

☆ THE WAY IT WAS ☆

Aug.31,1943--Camp Haan,Calif.,--all furloughs cancelled because we were told we have been put on 21 hours "alert" for movement overseas. On Aug. 9th we were to have a "showdown" inspection of clothing and equipment by the Inspector General , and watched by spotters (similar to the F.B.I.)

Sept.2,1943--Camp Haan,Calif.--fellows on furlough who were due back on the 17th , were told to be back on the 16th because we were to go on the rifle range on that day. We have been told we will move --maybe today and maybe not for 2 or 3 months,East or West coast P. O.E. not known.Fellows from the neighboring Ordnance Co. have been on "alert" status for over 2 months and are still awaiting orders.

July 2,1944--Mandeville(Treviers) France-- uniform of the day was; fatigues,leggings,cartridge belt with ammo,gas mask ,steel helmet, loaded carbine,and then off to church services.

July 7,1944--Mandeville,France -- rain in the A.M.,then cleared up until supper when it really rained hard when we were in the chow line (we had real white bread at supper today).Cut up some G.I. soap and soaked some clothing overnite in a can of water. The drinking water has a lot of chlorine and sure does react on the kidneys. The French gals wear long pendant earrings. Did some cooking with a gasoline blowtorch for a late snack

July 2 ,1944,Cerisy,Forest, France--had a hot G.I. shower,the first available since being in France. Usually had to take a "sponge" bath Had pork chops for chow today. Damp sleeping on the ground .Made an improvised cot from poles and baling wire,raised off the ground with baling wire.

July 24,1944,Cerisy Forest,France--for supper we had cooked navy beans,vienna sausage,spinach,bread,asstd.jam,diced pineapple,cake, and coffee. A movie "Gaslight" was shown at night.

Sept.2,1944,Senlis,France-- good food ala French people--fresh tomatoes,potatos,eggs,mushrooms,peachs,apples,wine,beer,cognac,champagne Wine andbeer was purchased but the cognac was free. Also had "glace" which is similar to sherbet. Fried potatos,mushrooms,eggs in butter using a skillet and a blowtorch.

Jan.1,1945,Herstal,Belgium--received back-mail all the way from last Nov. ,the delay due to the Battle of the Bulge.Started to snow last night and plenty deep this morn.Clear and cold.

Jan.21,1945,Herstal,Belgium--had roast pork for supper. Ave Maria was sung in church. For two consecutive Sundays the Pastor had the sermon in English but you had to listen very closely.Hand bags with shoulder very popular here,also woolen stockings,white prevailing - and resemble mens hunting sox and come up to the knee. Wooden shoes popular too;house slippers or short woolen "bobby sox" are put on first. The German "Buzz Bomb" is causing a lot of problems.

Jan.22,1945, Herstal,Belgium--had turkey for a belated Christmas and New Years dinner,also simmered beans,canned salmon,diced and cooked dehydrated carrots,bread and butter,sugar,dehydrated milk and coffee

Jan.24,1945,Herstal,Belgium--oranges for breakfast,and chicken for supper tomorrow.

Jan.25,1945,Herstal,Belgium--chicken for dinner tonight (for tomorrow tooand also oranges).Had the usual V.D. (short arm) inspection

today. Clear and cold out tonight with a swell moon out and shining. We are now getting the New York Herald Tribune in addition to the Stars and Stripes--it's a one sheet affair printed on both sides. We were also getting the European edition of the Daily Mail, a London paper but published in Paris, also a one sheet affair. Here we have "open air" toilet facilities, just like in the "old days" brrrr! especially on a cold night. Spaghetti for supper tomorrow!

Jan. 29, 1945, Herstal, Belgium--oranges for breakfast today and fried chicken for supper. The movie "Carolina Blues" was shown.

Jan. 29, 1945, Herstal, Belgium--ham for supper tonight. Every one drinking alot of water because of it. Very slippery out tonight. It also rained for a short time.

Feb. 8, 1945, Dison, Belgium--sargeant of the guard today; had to wake up the Mess Sgt. at 5:00 A.M. and the Co. at 7:00. It's cold and we can't get much heat out of the stove.

