

20th Combat Engineer Association

of World War II



February 2010

20th Veterans Still Living

With so many of our buddies dying, it is time to take a look at our 52 veterans who are still living. The data contained in these short biographical sketches is based almost exclusively on data reported in the *Wavy Arrow* from its origin in 1948 to the present. Mention of "association" refers to the "20th Combat Engineer Association of WWII."

George J. Allen was a mess sergeant for H&S/20th; chaplain Carpenter identifies him as a "cook" in his dairy, reporting that on April 19, 1943, George served "real coffee and French toast." George subsequently transferred to C Company/1340th. After the war he served as secretary of a trade association. He joined the association in 1954, and he presented a framed photograph of Eugene Caffey to the association at the 1985 Reunion. The photograph was exhibited at the 2004 final reunion which George attended. His current mailing address is 5802 Nicholson Lane, #1002, Rockville MD 20852.

Joseph Alter was 1st Lt. in B Company/1340th. He describes how he "stole" a weasel to deliver medical supplies to the 20th veterans in the Hurtgen Forest on November 8, 1944. After the war he was selling products for Gulf Petroleum in 1950. He attended his first reunion in 1989, and after the death of his wife in 1999, he visited the Normandy beaches. He also attended the 2004 final reunion. His current mailing address is 3040 N.W. 15th Street, Delray Beach FL 33445-7610.

Lee Barbier was a medic for the 20th. In 1958 when he joined the association, he reported that he was employed by Gulf Oil Company; he was married and has two sons. However, he did not attend his first reunion until 1989. His current mailing address is 2606 Brom Bones, Pearland, TX 77581-5506.

Albert Biggiani was a member of the H&S Band and described his experiences in the Hurtgen Forest where he discovered that his fox hole in which he was going to take cover was filled to the brim with water. He joined the association in 1958 at which time he announced that he and his wife, Mary, gave birth to Albert Jr. on July 15, 1958. His current mailing address is 18 Lorraine Street, Syosset, NY 11791-6709.

Charles Blankenship served in B Company/20th with his brother, Charles, who died in 1951. After the war, Charles was in the candy business and was a charter member of the association. Charles and his wife, Genevieve, participated in the 1993 20th European tour and they jointly hosted the 1990 reunion. They both also attended the 2004 final reunion. His mailing address is 832 College Drive, Cedartown, GA 30125.

James C. Broadway was a member of C Company/20th, but he did not share with us his World War II experiences in the *Wavy Arrow*. He did not learn of the existence of the association until 1990 when he joined up. He attended the 2004 final reunion with his son, Milton. His current mailing address is 205 Oxford Drive, S.E., Huntsville, AL 35802-2325.

Dominic A. Carini was a member of B Company/1340th. He joined the association in 1991. In mid-June 2002 he was set back by a severe attack of rheumatoid arthritis after being in remission for ten years. His wife, Lorraine, died in 2006, and after being in the hospital recovering from a severe back operation, he is now living in an assisted living complex. His current mailing address is 91 Barrington Way, Glastonbury, CT 06033-4344.

Norman J. Cercopy was a member of F Company/20th in Africa which became C Company/1340th in England. He joined the association in 1971, and reported in 1975 that he had been married to the same gal, Margaret, for 29 years, and they were about to become grand parents. His current mailing address is 2916 Lexington Avenue, North Charleston, SC 29405-7314.

Thomas M. Cooksey, Jr. joined H&S/1340th in England on January 1944, participated in the Normandy invasion, remained with the 1340th through VE Day, and was wounded. His son writes in 2009 reporting that his father is 84 years old and suffering from Alzheimer. No mailing address available.

Sidney T. Cousans joined C Company/1340th in England. During the war he was wounded. After the war, he contacted the association in 1951, but did not become active until 1989. He was busy turning his father's printing firm into the largest printing firm in the south specializing in wedding invitations. He provided printing for the 2004 final reunion. His current mailing address is 1904 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie, LA 70005-2640.

Horace L. Cribb was a member of E Company/20th in Africa and eventually sergeant in B Company/1340th, and was wounded. After the war, he joined the association in 1983, and with his wife, Janette, they routinely offered door prizes for various reunions. In 2003, he reported that he celebrated his 84th birthday on May 5th, and has been living by himself since 1998. His current mailing address is 2320 Highway 379, Conway, SC 29527-4916.

