

World War Two European Theater Memoirs  
by  
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of  
Colonel Preston J.L. Murphy's Travels

*My boy Louie*  
*Dec 45*



WORLD WAR TWO DAYS

1941

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*Lowie*  
Drafted into the 45th Infantry Division, 157th Regiment, a Colorado unit, 2nd Battalion, Company G, National Guard, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

We boarded our train at 7 O'clock Monday night we went to Kansas, city first then on to camp at Fort Sill Oklahoma. We arrived and saw rows of tents with the chimney's smoking it was cold and the smoke hung low over the tents. We were issued our uniforms and guns that were left from the First World War, this reminded me of the C.C.C.'s

We got in line for our shots and several of the fellows fainted. Then we started our basic training, Close Order Drill and nomenclature of the 1906 rifle, We were men about 20 years old to 30 years old and the boys that were to train us were only about 17 to 20 years old and we had many fights and arguments. Now since this was an artillery camp we had to move when they finished a camp for us, so after a couple months Camp Berkeley was ready for us they walked us 20 miles then trucked us 20 miles then walked us again till we arrived at Abeline, Texas another tent camp and not quit finished yet.

Our tent had a small cone shaped stove in the center and six beds around the edges. The wind blew all the time and the mud was thick and the winter was bad, and from the recreation room came the music and singing of Maria lana, and Delores, I didn't like the service and I was very timid.

We trained and maneuvered all thru the hills outside of camp then we had a mock war with the 36th division over in San Antonio. then we had Army Maneuvers down in Louisiana again we walked 20 miles and rode 20 miles.

While we were at Camp Berkeley we were to go back to Fort Sill Oklahoma, to maneuver under artillery fire and I knew that my friend Sammy was at this camp so I found him and we went to town and had a nice visit. This turned out to be the last time I saw him after the war he went back to Chicago and got married but one bad winter he caught pneumonia and died.

I am patiently waiting for my 1 year to be up when on December 7th 1941 the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and I am in for the duration we were alerted and packed all our things up to be ready to move any wear in the country.

They streamlined our division to 3 Regiments and the one New Mexico Regiment the 158th they took out and sent them to the Panama Canal for guard duty I almost volunteered to join this Regiment but backed down at the last moment, we did not leave this camp but got down to business and trained to be good fighters.

CAMP BARKELEY TEXAS  
ABELINE TEXAS 1941

This is our new camp now and we get busy and clean it up and help to finish it, our bath room was an open pit but now a nice room with showers and all, every morning we policed the grounds but the rains were bad and made a lot of mud for us and the wind blew all the time, the tents were built with wood floors and sides with a cement slab in the center that our stove sat on, we could roll up the sides of the tent on warm days, our recreation room had a pingpong table and a radio, desks to write on and we would listen to all the Texas Songs and music.

We would maneuver all thru these hills hiking out and back each week we would go farther and farther till we were walking 25 miles out and back we had night attacks and the trucks would come out and we rode back, our combat packs were a rain coat, our mess kits, a shovel or a pickaxe and while we would wait for the trucks we would curl up under a "mesquite Tree" on our raincoat to sleep, this one morning I was sleeping I opened one eye and thought I saw a big snake on the rain coat with me I couldn't move or talk or anything I "FROZE", until I was able to awake myself to see that it was only my rain coat with a big wrinkle in it "And my imagination", was playing tricks on me.

Now we went down to San Antonio, Texas to fight the 36th Division and on one of my missions to deliver a message for Colonel Preston J. C. Murphy I almost stepped on one a big "Diamond back rattle snake", so when I got back to my unit I was telling about it when this soldier from Fort Collin, Colorado asked me to take him to where it was, so we found him under a tree and he picked it up by the head alive and held him out, he was over 6ft long, he had hunted rattle snakes in the hills outside of his town, we all took pictures of him holding it and then he killed it and tanned the hide and made a picture album cover for the Regimental Commander, they were from the same town, we asked the cook to fry the meat for us and we ate it, it tastes just like chicken.

I went into town and saw "Hell's a Popping", and went over to "The Alamo" I went to a snake pit where they had all kinds of snake and this fellow did all kinds of things with them, We hiked for 20 miles then rode for 20 miles back to our camp.

We had a Army Manuver in the swamps of Lake Charles, Louisiana we were the blue army and fought the Red army, we walked 20 miles and rode 20 miles across Texas, one town we stopped by was Denton, Texas and there was a girls college here we were about 50 miles north of Dallas, Texas, I and a friend were walking thru town when these two Beautiful girls asked us if we wanted to go to Dallas with them?, in their new car they would pay all expences but I was a married man and turned them down.

In Louisiana the swamps were a new experiance for me and I saw where they had cut the trees down for miles around, the rains came and it came in from under our tent and thru it, I saw bugs and fireflys that I had never saw before and Moccasin mouth snakes and alligators and razor back hogs, the houses had no windows and the people were very nice to us, I almost got captured a couple times, but we won some of our fights.