May 16, 1945, Pilsen, Czechoslovakia--drinking lots of beer here in our makeshift P.X.--the brewery was nearby. No shower facilities here Marlene Dietrich was on stage with the U.S.O. show in town. Here we were shown the movie "Two Down and One To Go" concerning discharges and the point system details.

May 14, 1945, Pilsen, Czechoslovakia--getting good beer here, better than the German stuff. It was easy to tell when crossed the Czech border even tho no formal boundary existed because every house had a Czech flag hanging from it, many had red Russian and other Allied flags as well, some had white flags, denoting that the occupants were German. A wonderful welcome was given us as we drove along, it was just like a holiday with the people in their best clothing carrying banners and streamers of all kinds, shouting, waving and smiling. Many wore colorful, gay, peasant costumes. This was now a liberated instead of a conquered country and fraternization was being allowed, (nice looking girls and well dressed). Had thunder showers this morn but they didn't last long. For supper it was southern fried chicken.

May 20, 1945, Pilsen, Czechoslovakia--rained practically all day. Went to town in a Jeep and got caught in a sudden downpour. Sun broke out after but it's very cold.

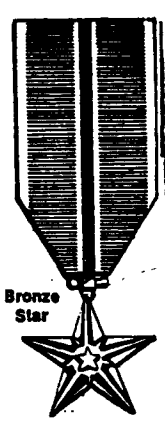
May 26, 1945, Pilsen, Czechoslovakia--had pork chops for supper, the first time for a long time, a welcome change from the ever present corned beef. Now temporarily attached to the 3rd Army. We have now cheese and crackers and sandwiches in our rec room.

May 31, 1945, Pilsen, Czechoslovakia--saw a movie in Pilsen "Objective Burma". It was raining hard when we came out of the theater and after riding bacck to the base (Pilsen Airport) in an open truck, we all got soaked. Chow is now improving, getting a lot of pork of all kinds and for supper today we even had some good steak. Have been going to the dentist the past two mornings for four fillings, two of them being refills. The Army dentist uses no anesthetic; wow, what an ordeal to have to go thru. The dispensary is about 20 miles away from us. Ever since "D" day I have been sleeping with one eye open (it seems that way) and I awaken at the slightest sound. "Rum and Coca-Cola" seems to be the favorite song on the Armed Force Radio network.

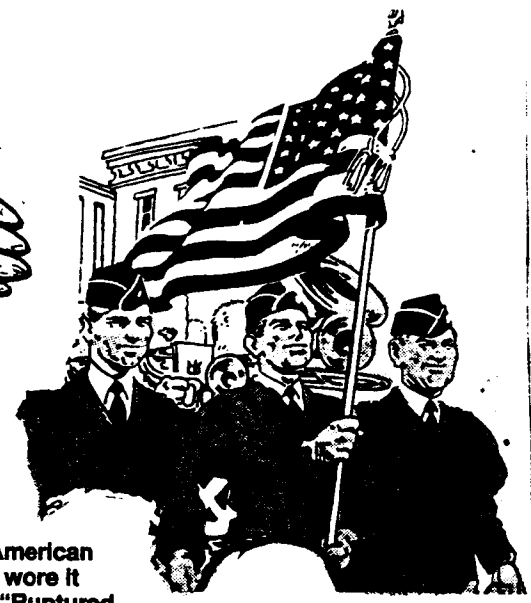
June 26, 1945, Nürnberg, Germany--Czech beer is all gone, we now have the German beer and it tastes like it has no alcohol in it. The fellows go swimming in a reservoir on the third floor of the building were in. A truck leaves every night for movies in Nürnberg but too many don't go because you have to wear O.D.s with leggings. We now have to buy all our rations; so I trade the tobacco products for fruit, tomato juice and other items and am all stocked up.

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REMEMBERING THE SECOND WORLD WAR FIFTY YEARS LATER



Honoring



The Honorable Service Pin was a small pin given to every American service member who was discharged in World War II. Many wore it with pride in their lapel button. The pin was nicknamed the "Ruptured Duck." No one really knew where it got that name.