Raymond R. Davis has shared with us his experiences in landing on Omaha Beach describing how he started clearing out mines as an officer of A Company/20th. As a charter member of the association, he reports in 1954 that he was maintenance foreman with the Aluminum Company of America with seven years seniority. In 1966 he was placed on 100 percent disability by Uncle Sam, but remained active with the association. His current mailing address is 28 South Spencer Street, Frackville, PA 17931-1910.

Frank B. Dunn was a member of B Company/20th, and during the battle of the Hurtgen Forest, in November 1944, he was captured. He joined the association in 1985, and with his wife, Pat, remained in contact with the association. In 1991, they started planning on attending in 1994 the 50th anniversary ceremonies for D-Day in France. His current mailing address is P.O. Box 422, Hillrise, Lane, Meredith, NH 03253.

Louis Ferraro was a member of B Company/20th. He was included on the first association membership list in 1950, but dropped out for a number of years attending eight reunions from 1975 to 2000. He attended the funeral of Ed Lutz on November 17, 2005, at Arlington National Cemetery. His current mailing address is 68 Pergola Avenue, Jamesburg, NJ 08831.

Dominic A. Funaro joined H&S/1340th in England. He joined the association in 1963. Much later he writes that he is in pretty good health and took a trip to Canada. He and his wife Mary, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2007. His current mailing address is 60 East Street, Mechanicville, NY 12118-1219.

Joseph V. Gelpi joined B Company/1340th in England, and he briefly described his World War II experiences. After the war, the association found him in 1991 and convinced him to join, describing him as one of our long out-of-touch members. His current mailing address is 134 Lonegrin Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15209-1049.

Gerald M. Goodman described his landing with the 20th at Fedela, Morocco, on November 8, 1942, after which he was confronted by General George Patton who ordered him to get his platoon off the beach. He later served as a captain, and reports that he married Gertrude in 1948, his son Jordan was born June 5, 1949, and he was selected as the association's secretary-treasurer in 1949. By 1957 he was a chemical engineer with Standard Oil Company. Goodman is perhaps best known for having written the lyrics for the song, *The Roarin' 20th Engineers*. His current mailing address is 1125 Lake Cook Road, #204E, Northbrook, IL 60062-1553.

George B. Griffenhagen joined E Company/20th in Tunisia in April 1943 as one of the first replacements, and remained with B Company/1340th in England. After the war he graduated as a pharmacist. He did not learn of the association until 1992 and attended his first reunion with his wife, Joan. In 1996 George was selected to serve as association secretary-treasurer, and in 2000 he took over as editor of the *Wavy Arrow*. He and his wife, Joan, hosted the 2004 final reunion. His current mailing address is 2501 Drexel Street, Vienna, VA 22180.

Andrew Gudalewsky was known by members of B Company/20th as "half-track." He was brought aboard as a member of the association in 1965. However, in 1995 his wife, Libby, reported that Andrew had been very ill. His current mailing address is 1808 Willann Road, Baltimore, MD 21237.

Paul E. Hainault led A Company/1340th as an officer on June 9, 1944, to install the first bridge in Normandy only three days after the D-Day invasion at Omaha Beach. He was subsequently wounded. After the war, he joined the association in 1997. In 2001 he asked if anyone remembers riding "belly-whopp" on a Spitfire from the air strip in Masala, Sicily? There were no responses. His current mailing address is 1000 Bluff View Drive, Houghton, MI 49931-2727.

Roy O. Hays was an officer in the 20th and was wounded on Omaha Beach. He is a charter member of the association reporting in 1948 that he and Grace had a new son, and in 1951 he was a construction engineer. In 1956, he was appointed as master of ceremonies at reunions, a position he held for many years. Roy and his wife, Grace, hosted Reunions in 1970, 1984, 1991, and 1995. Roy also served as a member of the association Board commencing in 1977.

and served as chairman in 1983. He attended the 2004 final reunion accompanied by Grace, and their three sons. His current mailing address is 1017 Benning Road, Box 46, Galesville, MD 20765.

John Homa was a member of H&S/1340th. After the war, joined the association in 1952, and he and his wife, Irene, held a small group reunion for the 1340th members in the New York area. In 2008, his wife writes that her husband is 95 years old and is in very poor health. His current mailing address is 213 Hillside Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10703-1732.

Charles F. Hurley was a member of A Company/20th. After the war, he joined the association in 1966, and was working for the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, attending the North Atlantic Safety Conference in New York City. He and his wife hosted the reunions in 1984, 1991, and 2000, and he attended the 2004 final reunion. His current mailing address is 8800 Walther Blvd., #2405, Parkville, MD 21234-9986

Robert V. Jarratt was a member of H&S/20th. After the war, he joined the association in 1994. His wife, Jay, arranged for seven 20th veterans from Tennessee to be recognized by the state governor. His current mailing address is 208 Due West Avenue, Madison, TN 37115-4565.