WORLD WAR TWO DAYS  
OUR WEDDING DAY  
APRIL 16, 1942

I awoke Saturday morning the 11th of April and said to myself, "Louie! you have to go home and marry Rose"now", because if you go to Massachusetts you may never come back to marry her, so right there I made up my mind to get a furlough this day, so I went to my first Sargent Kenneth R. Thomas and asked him for it, he sent me to 1st. Lt. Paul W. Reeves the Company Commander, he sends me to the Battalion Commander Lt. Colonel Preston J. C. Murphy I found him in the supply center counting kitchen utensiles with two other officers. I told him I wanted a furlough to get married he turned to the two officers and said, here's a soldier that has the hardning of the lower part of his abdomen and wants to go home to get married to get rid of it, they burst out laughing and then he thought for a minuet and said Louie you can only have a 5 day furlough, we are leaving the 20th, so I went back to Lt. Reeves with Colonel Murphy consent, and he made out my furlough, I went into Abilene and called Rose, and told her I was on my way home to marry her, I arrived at 3 o'clock Monday morning Freddy and Rose picked me up at the bus depot Freddy went in, and Rose and I sat in the car out in front of Norma's house and made all our plans, then Norma, Rose and I went to the jeweler's and bought a set of rings on time, you see" I was only earning \$29.00 a month", then while Rose and Norma went down town to buy her beautiful wedding gown I went to the church to make arrangements we could only get married on Thursday night at 7 o'clock the priest's did not like this but I told them it was war time and they must give in, so they agreed, and so we asked the choir to sing "Oh Promise Me" and The Wedding March," the choir sang beautifully and Rose's Dad with dressed in his Sunday best and walked down the isle, the only girl in the family that he gave away, all of our families were there, Jimmy, Buddy and I were dressed in army uniforms and Mary, and Lorraine were dressed in long blue gowns, it was really a beautiful wedding, we went to Norma's house for a reception of beer and sandwiches and we all had a good time, Rose and I went to the room I had rented for us, and with the possibility of being killed over seas, we decided to abstain, so on Saturday Morning I called my first Sargent for more time and he said no! get back by Monday Morning, I had my car in a garage across the street from Norma's house on jacks, so I asked Clarence To sell it for me, I was sorry I did that later, I arrived Monday morning and they had all my gear packed for me so we got on the train for the East.

WORLD WAR TWO DAYS  
FORT DEVANS 1942

We left for Fort Devans, Massachusetts on Monday morning we loaded on the train I was assigned to guard duty on a flat car with our trucks on it and was able to see the country side and really enjoyed it. as we went thru some of the towns the people were lined up by the tracks to wave and cheer us on they would throw flowers and candy on our cars,

Now I was in Company G and I was the runner for the 2nd Battalion and when Lt. Colonel Preston J. C. Murphy became Commander of it I became his runner so Lt. Colonel Murphy asked me to transfer to Battalion with him,

I was hesitant, because I did not want to leave Company G and all the friends I had made here, but Colonel Murphy talked me into transferring so I did, he had me promoted to P.F.C. that means, "Private First Class, and no K.P. for me", I was Married and was now earning \$ 50.00 a month and Rose was receiving an allotment for \$50.00 a month, and I would save some of my money and send it to her each month.

Now on our way across the country we go thru the Catskill Mountains of New York State, and we pass this clearing in the forrest where this young couple are standing near the tracks and waving to us "stark naked", and we are whistling at them, we arrived at this beautiful Fort Devans Camp, with two story barracks, instead of tents, there was a nice lake to swim in, because I love to swim, Quaint little villages, One day an other soldier and I went into town and met a young married man that wanted to buy us a drink, so we go in his car to a bar and after a few drinks, we start back to the bus station to go back to camp when he pulls out in front of a car that broadsides us and spins us around it knocked me out for a few minuets, and the man in the other car put his girl friend in another man's car and they drive away, you see she was married to some one else and didn't want to be seen here, we push the cars off to the side of the road and we leave for camp, no one was hurt, One day I ask Colonel Murphy if I could send for my Rosy?, and he said Yes! so she came to camp the first time she has been out of Colorado, and we find a room out side of camp a lady widow for \$10.00 a week and then she told Rose that she could get a job at a company that made Suspenders and Garters for \$10.00 a week, so we were very happy and this lady made Rose a breakfast every morning, she was really nice.

Our training here is Amphibious landings at Marthas's Vinyard, on the sea coast in Cape Cod, we would climb down rope ladders to a small landing craft that had the front ramp go down so we could run ashore,

Some of the fellows would hunt clams on the beach an eat them raw right from the shell, I never tryed it, one week end we went to Boston and had a big parade down main street, then for the Fourth of July we went to Bridgeport, Connecticut in a park on the Cape Cod, we set up our pup tents and displayed all our equipment, the people came thru and asked questions, and then we had a nice parade thru town, now we had to bring in some new recruits to bring us back up to war strenth, we had lost men to officers training and to noncomission officers, and they send in a group from New York City, now most of these were of Jewish Faith and it happened that one of them had a relative in the Airforce Recruiting Center, and passed every one that came in and gave the relative's name, so we lost all of them, and were sent in some more from Ohio, and Pennsylvania and they were a great bunch of fellows and made good fighters.

On one Saturday night our Company had a nice party and dance and Rose had a chance to meet Colonel Murphy and his wife, Ester.

WORLD WAR TWO  
PINE CAMP NEW YORK  
1942

We are now transferred to Pine Camp near Watertown, New York away up North at the Canadian border, the 2nd Tank Division had just left for overseas North Africa to fight Rommel's Army.

