to
plant, and a time to pluck up that which is*

planted;
*A time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break
down, and a time to build up;*
*A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to
mourn, and a time to dance;*
*A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather
stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to
refrain from embracing;*
*A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep,
and a time to cast away;*
*A time to reap, and a time to sow; a time to keep
silent, and a time to speak;*
*A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war,
and a time of peace.*

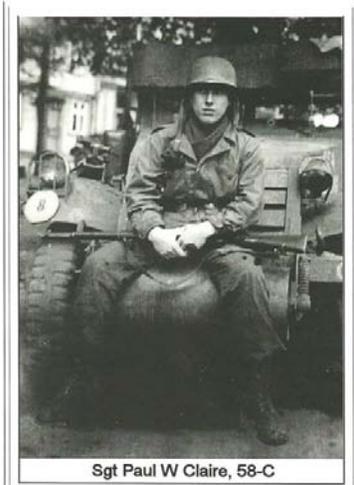
Frederick C. Stadelmaier of 7-C died on January 6, 2016

Frederick C., beloved husband of Marian E. (nee Schultz) Stadelmeier, devoted father of Patricia S. Bailey and her husband Robert, Charles A. Stadelmeier and his wife Janice and Barbara A. Stadelmeier, also survived by four grandchildren,, six great grandchildren. A funeral service was held at the funeral home on January 9th. Interment Gardens of Faith Cemetery., 5598 Trumps Mill Rd, Baltimore, MD 21206 <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/baltimoresun/obituary.aspx?pid=177183661#sthash.KT8AXamv.dpuf>

David Clare

February 9, 2016

71 yrs ago Dad & 58th Armored Infantry Battalion were in the village of Cadier en Keer, The Netherlands. In 2012 I would meet Zus Bowers (left) whose father took in my Dad's squad. Also at the meeting Anne Starren the 3 yr old girl in middle photo. I will be forever Grateful to the people of this wonderful village for the kindness they showed our Dad's, brother's & Son's so long ago.



Sgt Paul W Claire, 58-C



Sgt Clarence K Lally, Sgt Claire, Pfc Mario Salas, 58-C



David J Clare
February 25, 2016

Today We Remember Pfc Charles B Pickard of Dubuque, Iowa.KIA outside Linne, Holland on a night patrol. He was a member 3rd platoon w/ my Dad ,he was the first casualty by enemy fire in the Battalion. He left behind a Mother,Father,2 Brothers and is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten



David J Clare

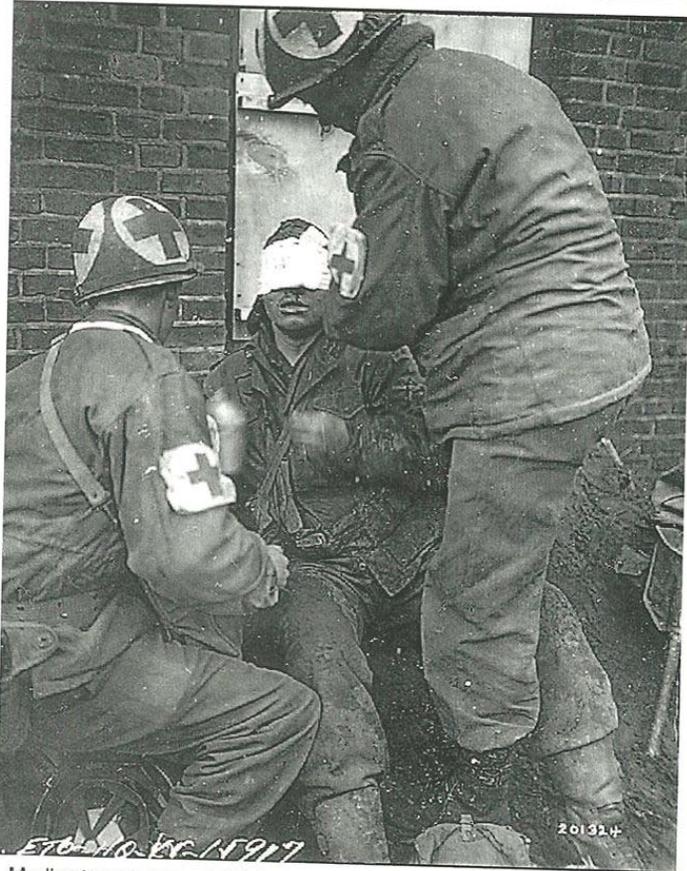
February 25, 2016

Today We Remember Pfc John R Wells of Hamilton County, Ohio. He served w/ 36th Tank Battalion Co. unk. Died of wounds he received during Operation Grenade, he left behind a mother, father, 2 sisters, 2 brothers. He is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten

David J Clare

February 26, 2016

Today I remember my Friend Pfc Leonard Justofin who was wounded near the Graven Farm outside Linne. He was in my Dad's squad & his War ended 71 yrs ago. He would spend months in hospitals recovering. In the following 24 hrs after was wounded 13 men were killed & many more wounded from C Co. 58th A.I.B. His/Their Sacrifice is Not Forgotten. R.I.P Junior



Medics treat a wounded infantryman of the U.S. Ninth Army, brought back from the front near Linne, Holland. Tank crewmen reached the man and rescued him when medics were unable to do so.
18th Tk. Bn., 8th Armd. Div. - Feb. 26, 1945.

David J Clare

February 26, 2016

Today let's Remember Sgt Byron E Hupman Jr of Washington, New York. He served w/ 405th Field Artillery battalion KIA near Montfort during the opening salvos of Operation Grenade. He left behind a Mother,father,2 brothers,2 sisters. He is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery.Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten



David J Clare

February 26, 2016

Today let's Remember Pfc Robert L Crooks of Nashua, Iowa. He served w/ Co. B 58th Arm. Infantry Battalion. KIA near Roermond he was 20 yrs old. He left behind a Mother, Father, & Brother. He is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery Margraten. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten



David J Clare

February 26, 2016

Today let's Remember 1 Lt Edwin K Newman of Winston Salem, North Carolina. He was Co. Commander C Co. 7th Arm. Infantry Battalion. KIA in Montfort he was 27 yrs old. He left behind a Wife, Mother, Father, 3 Brothers, & Sisters. He is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery Margraten. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten



David J Clare

February 26, 2016

Today let's Remember Pfc Marlin W Jones of Will County, Illinois. He served w/ C Co. 58th Arm .Infantry Battalion. KIA on the R/R embankment near the Graven Farm-shot by sniper. He died a month shy of his 21st birthday. He is buried in his hometown in Will Center Cemetery, Illinois. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten



David J Clare

February 26, 2016

Today let's Remember Pfc Thomas R Kelso of Mercer County, Pa. He was KIA near the Graven Farm he was 20 yrs old. He buried in his hometown Hadley, Pa. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten

David J Clare

February 26, 2016

Today let's Remember Sgt Earl F Love of Sydnorville, Va. He was a machine gunner in Co.A 58th Arm. Infantry Battalion. When his platoon was pinned down Sgt Love covered their withdrawal & was wounded. After it was safe he wounded a second time fatally. He received the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action. He was 20 yrs old and left behind a Mother & Father. He is buried at Netherlands American Cemetery. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten



David J Clare

February 27, 2016

Feb.27,1945 was a dark day for 58th Armored Infantry Battalion. While taking & clearing the Factory @ Merum at least 13 men were killed & many more wounded. Co.C hit the hardest. Today let's Remember/Honor 2 Lt Boggs C Hall S/Sgt JW Burns Pfc Nicholas A Famularo Pfc Carl W Fields(Silver Star) Pfc Wyman J French Cpl Russell G Fretz Jr 2 Lt George F Southern Pfc Philip J Heney Jr Pfc Bernard M McAnally Pfc Francis V Moran Pvt Nicholas Opolko Pfc Christ J Andronis Sgt Frank Balestrucci All are buried the Netherlands American Cemetery Margraten Your Service & Sacrifice is Not Forgotten

Today let's Remember S/Sgt JW Burns of Eastland,Texas.He was 21 yr old Machine

Gun Squad leader in C Co.58th Arm.Infantry Battalion.Killed in attack on factory at Merum.He left behind a Mother,Father,Brother & Sister.He is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery Margraten.Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten

David J Clare

February 27, 2016

Today let's Remember S/Sgt J.W.Burns of Eastland, Texas.He was 21yr old machine gun squad leader C Co.58th Arm.Infantry Battalion.He was killed in the attack on the factory @ Merum.He left behind a Mother, Father,Brother & Sister. He is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery Margraten. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten



David J Clare

February 27, 2016

Today let's Remember Sgt Frank M Balestrucci of Phila, Pa. He served w/ C Co.58th Arm. Infantry Battalion. He was KIA in a field outside of Linne advancing on factory @ Merum. He was 21 yrs old & left behind his Father .He is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery Margraten. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten



David J Clare

February 27, 2016

Today let's Remember Pfc Christ J Andronis of Cook Co, Illinois.KIA by a mortar round while bringing ammunition to MG squad in attack on factory @ Merum. He served w/C Co.58th A.I.B. He was 20 yrs old & survived by Mother,Father,2 Brothers & Sister. He is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery. Your sacrifice is Not Forgotten

David J Clare

February 27, 2016

Today let's Remember Pfc Wyman J French (22yrs) & Cpl Russell G Fretz Jr (19yrs) of C Co.58th A.I.B. They were Machine Gunners in Sgt Burns(leader) squad. Killed in attack @ Merum. when Burns called them forward to lay down suppressing fire for a platoon pinned down both were killed setting up their gun. French(carrier) killed first,then Fretz (gunner) charged MG nest & was gunned down. At this moment is when Sgt Burns ran for cover was gunned down by MG fire just 4 feet from my Dad's fox hole. Sgt Burns & Cpl Fretz are buried next to each other, Pfc French nearby. Your Service is Not Forgotten

**David J Clare**

February 27, 2016

Today let's Remember Pfc Nicholas A Famularo of Brownsville,Pa. He was a 21 yr old rifleman in 3rd platoon C Co. 58th A.I.B. KIA outside Linne, Holland. He was a star on the Battalion champion softball team. He is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery Margraten.Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten



David J Clare

February 27, 2016

Today let's Remember 2 Lt George F Southern of Union City, New Mexico. He served w/ B Co.58th A.I.B. & was KIA in the attack of factory @ Merum. He was 27 yrs old and left behind a Mother, Wife & 2 Daughters. His Grandson is now a member of the 8th A.D. Association. He is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery Margraten. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten



David J Clare

February 27, 2016

Today let's Remember 22 yr old Pfc Bernard A Demcovitz of Beverly, New Jersey. He served w/ C Co.58th A.I.B. He was KIA 26 Feb.1945 on the opening days of Operation Grenade. He was originally buried at Margraten then after the war returned home to Beverly National Cemetery. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten



David J Clare

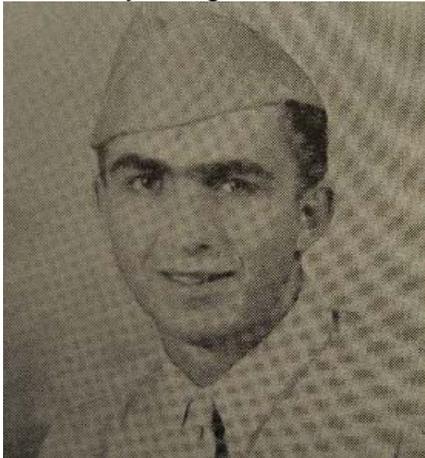
February 27, 2016

Today let's Remember Sgt Kenneth E Streitenberger of Midway, Ohio. He served on Co. A 7th Armored Infantry Battalion. He was KIA just 3 weeks after his 20th Birthday outside Linne, Holland. He was originally buried at Margraten & was returned home to Range Cemetery Madison County, Ohio. Your sacrifice is Not Forgotten

David J Clare

February 28, 2016

Today let's Remember Pfc Hans Bergmayr of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. He was a 21 yr old rifleman in C Co. 58th Armored Infantry Battalion. Died of Wounds on 26 Feb. 1945 near Posterholt. He left behind his Mother, Father, & Sister. Thank you to Bart van der Sterren for adopting his grave. He is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery Margraten. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten



David J Clare

February 28, 2016

Today let's Remember Cpl John A Bange of Richmond, New York. He was 21 yrs old & served in A Co. 18 Tank Battalion. KIA in Germany after crossing the Roer during Operation Grenade. He left behind his Mother, Father, Grandmother. & Brother. He is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten



David J Clare

February 28, 2016

Today let's Remember Pvt William H Crabtree of Denver County, Colorado. He served in the 7th Armored Infantry Battalion Co. unk. Was KIA probably in Germany when Combat Command A he was with crossed the Roer during Operation Grenade. He is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery Margraten. Your Sacrifice is Not Forgotten

David J Clare

March 2, 2016

David J Clare

March 5, 2016

71 yrs ago The Thundering Herd suffered it's worst day in Battle. During the attack on Rheinberg, Germany Combat Command B suffered 199 casualties w/ 50+ KIA most comin' from 36th Tank Battalion. With their backs to The Rhine German resistance was fierce....they suffered 350 men KIA & over 500 taken prisoner. The 8th Armored Division performed Gallantly & many decorations awarded. Capt Kemble Tucker posthumously given The Distinguished Service Cross & several Silver Stars. God Bless & Rest in Peace to all who gave their lives so others could have Freedom

Today let's Remember Pfc Ted E Maddox of Jackson County, Fla. He served w/ C Co. 18th Tank Battalion. KIA when the tank he was in was hit by an enemy bazooka while taking the town of Wachtendonk. He was 23 yrs old and is buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery. Your

Sacrifice is Not Forgotten



T5 Ray Laughtery & T/4 Frank O'Braza, 36-D, inspect damaged M24 tank

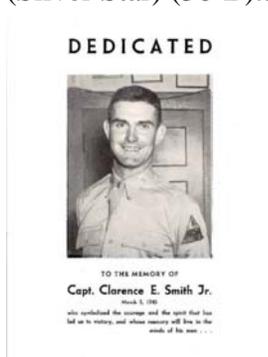


16. 88 MM AT gun at northwest corner of factory district in Ossenberg.

David J Clare

March 5, 2016

Capt Clarence E Smith(Silver Star)(49-B),T/4 Robert B Condra (36-B),Sgt Brunk A Goesman (Silver Star) (36-B).....KIA 5March'45 The High Price of Freedom



Anthony Adamsky

March 6, 2016

Timeline Photos

Help us remember Nicholas J. Prokop today. Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army 49th Infantry Battalion, 8th Armored Division.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.200480473304005.50686.143512799000773>



**Patton Museum, Pilsen, Czech Republic
Jaroslav Kulhanek; Heidi Fishman – 2016**

An amazing find!

Peter Schrijvers

March 13, 2016

SAVING PRIVATE HERRSCHER'S DOG TAG. Can you help find Harlan Herrscher's relatives? That was the question I received from a Dutch family through Belgian intermediary [Peter Van Pelt](#). The Dutch had unearthed one of Private Herrscher's dog tags in a field near Margraten, not far from the American World War II cemetery. And they were keen to have the personal item returned to any American relatives still alive. Now, after some research and the kind co-operation of newspaper staff at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (and [Tony Messenger](#) in particular), I am pleased to say that two very emotional cousins who grew up with Harlan Herrscher in the same home have indeed been located. Private Herrscher was from St. Louis. He

served in the 8th Armored Division, was killed in Germany in April 1945, and today rests at the Dutch Margraten cemetery. Harlan Herrscher served in the 7th Armored Infantry Battalion (replacement) of the 8th Armored Division. He was killed in action in Germany on April 15, 1945. Buried in Margraten, Netherlands



Messenger: A St. Louis soldier's WWII dog tags finally come home

[By Tony Messenger St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#)

March 12, 2016

Harlan Herrscher's dog tags. Photo provided.

The secret of the shed died with Harlan Herrscher.