Harold H. Johnson was a member of H&S/1340th. After the war, he joined the association in 1965, and explained that he had switched his Army uniform for a police uniform where he spent 18 years with the Paterson, New Jersey, Police force. He and his wife have three children, one of whom had enlisted in the Air Force. His current mailing address is 12106 Meadowbrook Lane, Bayonet Point, FL 34667-2649.

Joseph H. Kleinfeld joined E Company/20th in North Africa. He was then transferred to personnel of H&S/20th and H&S/1340th where he served to the end of the war. In 1953 when he joined the association, he was made secretary. He later wrote that he and his wife, Sylvia, are fortunate to now be great-great grandparents of three healthy girls. They attended their first reunion in 1982. His current mailing address is 7030 N. W. 107th Avenue, Tamarac, FL 33321-2249.

Francis P. Knorr describes that while on guard duty in Casablanca as a member of A Company/20th, he refused to admit entry to the U.S. Secretary of State until his captain ordered him to let this distinguished visitor into the complex. He also describes how he and a squad removed mines in mid-June 1944. He was wounded in the Hurtgen Forest. After the war he was a charter member of the association and was working for Oliver Iron and Steel Company in Pittsburgh. He survived colon cancer in 1994, and in 1995 the Knorr's celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. His wife, Anna, died in 2005, and he attended the 2004 final reunion accompanied by his daughter Janet Reis and his son-in-law Jerry A. Reis. His current mailing address is 256 Lawnwood Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15227-4410.

Charles C. Libby joined the 20th at Camp Blanding in July 1942. To the displeasure of Sgt. Buck of A Company/20th, Libby wrangled temporary duty with the band which lasted until they moved to Camp Kilmer. Col. Eugene Caffey wanted someone to cultivate music

so Libby organized a small drum and bugle group. By the time they moved to Camp Pickett, the band had a dozen members and a bandmaster. During the Casablanca Conference in January 1943, the 20th band played for a USO show starring Martha Raye. In 1953 when Libby joined the association, he was the principal of a high school in Mattawamkeag, Maine. During the 1980s and 1990. he attended ten reunions. His current mailing address is 395 Camben Road, Hope, ME 04847.

Byrd S. McBroom joined H&S/20th and later H&S/1340th after serving in the 21st and 40th Engineers. He then spent one year in Korea and retired as a master sergeant after twenty years. He spent another twenty years working in the oil fields. He joined the association in 1990 and attended with his wife his first reunion. In 1997, Byrd underwent by pass surgery for a second time, and in 1999, his wife Janita, died after 52 years of marriage. His current mailing address is P.O. Box 207, Baxter, TN 38544-0207.

Bernard P. McDonnell arrived at Mitchell Field, Long Island, after graduating from college three days earlier. He was asked for the papers covering his first assignment, but he had shipped the papers with his clothes, and they wouldn't arrive for about a week. He was hoping to get an assignment as a platoon leader in a line company but instead was assigned to the 20th regimental headquarters where he became regimental adjutant. As a charter member of the association, he was a design engineer for Westinghouse. More recently he writes: "My health has recently improved after a year of bad falls, thanks to the help of visiting therapists who see me three times a week." His current mailing address is 22755 South Woodview Lane, Beavercreek, OR 97004-9779.

Harry E. Moulder served with the survey platoon of the 668th Topo Co., an integral part of 1171st group, producing maps required by the engineers. He joined the association in 1990, and with his wife, Betty, they hosted the 1993 reunion. They participated in the 1993 20th tour of Europe, and he attended the 2004 final reunion accompanied by his wife. His current mailing address is 644 Hershey Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603-5704.

James D. Orban was a recon officer in the 1340th, and after the war, he remained in the service until 1984. He joined the association in 1966, and attended reunions in 1988, 1990, 1996, 2002, and 2003. In 1996, his wife, Evelyne, reports that he has retired and is enjoying golf. His current mailing address is 4042 North 90th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53222-1626.

Robert J. Pearson was a member of B Company/20th. After the war, he joined the association in 1992 and attended his first reunion the same year. In 2001 he visited locations he remembered from World War II in England and Czech Republic. He attended the 2006 funeral of Walter Wolczanski. His current mailing address is 143 Mary Street, Syracuse, NY 13206.