The girls that were with their husbands came to camp and had to find living quarters because they could only stay at the guest house one week, so we went outside of camp to find a room, we see this old house on an island in the middle of the Black River that ran right outside of camp, the room was on the second floor and the walls were very thin with no heater only a chimney pipe running thru from down stairs stove to keep us warm because it had started to snow and rain, well another soldier and I went out on the highway and went door to door asking for a room, we see this brand new house and the lady told us to come back that evening, she would talk to her husband so we did and they moved out of their two bed rooms upstairs and let us have them with a bath room in the hall and kitchen privileges they and two children one boy and a girl slept in the small bed room down stairs and in the hallway, the Truins were Polish, and so good to us we were like family, October 4, was Rose's birthday and November 1st was mine and we had a party for each, then for Thanksgiving we took a list of grocers to the commissary at camp and bought our turkey and trimmings for them and she cooked a wonderful dinner for us, we now have about 3 feet of snow on the ground and cold we find a short cut thru a fence in back of camp by going thru a small train depot and across a bridge to the island in the Black River and then thru a hole in the camp fence and to a road where some times I caught a bus to my barrack, the walking was hard if it rained and then froze that night it would be so slippery I would fall down 40 to 50 times on my way to camp, one day Rose wanted to go in to Watertown for a permanent and while she was there a blizzard came up and the bus and cars could not move, I was worried, but she called and asked me to meet her at the little train station, the trains were the only vehicle that could move, we had Christmas and New Years with them, Mr. Truin took us thru the paper mill where he worked, we saw how they put the wood chips in a chemical that would melt the wood and they would run it out on a flat roller and squeeze it till it is a sheet of paper.

We had to take our obstacle course here in the cold and I passed it then we got word that we are going South this time to Virginia the Camp Pickett is near the Blue Ridge Mountains and this is where we get our mountain training.

WORLD WAR TWO  
CAMP PICKETT  
1943

We have to have a place for our wife again so we find this room with the Schaback's the living room is both our bed room and kitchen we have a orange crate with a hot plate for our stove and a pull down bed, Rose found a job at a dry cleaning store for \$10.00 a week, we meet new people here the Salzman's Dorthy and Don and they had a baby while we are here, we only stay here for awhile manuvering in the Blue Ridge Mountains from March to June and one day I have to tell Rose to pack up and head for home, because we are going overseas, so sadly we part, we go down to Camp Patrick Henry for embarkation in Norfolk, Virginia the tar paper buildings we were in, where thousands of troops all trying to get fed and our shots, finally we load on our ship the U.S.S. Carol a passenger ship converted to a troop ship we had a fighting Regiment of 7000 men with all the equipment we needed for a tactical landing on a foreign beach, we sailed on June 8th 1943.

WORLD WAR TWO  
NORTH AFRICA LANDINGS

We sailed on June 8th 1943 past Burmuda and headed south for the African coast the days were long and the sun didn't go down till 11 O'clock so the boys could play poker on deck till dark, then some of them won big and sent some home, several times we saw the escort destroyer sail out to our flank and drop some depth bombs on alert for German Submarine packs that roomed the Atlantic ocean, none of our convoy was hit that I know of, and we stretched from the American coast to Africa, we sail pass the Canary Islands and then thru the Gibraulter Straits and pass Oran French Algeria, North Africa to St. Lou for our landing.

While we were sailing along I was standing at the rail and asked a passing sailor what kind of birds they were flying so far from land? he looked at me funny, and said they were flying fish I had never been at the ocean before, but now I know, we made a practice amphibous landing at St. Lou, Algeria and hiked 7 miles inland and set up camp in the hot desert 110 degress in the shade and no shade anywhere, What a desolate place the towns were dirty and the men rode aroud on these little donkeys the women wore covers over their faces and long robes so you couldn't tell if they were young or old, pretty or ugly, every day they marched us down to the sea to swim and keep us in shape, one day as I was swimming around I see a soldier floundering out in deep water and pull him back into shallow water, he thanked me, and went on splashing around, he did not know how to swim, when we get back to camp our water blister is hanging out in the sun strong, with clorine, and hot so we find a well with cool water down about 50 feet so we round up all the rope and string we can find and tye it to our canteen and hang it down in the well to cool our water for hours, we could not drink the well water it would make us sick.

The British and American troops have defeated the German General Rommel's African Army with some of the first tank destroyers that came off of our assembly lines, they were made with a regular tank chassis, with a 7 inch Navel gun with open turret, salvaged from the navy ship yards. these tanks were sent to the British early in the war, and they could hit the German Tiger Tanks, and then when Russia needed help we sent over Three Trillion dollars worth of equipment to them on ships thru the North Sea to the Russian town of Arc Angel, and the German Submarine Packs sank many of our ships loaded.

## WORLD WAR TWO

### SICILY LANDING

Now so as to not let the Germans Rest, we are back on our ship and going to make landings on the island of Sicily. We are sailing down the African Coast toward Tunishia and then headed for the island of Malta then to Sicily, now on the way Colonel Murphy is in the conference room making last minuet plans with all our Officers for the invasion of the island of Sicily. I am busy putting together our packs with the equipment that we may need.

The water is getting rough now and it is just before dawn and we are climbing down the rope ladders from the ship to our little assult landing craft, we are rhondevueeing in a circle until we get a signal to head for shore, now with rough water and (fear) we get sick and vomit. into the outer shell of our helmet and throw it over the side( just the vomit), our Airforce and Navy is shelling, bombing, and strafing the beaches and we head in to a cove, then we see this soldier clinging to a piece of his boat and shouting for us to go back there was rocks in here, so we head for another cove, we hit a rock, but a wave washes us over it, and we then hit a sand bar, and we let our front ramp down and we jump in to the water up to our chest and wade in to the beach about 35 yards, we see shadows of men running round and we are hoping they are our men and not German soldiers rounding us up as we come ashore, but it was our men .