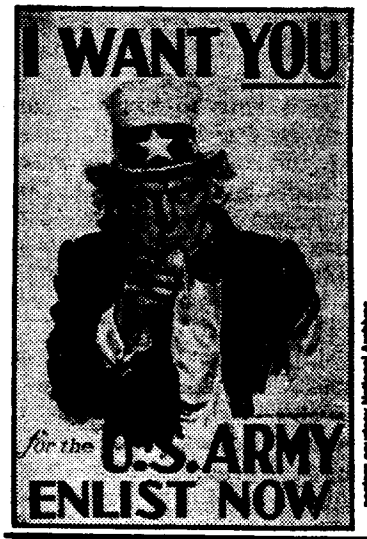
England

- FRANCE
- BELGIUM

897th ORDNANCE ASSOC.
16th REUNION
SEPT. 21---23, 1995
TUPELO, MISS.



Nashville, Ind.	1957
Nashville, Ind.	1960
Nashville, Ind.	1963
Nashville, Ind.	1966
Tupelo, Miss.	1969
St. Petersburg Beach, Fla.	1972
Rochester, N.Y.	1975
Fairborn, Ohio	1978
Chicago, Ill.	1981
Milwaukee, Wis.	1983
Canton, Ohio	1985
Hattiesburg, Miss.	1987
St. Petersburg Beach, Fla.	1989
Vicksburg, Miss.	1991
Henrietta, N.Y.	1993
Tupelo, Miss.	1995



This poster has been described as the most famous of all time. It was first used in World War I and then again in World War II.