Domenic H. Pessia was a member of C Company/20th. After the war, his first contact with the association was in 1952, and reported the birth of their second daughter, Carol Ann. He attended a number of reunions in the 1990s, but in 1996, his wife, Sue, reported that he is suffering from back problems. His current mailing address is 12 South 2nd Street, Bradford, PA 16701-3333.

Steve Poulos was a member of B Company/20th. After the war, he joined the association in 1965. He attended the 2004 final reunion accompanied by his friend, Ivy Taebel. He writes: "I am fine and still going about my business. I am now 91 years old." His current mailing address is 1135 Augusta Street, Apt. 2N, Oak Park, IL 60302-1621.

Douglas Pulliam joined F Company/20th in Tunisia in April 1943 as one of the first replacements and was later wounded as a member of C Company/1340th. After the war, he worked with his son in their concrete business and maintains his 60 acre farm. He participated in the 1993 20th European tour, and he attended the 2004 final reunion accompanied by his daughter Lee Crow and his grandson Joshua Hawkins. In 2005 he reported, "I turned 83 a few days ago and am in good health. I go to a Senior Citizen's Club two or three days a week where I play pool." His current mailing address is 101 Joshua Road, Weatherford, TX 76087.

George F. Rankin was a member of B Company/20th. As a charter member of the association, he served as secretary-treasurer for 26 years from 1963 to 1989, and editor of the *Wavy Arrow* from 1965 to 1989 providing invaluable information about the membership. After moving to Arizona, he reported in 1995 that he finally got rid of three grand children who had been living with him and his wife, Blanch. His current mailing address is 11414 West Cottonwood Lane, Avondale, AZ 85392-4234.

Peter J. Russ served with C Company/1340th and was wounded in action. He joined the association in 1979. Ten years later his wife reports that Russ was keeping busy with a part-time job of 40 hours per week. In 1994 he had both knees replaced. In 2008 his wife Anna writes: "Peter has now reached the age of 90 and he tries to stay active by taking strolls using his walker. The biggest blow to his ego was having to stop driving his car." His current mailing address is 329 Evergreen Street, New Cumberland, PA 17070-1325.

James Salerno was with D Company D/20th and subsequently staff sergeant of A Company/1340th, and was wounded in action. He attended his first reunion in 1980 but was unable to repeat for ten years because he had to take care of his elderly mother. Rita Izzo writes: "My dad really enjoys reading the *Wavy Arrow*. He remembers every detail of many of the stories in each issue." His current mailing address is 65 Harbor Hill Drive, Port Washington, NY 11050-1833.

Ben C. Scronce was a member of A Company/20th. After the war, Ben and his wife, Jean, hosted the 1966 reunion almost immediately after he joined the association. He attended the 2004 final reunion accompanied by his wife, Jean, and three other family members. His current mailing address is 782 Daniels Road, Lincolnton, NC 28092.

Truman H. Setliffe received a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering in 1941 from Louisiana State University. He joined the 20th at Fort Benning in August 1941, and became personnel adjutant in early 1942. While in England, he became commander of the newly organized 1340th. He announced that on May 5, 1950, he became the father of Cindy, and by 1954, he was an engineer on the Military Assistance Advisory Group in Saigon. He retired from the Corps of Engineers in June 1945. He attended the 2004 final reunion accompanied by friend Kay Ekels. On February 11, 2009, Truman had a fall in which he broke his shoulder. He was admitted to Adams Place, a health center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. On December

He was admitted to Adams Place, a health center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. On December 20, 2009, he celebrated his 90th birthday. He can be reached at his daughter's home, 4704 Lascassas Pike, Lascassas, TN 37085-4511.

Henry L. Smith was a 20th officer and wounded on August 2, 1944. He then joined the reserves who were called up for active duty for the Berlin Airlift. After service in the Korean War, he decided to make a career in the Army for 20 years. He attended the first reunion in 1954, but was unable to attend his next reunion until 1990. He writes: "While I am in good health, I face the problems of old age, and moved to Virginia because of the hurricanes in Florida. His current mailing address is 12191 Clipper Drive, Lake Ridge, VA 22192.

Frank D. Tarvin was a member of C Company/20th. After the war he introduced himself at the 1990 reunion, and continued to attend the reunions until 1996. Then nothing else was heard from Frank until he made a contribution to the association in 2006, identifying himself as a member of C Company/20th. No additional information about Frank Tarvin. His current mailing address is P.O. Box 653, Chickamauga, GA 30707-0653.