We are heading for our first objective when some artillery start firing on us so Colonel Murphy tells me to go to the Company on our right and tell them to get that artillery!, so on my way back I pass a house with a man standing outside and he asked me if we were Germans? I said No! we are Americanos!, he jumped with joy and called the family and they all shouted BRAVO! BRAVO! AMERICANOS!!, we were at a little town called San Camarina, and we send in a patrol and some one in there shot at them, so Colonel Murphy told me to contact the navy at tell them to fire a barrage into the center of town, so soon we heard BOM! BOM! BOM! and a three gun barrage landed in the center of town, and soon all the windows had white sheets hanging out of them in surrender, just then a German Plane flew low over us, and we are heading for our second objective the town of Regusa, it is almost dark and we see these big planes coming over us and then we see Paratroops dropping on us, and we start to fire at them when a jeep comes racing up to tell us that they were our troops, the 82nd Airborn Division from Africa to help us if we need them, I had to run to tell these other companies not to fire, it was really" eeiry", to see these troops float down on us.

Now there is no port here where we landed and some of the trucks that we brought along are called "DUCKS" and they could float on water and drive on land and brought all our supplys ashore.

We didn't need the Paratroops so they were sent else where. there is a battery of German artillery holding us up so Colonel Murphy and I take a company and hike to a hill that they are behind and we walk around on the side facing them in the dark, Colonel Murphy and I go up and down the column of soldiers telling them, NO SMOKING or TALKING and NO NOISE, and to walk faster because it is getting light and we need to get to the top and back side of this hill, so we can surprise the Germans, and we did, as it turned to daylight we opened fire on them with mortars and mashine guns and captured them, two 88 millimeter artillery pieces and 12 German soldiers, we take our second town and go on to our third town Regusa.



WORLD WAR TWO  
GERMAN PATROL  
SICILY 1943

Colonel Murphy and I were checking the front lines and we had to go thru this bypass down on a dry creek bed because the bridge was blown out

We climbed up the side side of this mountain to the Company Comand post that was on the front line just as we got there the Germans layed down a barrage of mortar shells and caught a column of soldiers in this dry bed we had just came thru, and we heard many calls for the medics to help the wounded, it was getting dark now and Colonel Murphy wanted to see the lay of the ground and as we were walking on this path I signaled Colonel Murphy to hit the ground, we had come up on a German patrol, and we layed low while these Germans walk by us talking and laughing, we went back to the Command post and settled down for the night after making arrangments for a dawn attack the next morning, I awoke early and looked over where Colonel Murphy was sleeping and I see all the clothes and maps,socks,hankies and the pack were laying on top of him because it got cold and damp I had to"laugh"and told him how strange it was to see that.

You see his pack had in it a raincoat, a mess kit, and a change of clothes and his maps,

We attacked the next morning and drove the Germans off the mountains there were several houses on top and in my, broken Italian, I was talking to one man, he said he was glad to see the Americans, now they will put a pipe and a pump in to bring water to them from the wells down below, they have had to bring their water up by donkey all these years.

We fought our way across Sicily to the other coast and was fighting up the coast when we were stopped by a strong German line, so Colonel Murphy took a battalion back to Palermo and we got on our landing boats again and went up the coast behind the German line and landed to drive them back we captured many of them, we are advancing right past this huge "Volcano Etna" it was quiet now but it did come to life later that year we are nearing Messina the last town on the island and we were the first ones in. on our side and we see these people looting a big warehouse and Colonel Murphy put guards on it, now the British fought on across to the mainland this is the Toe of Italy, you see Italy is a Pinnisila in the shape of a large boot with a heel and a toe.

We go back to Palermo and prepare to make a landing at Salerno, Italy we were able to see some of the sights and saw my first catacomb under a beautiful Church here, now while we are here we are transfered to the 5th army with General Mark Clark, we have been in the 7th army with General Patton, and we listen to our radio to hear "AXIS SALLY", from Berlin, Germany she plays the big band music while telling us that we are losing the war and the Glorious German Army, is winning on all sides trying to demoralize us.

ITALY WAR DAYS  
SALERNO LANDING  
1943

We are in our assault ship L.S.T. (Landing Ship Troops), heading for Salerno and on the radio comes news that " (Italy has surrendered)" and we were jubilant and hoped we could land easily but there were many Germans in Italy and they made the Italian troops fight us, now we were in reserve and we had to wait out in the water while the 36th Division made their first landing, and at night the German airplanes would come over us and drop their little flares on parachutes that would float slowly down and light up the area like daylight we had to watch to be sure that if they landed on our ship to put them out quick so that the planes could not drop a bomb on us, they did hit one ship and splashed water on us a couple times I was on deck, "( and scared to death),"

While we are at sea here Lt. Colonel Preston J.C. Murphy is promoted to Full Colonel with an Eagle on his shoulder and I was made Corporal and he was transferred to be commander of the 179th Infantry Regiment, and we had to move to the Regimental Headquarters, I hated to leave the 157th but that's the army for you, now we have our driver but I still have my radio to carry in the front lines.

Colonel Murphy and I are walking along when we come upon this tank fight between one of our M1 tanks and a huge German Tiger tank and shells were ricocheting off both tanks and they made a horrible shrieking noise finally the German tank rambled away with the American tank following, very carefully.