The shed sits behind the house at 4423 Beethoven Avenue in the Bevo Mill neighborhood of south St. Louis — or it used to, anyway. It is where Herrscher grew up, living most of his life in the two-bedroom bungalow along with his parents, his aunt and uncle, and their three boys.

One of those boys, Bart Herrscher, told me the story of the shed from his home in Houston the other day. Bart is 81. He was the middle of three Herrscher boys — Roger and Rick were the others — who grew up in the 1930s in that 875-square-foot red-brick home with their cousin Harlan.



This is the home on Beethoven where Harlan Herrscher lived with his parents and cousins. Photo by Tony Messenger, tmessenger@post-dispatch.com Tony Messenger • tmessenger@post-dispatch.com

That we were talking about Harlan at all is a lesson in how small the world has become.

It started with a couple in the Netherlands, who called an author in Australia, who emailed the Post-Dispatch looking for information about a soldier from St. Louis who died in the closing days of World War II.

Private First Class Harlan L. Herrscher was that soldier.



Pfc. Harlan Herrscher. Photo courtesy of the Carondelet Historical Society.

He died April 15, 1945, in Germany while serving in the 7th Armored Infantry Battalion in the [8th Armored Division](#) known as the Thundering Herd. In his two years in the military — Herrscher was 18 when he enlisted — he fought in the Battle of the Bulge, was awarded a Purple Heart and witnessed one of the most powerful periods in world history.

A freak accident led to his death. A fellow soldier picked up a German Luger he found. It was booby-trapped, and a 20-year-old from St. Louis was its victim. When Herrscher died, he was buried at the [Netherlands American Cemetery](#) in Margraten.

Killed in Line of Duty

ST. LOUIS

Cpl. Bernard H. Aepken Jr., 4209 Margaretta.
Cpl. Vernon B. Behrman, 4564 Red Bud.
Av. O. 2-C Harry M. Cress, 5546 Maple.
Pfc. Harlan L. Herrscher, 3435A Miami.
S. Sgt. Arthur F. Kiburz, 4256 Castleman.

Capt. Howard A. Lesser, former St. Louisan.
Cpl. Robert E. O'Malley, 4027 Merritt.
S. Sgt. John M. Peterson, 6144 Delmar.
Cpl. Vernon A. Sommer, 3625A Hamburger.
Capt. Russell Woods, 5234 Enright.

Harlan Herrscher

Clipped By:



Tomczak
Fri, Mar 11, 2016

That's where Wietze Jorritsma and his girlfriend, Diana Wijnsma, come in. The couple have two children together and live in Groeningen in the Netherlands. Not long ago, Jorritsma and his father were on a two-day "holiday" near Limburg, practicing one of their favorite hobbies — hunting for various treasures with metal detectors. They found the long-abandoned dog tags of Pfc. Harlan L. Herrscher.



Auke Jorritsma, Wietze Jorritsma and Diana Wijnsma of the Netherlands pose with the dog tags of Pfc. Harlan L. Herrscher and the metal detector that found them. Photo provided. Handout photo

Here, a little history is important. The people of the Netherlands are known for their appreciation of the American war effort in keeping them free from Nazi rule in the 20th century. Every year, thousands of them come out to Margraten [to decorate the 8,300 American tombstones](#). Families from the Netherlands adopt a deceased American soldier at the cemetery as their own, caring for the grave year round and keeping the place pristine.

Jorittsma and Wijnsma wanted to make sure they could get Herrscher's dog tags to his family.

They called their government, who sent them to the Pentagon. They got a little information — that Herrscher's parents, Emil and Doretta, had died and that he had no siblings. Then Wijnsma found a man from Belgium on Facebook who had similarly found American dog tags and had tracked down the man's relatives. That man sent Wijnsma to [Peter Schrijvers](#), a professor who teaches U.S. history at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

Schrijvers is the author of [“The Margraten Boys.”](#) a book about how the people of Margraten adopted the American soldiers they never knew. He dug into Herrscher's history but couldn't find much.

Herrscher's cousin, Bart, explains why: Harlan's records were among the millions destroyed in [the 1973 fire](#) at the National Personnel Records Center in Overland.

