

A TRUE STORY - WORLD WAR 2

9

MID-MARCH, 1945 ----- ALSACE - LORRAINE, FRANCE

WE MOVED OUT IN THE A.M. ON A DIRT ROAD THRU FARM LAND . A DIRT ROAD WITH HAND MADE STONE WALLS ABOUT 3½' TO 4' HIGH ON EACH SIDE OF THE DIRT ROAD . FOUR(4) SCOUTS WERE OUT FRONT OF OUR PLATOON AND OUR PLATOON FOLLOWED BEHIND THEM .

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE A.M., WE RECEIVED THREE(3) REPLACEMENTS TO FILL IN BECAUSE OUR PLATOON WAS SHORT PERSONNEL . AT MID-MORNING, WE RECEIVED WORD THAT OUR UNIT WAS TO RECEIVE HOT CHOW AND HAD BEEN ON RATIONS FOR SEVEN(7) TO TEN(10) DAYS . SO HOT CHOW WAS GOING TO BE A BLESSING FOR US .

ABOUT NOON, WE RECEIVED WORD TO HOLD UP, SO WE HELD UP NEAR AN OLD FARM HOUSE THAT WAS ABOUT THIRTY(30) FEET FROM THE ROAD . AROUND THE OLD FARM HOUSE, WE <sup>SAW</sup> SOME OLD WAGONS -SOME WERE ROUND AND OTHERS WERE FLAT-WHILE WE WERE WAITING FOR OUR HOT CHOW; WE HEARD GERMAN AIRPLANES COMING AT US FROM THE EAST.

OUR PLATOON WAS SPLIT -ONE HALF OF THE MEN JUMPED OVER THE RIGHT STONEWALL AND THE OTHER ONE HALF JUMPED OVER THE LEFT STONEWALL TO GET AWAY FROM THE INCOMING GERMAN AIRCRAFT . ONE MAN, A REPLACEMENT, DOVE UNDER A ROUND OLD WAGON . THE ENEMY AIRCRAFT DID STRAFE OUR UNIT ON ONE OCCASION AND FLEW ON.

SOON, WE HEARD LAUGHTER FROM SOME OF THE PLATOON MEMBERS UP FRONT OF US. IT SEEMS THAT THAT THE NEW MAN, THE REPLACEMENT, WHO DOVE UNDER THE OLD ROUND WAGON WAS ALL WET AND SMELLY. HE HAD BEEN UNDER THE WAGON, WE CALL A HONEY BUCKET WHICH CONTAINED HUMAN WASTE(FECES). THE WAGON HAD BEEN HIT BY THE GERMAN AIRCRAFT DURING THEIR STRAFFING RUN .

THE MEDICS, ASSIGNED TO OUR PLATOON, DID TAKE HIM TO A SMALL STREAM NEAR BY AND TRIED TO CLEAN HIM UP .

THE INCIDENT HELPED BREAK THE TENSION AMONG THE MEN FOR SOME TIME TOO COME .

JAMES(JIM) CERRETANI