As we fought on, we came to a clump of trees and decided to set up a command post and as we were summoning the Company Commanders, two big tanks come rambling up the road, now there was a big canal that carried water for the crops and below it was another small one on the other side so we jump over the large one and layed down in the small one while these tanks fire at our troops from behind the big canal, I had to raise up and look around to be sure there is no German Troops with the tanks, then Colonel Murphy asked me to get in contact with the Navy Artillery spotter from the Cruiser out in the water and give him our location and to tell them to lay down a barrage right on us to stop these tanks, so soon we hear the, BOM!BOM!BOM! of three guns on the Cruiser out in the water and the ground around us shook," I thought we were goners for sure this time", and we bounced, as barrage after barrage hit the ground around us, finally the tanks backed off a little and Colonel Murphy gave the order to crawl to the end of the ditch, and get up and run like "hell"! to our lines, we had to run across a road in front of the tanks but we took them by surprise and we made it back, but to our surprise, we find our troops had fallen away back and in retreating they lost some of their guns so Colonel Murphy set up a new line, and then sent back to an Engineer Company, to send us their guns I spent the night cleaning our guns from the mud that was in the bottom of the ditch that we were in, later that night he made us all move back another 200 yards and dig in again, then soon the Germans shelled the place we were in before, " so we were alright" we captured some prisoners and they said they were supposed to drive us back into the sea.

ITALY WAR DAYS  
VOLTURNO RIVER

As we fight our way toward the Volturno River, Colonel Murphy and I are on this cross road and checking the maps, when suddenly a big German tank came down one of the roads right at us we jump off the road into the trees and as it went by, one of the fellows had a Bazooka so I told him to give it to me and for him to load it and he did, but when I tried to get it to fire it wouldn't, I was very disappointed that I Didn't knock that tank out, when I was in the Company G, I had training in the Machinegun, Mortar, and Bazooka.

Now we were in back of Naples when the British 8th Army came fighting up from the lower foot of Italy, and the both of our forces put on an attack that carried us to the Volturno River all the bridges were blown up and the river was very high from the rains that we were having, Colonel Murphy and I started out for the front lines that were at the river we had stopped at a row of rocks and he was checking the lay of the tarrain from here with his field glasses, when behind us one of our tanks pulled out and started to fire across the river, then a German tank was firing some smoke shells at our tank, one landed on one side of our tank and then another one on the other side and then one right at it and over our head but too low it hit in the bank of dirt, our tank saw this and backed up behind a hill when another shell came in right where he had been, Colonel Murphy and I were watching this from where we were,

the Germans had invented a gun powder that was smokeless so this made it hard for our tanks to see where the Gereman tank is firing from, because no telltail puff of smoke, after each time they fired, we went on down to a road then in a olive orchard and was heading for our front line when a German Fighter Plane came over us and spotted the tanks on the road he turned and dove to bomb the tanks when our antiaircraft guns zeroes in on him and Colonel Murphy and I heard this awful shriking noise and ran into a small building in the orchard when this plane, not coming out of it's dive, dove into the ground right where we were and pieces hit the building we were in, we came out and saw parts of the pilot's body all over the ground, we went on to the front line to give encouragement to the officers and men.

The days were long and bitter cold and raining and Colonel Murphy came down with pneumonia and we were both sent back to Naples he went to the hospital and the driver Steve and I spent Christmas and New Years in Naples and met some of the people and we would sit around and drink wine and sing some of the Italian Songs, I learned the words to "Return To Sorrento", then we were then sent over to " Sorrento" for recouparation, we drove over and saw the ruined city of " Pompeii", and then we went to the Naples Opera house and saw the Opera " Aida", I was real happy about this, after our landings here our Airforce destroyed most of the German Lufftwaffer and when we saw the Port of Naples with it, seemed like hundreds of ships, unloading supplies for us.

We had Bill Mauldin with our outfit, he is the one that invented G.I. Joe cartoon and wrote many storeis about the 45th Division and the G. I ' s in it.

We stopped near a small stream one day and I went down to it and washed up cause we hadn't had a bath lately so several days later I come down sick and burning up with fever, so I told Colonel Murphy how sick I was and that I was going to the hospital, after 7 days they released me saying that I had a,

" fever of unknown origin", they said a truck would come and take me back to my unit and when I got back we were on the move.

ITALY WAR DAYS  
MONTE CASSINO  
1944

And again we are on a cross road studying a map when the Germans fire in a barrage of rocket shells that made a horrible shrieking noise that just scared the hell out of us, it was the first time we had heard them, it was a new weapon that they had and we heard it several times from then on. we nicknamed it "the Screaming Meemies", we were bivacked on the side of this high hill and the weather was miserable, raining and cold. and our front lines were in a position where no trucks could supply them not even our little jeeps so we send back to America and to Colorado for some "Rocky Mountain Canaries," in other words pack carrying "Donkeys.

These donkeys we recieved from Colorado were to carry supplies to the troops on the sides of these hills and bring back wounded and dead soldiers and one day I asked the soldier with this body on it if he knew who it was? he tells me it was a friend of mine "George Szalman" I was very unhappy for days, I had heard that the Company G. from the 157 Regiment was in a big fight up front and there were many wounded and killed.