Stumped, Schrijvers emailed the Post-Dispatch, where an editor sent the query to me. Luckily for me, Harlan's cousin Rick makes several appearances in the archives. That's because he was a star basketball and baseball player at Cleveland High School whose talents landed him a scholarship to Southern Methodist University.

In 1962, Rick Herrscher was called up to the expansion New York Mets, where he [played one season](#) under legendary manager Casey Stengel.

Now he lives in Dallas, where he still sees patients as a 79-year-old orthodontist.

On Friday — a few days after we first spoke — he received an overnight package from the Netherlands. For the first time, he saw the dog tags that belonged to his cousin Harlan, who in their youth was larger than life.

“He was so big and strong,” Rick remembers. “He could do just about anything. When I was 4 he would put me on the handlebars of his bike and we'd ride to Colonial Bakery and buy bread for half price.”

Times were tough on St. Louis' south side in those days in the late 1930s. The two families lived in one house. Rick's father, Otto, ran a filling station, then sold grease and oil to manufacturing companies. Harlan's dad, Emil, did odd jobs, including working behind the front desk at the downtown YMCA.

During the war, the brothers would go to their grandfather's blacksmith shop and forage for scrap metal to donate to the war effort. Harlan slept in the covered back porch. Bart got the dining room. Roger was on a couch in the living room, and Rick, the youngest, slept in his parents' room.

“It was cozy,” Bart remembers.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/columns/tony-messenger/messenger-a-st-louis-soldier-s-wwii-dog-tags-finally/article_e26b28c9-5f1f-576c-aa2c-4f854b3bfc54.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Bruce Brodowski

March 30, 2016

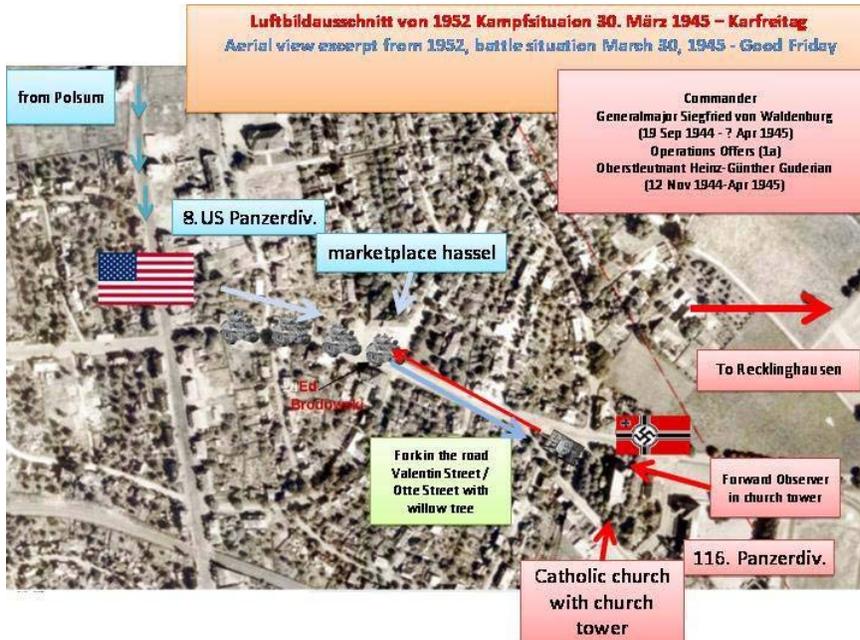
S/Sergt. Edward Brodowski, 80th Tank Battalion KIA on March 31, 1945. Buried in Margraten