William A. Thomas remembers the 1941 H&S/20th Christmas party where he commenced his military service with the 20th. He joined the association in 1986, but in 1991 he reported health problems. In 1999 he underwent by-pass surgery. His current mailing address is 133 Sturbridge Drive, Charlotte, NC 28214-1149.

Thomas Tuminello describes how he and four other soldiers of H&S/20th were selected to carry a new mine detector in support of the First Infantry Division for the landing with the first wave on Omaha Beach. He did not join the association until 1992, and attended the 1992-1996 reunions with his wife. His current mailing address is 2232 20th Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601-7939.

William L. Waldrep was a member of A Company/20th, and remembers unloading ships in Casablanca. After the war, he became a carpenter, and a charter member of the association attending half-a-dozen reunions between 1973 and 2003. In 1999 he recovered from triple-by-pass surgery. He attended the 2004 final reunion accompanied by his wife, Dot, his daughter Libby, and his son Jim. His current mailing address is P.O. Box 258, Drayton, SC 29333.

Emanuel J. Wasinger was a member of D Company/20th in Africa that became A Company/1340th in England. After the war, he joined the association in 1982 and attended 14 reunions between 1982 and 2003. He participated in the 1993 20th European tour, and he attended the 2004 final reunion accompanied by his sister Lucille Grelle, and Anna Marie Iven. In 2009 we were advised that Emanuel has dementia and now resides at Village North Retirement Community, Apt. 105N, 11160 North Village Drive, St. Louis, MO 63136.

John O. Webster joined the 20th in Tunisia as a replacement officer and was assigned to A Company. He was transferred to C Company during the Battle of the Bulge, and then given the command of B Company, so he served with all three line companies of the 20th. He was wounded at Omaha Beach and in the Hurtgen Forest. After the war, he reports in 1950 that he is an insurance salesman for National Grange and is building a home in Glen

Falls, New York. He attended the 2004 final reunion accompanied by his wife, Doris, daughter Katherine, grandson Nicholas, and grand daughter Jennifer. His current mailing address is 266 Chestnut Ridge Road, Queensbury, NY 12804.

Donald M. Wharff joined the 20th at Ft. Benning after a semester at college in Des Moines, Iowa. He explains, "I was freshly out of basic training, and as I stood in a line with twenty other recruits, Colonel Eugene Caffey asked if anyone can use a typewriter. Harry Staikoff and I stepped forward, and we were both assigned to H&S/20th. I subsequently became personnel manager as staff sergeant and eventually as warrent officer in the 1340th while in England getting ready for the Normandy invasion. I have always thought that possibly my ability to type may have saved my life." He is a charter member of the association and in 1951 he was working for Maytag. He attended more than ten reunions between 1964 and 2008. His current mailing address is 1508 West Foxwood Drive, Raymore, MO 64083-9379.

Charles Wytiaz served in B Company/20th from North Africa to the end of the war. He joined the association in 1965, and attended a dozen reunions from 1967 to 2001. He attended the 2004 final reunion accompanied by his wife, Helen. His current mailing address is 16 Blair Road, Eighty Four, PA 15330.

James C. Zimmerman was dental surgeon for the 1171st group during World War II. After the war, he was a charter member of the association and in 1948, he opened a dentist's office in Indiana, and he attended eight reunions between 1954 and 2006. His current mailing address is 460 East Marion Street, Nappanee, IN 46550-1439

If any of these veterans or others who might have any corrections or additions to these short biographical sketches, please send them to the editor. Are there any other 20th living veterans that we might have over-looked? If so, please let us know!

Wavy Arrow Contributions

We thank the following for making a contribution to keep the *Wavy Arrow* coming to you.

Edmund "Mick" Daley (Son of 20th Commanding Officer)	\$50.00
Lillian Geneser (Widow of Joseph Geneser, H&S/1340th)	\$20.00
Rose Marciano (Widow of Santino Marciano, B/1340th)	\$25.00
Bernard McDonnell (20th Regimental Adjutant)	\$50.00
Lucille Grelle (Sister of Emanuel Wasinger, A/20th)	\$25.00
Frances Williams (Widow of Robert H. Williams, B/20th)	\$50.00

Send Contributions, Letters, Articles, Photographs, Obituaries, and other News Items for inclusion in future issues of the *Wavy Arrow* to editor George Griffenhagen, 2501 Drexel Street, Vienna, VA 22180.