Colonel Murphy decided to go to the front line of a certain Company and we had to go down this road that was covered by a German tank about 5 officers and I was on the rear when we see this smoke shell land out in front of us and then another one in back of us and then all of a sudden an armorpiercing shell hit into the bank of the road right behind me and the concushion was so strong it knocked me down, and we all started to run, and I am telling Colonel Murphy to run faster and faster because the shells were hitting right behind me as we ran we finally got to where he could not fire on us any more, and we were able to slow down, Colonel Murphy was over 50 years old and didn't run as fast as I could, but we did not return the same way, if they had fired exploding shells I would have been hit by shrapnel and probably killed that is how close they were hitting, and later the next day we are on this mountain and Colonel Murphy and I with the Company Commander were looking over to the other mountain, when a sniper got a bead on Colonel Murphy and the bullet hit the rocks at our feet between him and I, we hit the ground and then started back down when the Germans sent in a barrage of artillery and Mortar fire where we were standing, good thing we left, we heard them calling for the medics for the wounded.

Many times we hear these big bombers come over us and dropping bombs on the Monte Cassino Monastery but it had tunnels deep into the mountain and we could not drive them out.

We bombed and bombed, shelled and shelled, with mortars and artillery, and still when we attacked them they drove us back.

While we are here the British sent in on our right flank a Regiment of Gurka's from India they were huge, bearded, ugly soldiers "but boy! could they fight"!

After many days of hard fighting and the frustrating fact that we couldn't move this line we decided to have another end run so we the 45th DIVISION moved back down to Naples and boarded our assault boats again.

ITALY WAR DAYS  
ANZIO BEACH HEAD  
1944

We boarded our L.S.T. and started up the coast of Italy and as we went between this island and the shore, a battery of artillery started to fire on us and as we siped and saged the shells were hitting all around us so I run to the other side of the ship in case they hit us along came a small Destroyer that saw that we were in trouble and sailed over between the shore and us and fired back at it and it stopped firing, we went on and made our landing at a little town called, Anzio, it used to be a Roman port but turned into a swamp but now they are draining the water from it with canals all thru it, we drove all the way to Rome but came back because we were not here to take Rome yet we were to draw some troops from Cassino, but instead the Germans brought in S.S. troops from France and Norway, S.S. Troops are "SUPER SOLDIERS" of the German Army, when they hit us they drove us back 7 miles before we stopped them and set a defence line that they couldn't break they attacked time after time but we wouldn't budge we captured some prisnors that said "Hitler" gave them orders to drive us back into the sea, but they couldn't and settled into a defence line.

They brought in huge railroad guns and shelled our ships in the port bringing us our supplys so we brought in our big guns too, the 240 millimeter howitzers that could fire a shell over 15 miles they had the high ground and we were in a bowl where they could look down on us.

The germans were listening in on our radio talk so we had some, Siouix Indians, from Oklahoma and we set them up on our radios to do the talking and the Germans had no one to understand them, we listened to Axis Sally and she said bad things about our Indians, Bill and I would lay in our foxhole at night and write our letters and we would eat the chocolate bars and hard tack crackers that we recieved in our "K" ration along with a small can of roast beef for dinner and a can opener, for breakfast we had ham and eggs and powdered coffee or lemonaide some times stew or chicken, one day Bill recieved a "Dear John" letter from his girl friend and we were pretty mad about it.

One day Colnel Murphy and I were finding our way to the front line and we came to this canal and he asked me to climb down to see if we could jump across it to get to our line the banks were very steep, so I slide down and looked it over and told him it was too wide to jump, so I turned to climb up the stairs cut in the dirt and as I started to put my foot down on the first step I see a piece of metal sticking up and knew that it was a personnel mine and I had almost stepped on it, I would have been killed for sure, we went on and found several more along the path we were on, and I got on my radio and called for the mine removal squad and told them where we were and then marked them so that no one else would step on them, then as we walked a tank started to snip at us with his 88 gun and made us run like, hell, again.

We were sent to a rest area in a grove of trees and a group of " Scottish Bagpipe players", came to entertain us and as they played the Germans must have heard it too, because they sent in a barrage of artillery on us and made us scatter but it did not hit any one, we had a Ranger Battalion with us that would sneak thru the Germans lines and harass them, but one night some of them got cut off and trapped behind the German lines, the others went in to save them when they also got caught, we tryed our best to save them but we lost the whole Battalion to the Germans.

At night the Jerry planes would fly over us and drop these flares on parachutes to find our big guns, one time they hit a ammunition dump and what a show we had of shells exploding and flying thru the air.

We built up a huge supply of every thing we would need to fight our way out of here, so the Cassino Front drove thru the German lines, and met up with us as we drove out of our line and to Rome this time to free it for sure, but on the way we recieved word that President Roosavelt had died and we were all sad about this.

FRENCH WAR DAYS  
Southern France  
1944

Colonel Murphy wanted to go back thru the battle fields we had been thru so we went back to Anzio, we see this line of 30 of our tanks that the Germans had knocked out with a antitank gun placed in a spot where they could pick off tank after tank as they made a simicircle around a open field, this gun fired one armorpiercing shell that made one little hole in the side of each tank and then ricochets inside and explodes the ammunition and kills any one inside, we went back to Cassino Monastery and saw the tunnels that the Germans used when we bombed and shelled them and the place was just a heap of rubble.