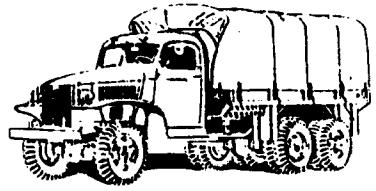
Normandy

Omaha Beachhead

The Ardennes: Battle of the Bulge

- GERMANY
- AUSTRIA
- ITALY
- HOLLAND

CASABLANCA, Morocco



St. Lo

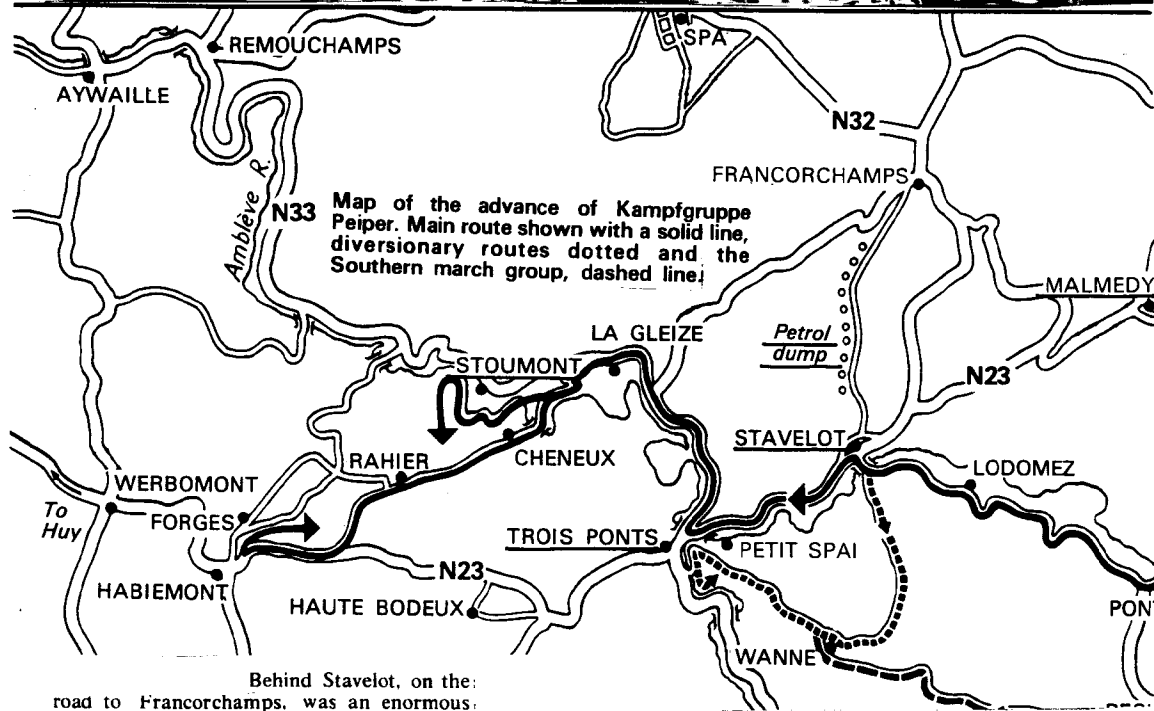
CZECHOSLOVAKIA



Ben J Noster



The expanded and split jerrycans from the dump, burnt on the Francorchamps road from Stavelot



Map of the advance of Kampfgruppe Peiper. Main route shown with a solid line, diversionary routes dotted and the Southern march group, dashed line.

Behind Stavelot, on the road to Francorchamps, was an enormous petrol dump of five-gallon jerrycans stacked for five miles along the side of the road. Although unmarked on Peiper's map, he was by now desperate for petrol.

At dawn Peiper opened his attack down the hill. After a preliminary barrage, at around 8.00 a.m. as soon as there was enough light to see, his tanks started down the hill.

As the tanks began to cross the bridge Major Solis ordered his troops to withdraw. Most went out on the Malmédyl road, only Major Solis with two rifle squads and an anti-tank gun at the railway crossing, retiring up the minor road to Francorchamps.

Major Solis, under the impression that the tanks were following him up the road, gave instructions for the petrol dump (guarded by a detachment from the Belgian Army) to be burnt. Cans were put in a deep roadside ditch and set alight and more thrown on top to create a fiery road block. But the burning which took place about a mile from Stavelot, didn't affect Peiper at all who didn't even try and climb the road but instead turned left to Trois Ponts. Lieutenant Colonel Frankland, commanding officer of the 117th Infantry



GIs begin clearing the wreckage off the road.

Regiment, 30th Infantry Division, approaching Stavelot by this back road later that morning to reinforce the defence of Stavelot, ordered the burning to stop. The 117th were now on the job and they would protect the petrol dump.

YOU CAN TELL IT'S GOING TO BE A ROTTEN DAY WHEN;;

- **You wake up face down on the pavement
- **you call Suicide Prevention and they put you on hold
- **Your birthday cake collapes from the weight of the candles
- **You want to put on the clothes youwore home from theparty and there aren't any
- **You turn on the news and they're showing emergency routes out of the city
- **Your twin brother forget your birthday
- **Your car horn goes off accidentally and remains stuck as you follow a group of Hells Angels on the freeway
- **Your boss tells you not to bother to take your hat off
- **The bird singing outside your window is a buzzard
- **You wake up and yourbraces are locked together
- **You call your answering service and they tell you it's none of your business
- **Your blind date turns out to be your ex-wife
- **Your income tax check bounces
- **You put both contact lenses in the same eye
- **Your pet rock rock snap at you
- **Your wife says "good morning" Bill and your name is George

Now that we have digital clocks, we'll never be able to turn back the hands of time.

Old age: when you finally know all the answers but you can't remember the questions.

Being over the hill is a lot better than being under it.

You know you're over the hill when people stop saying you're looking good and start saying you're looking well.

When you're young, success is just around the corner. After 40, it still is, but the corner is five blocks over and down the street.

THE PLAIN DEALER, MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1992

Exhibit recalls Yanks 'over here'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON

Fifty years ago yesterday the first GIs arrived to help the British defeat Adolf Hitler's army. "Overpaid, over-sexed and over here," some Britons muttered. Others loved the Americans.

"They always came with these wonderful presents of nylons," recalled Helen Long, whose parents invited lonely GIs to their London home.

The "friendly invasion," which gave many villagers and city-dwellers alike their first impressions of Americans, is recalled in an exhibition at the Imperial War Museum.

The memorabilia include GI uniforms, gum wrappers, and gifts of nylon stockings saved by the British.