It was March 30, 1945, Good Friday. According to Catholic Tradition, this was the day that Christ was crucified and died at 3:00 P.M. That would be at 1500 hours. Around 1600 Brodowski's platoon was moved up to support an Infantry company. It was thought that the enemy had a defense in that area and an attack was made to break through it. Kemp wrote, "Brodowski led the attack on an area of houses and was met by a barrage of direct and indirect fire from enemy positions. At that time, the town was known as Burr Hassel but today is Gelsenkirchen. It was a suicide mission. Lt. Kaz knew it and we knew it. As the attack entered the town a camouflaged German tank drove out from behind a house. They were only two blocks away from each other. Not too far away was the Catholic Church and its steeple where German spotters were located. Ed delivered a withering fire at the Grenadier ground troops surrounding the Tiger." The Tiger shot off a round that hit the right track of Ed's tank and disabled it." Johnny yelled out, we've been hit. We can't move the tank. Let's get the hell out. Then Brodowski slipped down into the gunner's seat with McStay as his ammo loader. He knew there was no way that his 76mm could match up against the superior armor and firepower (88mm) of the "Tiger." He could have bailed out with the others to come back to fight another day but, in Dick Kemp's words, "that hard headed Pollock Ed Brodowski was not going to back down." There was a chance that he might have been able to do some damage. They were visually looking down at each other's barrels. He directed three rounds from his tank gun at the German tank before his tank was hit again. This time in the turret hitting McStay and Brodowski. S/Sgt. Brodowski, Tank Commander, was instantly killed doing what he was trained to do. To fight for freedom against the tyranny and evil that infiltrated into the world. I found out in 2015, that the men in the German tank were teenage boys. That was all that was left to defend the homeland. An airstrike was called in and approached the tank across the coal mines down a direct path to

Gelsenkirchen. The bomb from the plane blew up that Panzer tank into pieces along with the boys inside it. It was a sad day for all on that afternoon.

Silver Star

<http://www.8th-armored.org/rosters/8-sstar-80.htm>



David Clare
April 5, 2016

A true friend of The 8th Armored Division.....Roy Pfenning (barn attached to his house) has a museum in the Village of Montfort, Netherlands. In Feb. 1945 58th Armored Infantry Battalion had a HQ outside of the village as Combat Command R fought nearby in the Heide Woods & outside of Town of Linne. He has photos, artifacts of the 8th Armored Division.....I donated my Dad's Ike jacket & American flag from his home in upstate NY. I can't wait to visit in May will share many pics.

The Roerdriehoek Museum

<http://www.roerdriehoek.com/en/>



From Adam Adamsky

Has anyone ever seen this photo before? Looks to be an 8th AD soldier, but there's no source info on where I found it and I can't find any other info for it. The only info that was posted with it was that it was by Edward Clark from the LIFE collections 'Pigalle District' of Paris 1945.

From Ralph Peeters

Trip of Honor : 70th Anniversary (2015) Battle of the Bulge Veterans Visit the Battlefields

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/213312690425/10153361116805426/>

From - Chuck Garrett

April 30, 2016 · Poplar Grove, IL

Not long before he died my Dad told me some things that the US Army did not declassify until 1998. He told me that after they left the Ruhr Pocket they were sent to support the 2nd Armored

Division bridgehead at the Elbe River. En route near Wolfenbuettel they came across a slave labor camp. He said as they approached you could smell something awful, worse than the normal smells of war. They came upon the camp & called for tank support being Reconnaissance in Jeeps. He started to cry and said you will never believe what people can do to other people. They had come upon a forced labor camp with tunnels making rockets and planes. He said the DP's (Displaced Persons) would walk up to them & want to kiss them & hug them with open sores all over them crying: “ ..me Polski..” or “..me Russki”. He said they tried to give them rations and water he said they were walking skeletons. At the Camp they killed all who resisted; some got away. He said they had bodies piled & burning when he got there when they got back to the town he saw a German must have been guard getting beaten with an axe by some DP's with a local woman screaming murder. He said they did not interfere they just moved on. They gave the inhabitants of the camp 48 hours of no Law. Then their orders changed and they went to the Harz Mountains.

As told to me by PFC Harvey Garrett CCA 18th Tank Battalion 8th Armored Division (note: this may have been Concentration Camp – Langenstein-Zwieberge near Halberstadt in the Harz Mts. Which was freed by elements of the 8th Armored Division.)

The Tigers of Bastogne May 11, 2016

Final Roll Call for the TIGERS of BASTOGNE. My friend and co-author official 10th Armored Historian Mike Collins was there along with President of the 10th Div Association Howard Liddic and of course the wonderful remaining veterans. Long may those Tigers ROAR!

10th Armored Division Association

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Tigers-of-Bastogne-503540386400580/>