In Naples we boarded our assault boats again and sailed for Corsica France to meet other ships, so I got a chance to swim here, then we set sail for Southern France a beach between Marseille and Toulon France, our planes, ships and a big rockett barge shelled and bombed the shore line, and we went in with not much resistance and we headed for Grenoble, our first objective, we are driving along and see these two beautiful french girls walking so Colonel Murphy tells the driver to pick them up and they get in the back seat with me and I have my french book out and I talk with them, they ask us to come in for a snack, but we say we have a war to fight so we let them off by their house and had to go on, now on board ship coming to France we have an interpreter assigned to us and we sit on our deck and he helps me with French and I help him with English, so I could speak a little French with my Italian and Spanish, I bid them Adeau, Auravaui, and they bid us Bon Chance, and we went on our way, we fight on thru Grenoble and trap a German Regiment in a box canyon and captured them.

We settle in the hotel and I was afraid to sleep in a room upstairs for fear of the Germans would bomb us, I met this real nice French Family and they invited me to dinner, and as we talked they tell me they hadn't had any pepper or coffee for a long time so I brought some from the kitchen, we had potatoe soup, potatoe bread and boiled potatoes thats all they had.

It was a beautiful town and we hated to leave, but we fought on up the Rhone River Valley, to the Moselle River then across it, and then we are hit from behind by a convoy of Germans heading for the rear of their line it had tanks, and self propelled artillery, and several trucks full of troops, we did not have any of our tanks across the river yet, Colonel Murphy was setting up a Command post in this old house when they hit us and we met some "French Marquias troops" here and I took them and placed them on the roof tops of the houses around us and all night long we fought off the Germans,

they pulled out the next morning with several hundred of our soldiers as prisoners, we found many dead Germans around where we were, as we fought on we met this famous "Author Gertuade Stien" that had retired here in France for years, she invited Colonel Murphy and I to have lunch with her and she was so glad to have some Americans to talk to, she told us that she was right under the Germans nose all the time, she was Jewish and the Germans had rounded up all the French Jews and sent them to German camps and missed her.

She wrote a poem "A BALLAD" and a Book called "THE VIOLENT DECADE".

FRENCH WAR DAYS  
MAGINOT LINES SIGFRIED LINE  
1945

We were in a rest area here in town of Lyons and I got leave to go into town to see if I could find a pair of wooden shoes to send home. I had seen many of the farmers around here wearing them in the fields, I was walking along this street when this good looking french girl walked up from behind me and put her arm thru mine and said "HELLO" you take me in this bar YES! and in we went it was dark and smoky and the music was loud and noisy, we sat at the bar and she ordered us Conjnacks, I payed for them with some of the French money that they issued to us be for we left the ship, we clanked glasses in salute," BON CHANCE" as we sipped our drink she ask what my name was? I said Louis, and asked what her name was?. she said MARIA and we clanked glasses drank to our names and with her pretty green eyes she looked over the floor till she saw a couple dancing on the floor, then her green eyes glazed over and she got up and said "Pardon Louie", and she went over and took him by the arm and they sat down, as the other girl left. I realised that the reason she had asked me to take her in the bar was to find her boy friend, so I finished my drink then walked over to the table that they sat at and said "ADEAU MOINAMIA" Maria and she looked up at me and said "Merci Beacoup, Moinamia, Louie "AURAVAU and BON CHANCE", as I headed for the door to find my wooden shoes, you see French girls were not allowed to go into a bar with out a male escort, so that is why she picked on me.

The country side is beautiful and green and we saw the farmers in their fields and barns you see their barns are attached to their houses like our garages.

We fight our way to the town of Stutgarde, and it is just across from the German Sigfried Line and we could see the soldiers walking around between the pill boxes and see the huge cement tank traps to stop the tanks.

Then all of a sudden in the middle of a cold and dark Christmas night we recieve orders to drive in complete blackout, and as fast as we could to the "Voges Mountains."it is freezing cold and our feet are numb, the road we come to is a narrow mountain trail and we run into a German S.S. Division coming from the other way and all HELL! breaks loose there is trucks and men are scatered all over the mountain side but we form a defence line and stop them cold, they were coming here to flank our soldiers on."Battle of the Bulge"front, they were trying to get a sample of an artillery shell that we had invented that explodes above the ground, till now they had to hit the ground to explode, we had replaced our troops at Stutgarde with an engineer outfit, we decided to set up a command post in the basement of this house in a town named Windigine when we get word that the Germans had drove a hole in our line and was coming into this town, so Colonel Murphy and I run for our Jeep and moved back to a town just in time, the Germans over ran many of our troops and captured them with the help of the people of this town that are German and told the German soldiers where they were hidding, we recieved a large group of new recruits from the states and started a house to house battle to drive them back out and save some of our men we couldn't shell or bomb the town with our men there, this part of France is called. Alsac. it is a land between the French Maginot Defence Line and the German Sigfreid defence line that is like,"a no mans land".

We fought on to the Sigfried Line again and was trying to break thru but couldn't. but on the Northern Front down by Holland. General Patton finds a bridge across the Rhine River that the Germans had not blown up because they were waiting to let their own troops cross over but General Patton was so fast that he arrived there before they knew it, and he sends his tanks across and up the German side and makes them leave the Sigfried line with out a fight.