U.S. soldiers were issued a "A Short Guide to Britain." It contained such do's and don'ts as: "If you are invited to eat with a family don't eat too much. Otherwise you may eat up their weekly rations."

The nylons were nice, but Long represented the free-spending Americans, who earned five times as much as British privates. When she served as

a naval nurse in Egypt, she saw taxis pass British soldiers by for big-tipping GIs.

"They were bumptious. They were bossy. They were fresh. We were stale. The 8th Army had been in the desert for years," said Long, who said she declined dates with the Americans.

Many young British women did fall for the Americans, and 70,000 women married them, many settling permanently in the United States. The exhibit includes a letter from a GI requesting permission to marry, including a letter of consent from his prospective in-laws.

The first troops arrived in Belfast, Northern Ireland, 50 years ago, starting a build-up that peaked at 1.5 million in May 1944.

The GIs impressed British children, handing out chewing gum and staging parties on the bases.

"We'd never been used to being made such a fuss of," recalled Patricia Everson, who was 9 when the 448th Bomb Group set up an airfield at her remote village of Seething in Norfolk, eastern England.

GI's Form-Fitting Sleeping Bag Covers Him Like a Tent

Even in the cradle, GI Joe never was bundled up as thoroughly as in the Army's weather-resistant, form-fitting sleeping bag. Only the face remains exposed when the big sack is sealed up. The bag is protection against rain, snow, cold, damp and other hazards of outdoor living.



<p>THIS IS MY REPORT ON "D-DAY," JUNE 6, 1944..</p>	<p>FIFTY YEARS AGO THE ALLIES WERE POISED TO BEGIN THE INVASION OF NORMANDY..</p>	<p>NO ONE, HOWEVER, KNEW WHEN THAT DAY WOULD BE..</p>	<p>NO ONE BUT AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER SITTING IN A TINY PUB DRINKING ROOT BEER WHO CAME TO A STARTLING CONCLUSION..</p>	<p>'FELDMARSCHALL' ROMMEL IS IN CHARGE OF DEFENDING THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY..</p>
<p>BUT HIS WIFE'S BIRTHDAY IS JUNE 6 !! HE'S SURE TO GO HOME FOR HER BIRTHDAY! HE WON'T BE IN NORMANDY!!</p>	<p>THE UNKNOWN UNSUNG HERO RUSHED TO A PHONE TO CALL GENERAL EISENHOWER</p>	<p>"D-DAY HAS TO BE JUNE 6 !</p>	<p>SPEAKING IN CODE, THE SIMPLE SOLDIER MADE A PHONE CALL THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY..</p>	<p>WOOF!</p>

<p>HERE'S THE WORLD WARI FLYING ACE RETURNING TO THE AERODROME.. HE IS EXHAUSTED..</p>	<p>AH! HE SEES A LIGHT IN THE SMALL FRENCH CAFE..</p>	<p>7-30</p>	<p>HELLO, CHARLES? YOUR DOG JUST CAME INTO OUR HOUSE..</p>	<p>YES, HE HAD ONE ROOT BEER, AND FELL ASLEEP AT THE TABLE..</p>
<p>"IT'S A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY.."</p>	<p>WELL! I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE BACK..</p>	<p>YOU LOOK SAD.. SOMEDAY THE WAR WILL BE OVER.. BUT YOU'LL HAVE TERRIBLE MEMORIES WON'T YOU? AND MAYBE EVEN SOME REGRETS</p>	<p>I REGRET I ONLY DRANK ONE ROOT BEER..</p>	

<p>HERE'S THE WORLD WARI FLYING ACE WALKING BACK TO THE AERODROME..</p>	<p>SUDDENLY HE SEES A LIGHT IN THE WINDOW OF A SMALL SHABBY FARM HOUSE</p>	<p>HE TAPS GENTLY ON THE DOOR..</p> <p>BAM! BAM! BAM!!</p>	<p>GO ON HOME, YOU STUPID BEAGLE!</p>	<p>SOMETIMES THE UNIFORM FRIGHTENS THEM..</p>
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