GERMAN WAR DAYS  
RHINE RIVER  
1945

Leaving this bridge intact was one blunder that the Germans made that saved many of our lives, but another big blunder was not invading England, we are now held up at the Rhine River and have to wait for boats to cross over, Colonel Murphy was resting in a upstairs bed room of one of the houses and had just got up to leave it, when the Germans send in a barrage of artillery, one armorpiercing shell came thru the roof and landed in the bed he just got out of, that was just another close one he has had in our travels thru this war, I had ran into a barn out in the yard and was all right, finally our boats came and we made our fifth water landing across the Rhine River, we fought on and saw many tanks that Pattons forces had knocked out and we arrived at the Main river as we drove along Colonel Murphy spotted a German Soldier sneaking along the tree line and told the driver to stop, and with drawn pistol, he went over and captured him, we are now in Bomberg and while driving along we spot a deer out in a field and Colonel Murphy told the driver to stop and I got out and shot it, and we brought it to the cook Wilfred Caron and had him cook it up for us, he is the officers mess cook, and I would help him put on some very nice officers dinners across France and Germany.

As we drove this Hitler's Superhighway we found that in parts of it they used it for Fighter plane runways and where there is a forrest of trees close to it, they would cut out roads and stalls to park the planes in and covered them with camouflage netting we couldn't find them, they also we assembling these jet planes that they had invented, we had seen one early in the war when one bussed us and we wondered what that was that went that fast??, there was about fifty of them in this place that we saw, now we come to Nurnberg and it had been bombed so much that hardly any buildings were still standing we had to bulldose our way thru it, this is the town that had the huge stadium that Hitler had all his victory parades in and it was in rubble now.

After we settled things down and cleaned out this stadium part of the 45th Division had a victory parade in it, these jets that we saw had two jets and were almost finished and would have gave our airforce a lot of trouble because they were so fast.

We are in this little town and Colonel Murphy and several officers and I were walking thru this railroad station I was out in front when the Germans layed in a barrage of mortors shells and one hit right behind Colonel Murphy, and I and knocked us down, I got up and ran around thru the buildings looking to see if there is a spotter in this area?, but couldn't find any so as we were leaving I notice that the Colonel Murphy is limping and I asked what was wrong? he said that he was wounded ( in the fanny) so we go to the medics and they send him to the Hospital in France near Paris, I didn't get to go with him this time, so in a week Colonel Murphy calls and wants me to come and bring him back, one of the drivers had a German Sudan and we go after him, we are sailing down this country road 60 miles an hour when we have a blowout on our left front tire and it was all that the driver could do to keep from going "headon", with the big truck that is coming at us from the other way, just another close one for me, we pick up Colonel Murphy and head back, we are nearing Munich now.



GERMAN WAR DAYS  
MUNICH GERMANY  
1945

On the out skirts of Munich we come to the famous "DAUCAU PRISON CAMP" and Colonel Murphy tells the driver to pull in to see if we could help in any way?. we see the railroad cars full of bodies and the real skinny prisoners walking around, but the smell of the dead is so horriable that we have to leave, this camp gased and creamated thousands of Jewish and other people so we left for Munich.

We move in to Hitler's Munich apartment, the fourth floor of a five story apartment building, I looked out one of the windows in my room to see thousands of German soldiers that have been captured walking down the streets they were happy to be American prisoners and not Russian prisoners, but they are sad that they lost the war.

I see that several of the buildings around us has been hit by bombs but no signs that this building has ever been hit, I went down to the basement and found an elabrante airraid shelter three feet thick walls and huge steel doors, a fully equipped kitchen, bed rooms and offices and airconditioning, I went thru some things that were discarded and found some postcards that had been sent to Hitler in 1927, when he hung out at the "famous Beer hall," congratulating him for running for an government office and also a picture of Heir Gobbeles he was one of Hitler's henchmen.

We found a large safe and Colonel Murphy sent for a safecracker to open it for us, we found some papers and we turned them over to headquarters, and two "MIEN KAMP," books (that means) "MY WORLD" in German so Colonel Murphy took one and gave me one, in about 1972 I sold the book and the cards to a collector, and some of the trinkets we still have, I met a girl that helped her mother take care of the apartment house and she wanted to learn to speak English and I wanted to learn to speak German, she would come to the kitchen for lunch with me, I was working in the kitchen with Caron, and we learned all the kitchen and eating utencilles.

Chaplin Berry has set up a trip to, "Oberammergau," the town up in the German Alps Mountains, that puts on a Passion Play every ten years, we saw the stage and the cross that was used we met with the man that played (Jesus,) and Mary. And some of the Angeles, these people have to live here all the time, I was hoping I could go to the mountain retreat "Berchtesgaden" that Hitler would take his mistress to when he took his rest time. but Colonel Murphy had put in for my transfer back to the states because he knew I wanted to get back to my Rosy, so my papers came thru after one month here in Munich and I bid my goodbys to Colonel Murphy and thanked him and all my buddies and started my 8,000 mile trip home, Colonel Murphy was staying as part of the Occupation Force, we drive down the superhighway to La Harve France, and after four days 350 of us boarded a Liberty ship for 12 long days of sailing across the Atlantic Ocean, and landing in New Jersey and then to Camp Kilmer, here we got on a train to ride clear across America to Camp Beale in Chico, California for my Honorable discharge and I caught a bus to drive down the side of the Sacramento River to Oakland and to my Rosy, Barbara and George met me and what a homecoming we had, they had fixed up a nice apartment for us, Molly and Bob, Barbara and George took us to one of the shows in San Francisco where the men dress up as women and we all have a lot of fun, we also went over to Tiberon for dinner and a ferry ride. Colonel Murphy wrote Rose a real nice letter thanking me for the friendship I gave him thruout the war, I lost contact with him.