

Lucas C. Martin
75 Salty Way E
Selbyville, DE 19975

Lucas:

Enclosed is a form which will give you some back-ground information and some wartime experiences that you may or maynot find useful for your book.

Name: Robert D. Bailey Army ID 37777044

Date you entered the military: October 24, 1944

Date you were discharged from the military: August 4, 1946

Age you entered service: 18

Branch of Service: Army

Rank: T-5 (Technician fifth grade)

What were your duties or area of expertise? Basic Training Infantry 3½ months
Clerk Typist 2 months
Rifleman, Combat Team 8 months

Medals and/or commendations: See Enclosure

Where did you serve? Basic Training Fort McCellan, Ala.
European Theater France
Germany
Austria
Italy
Fourth Army Headquarters Fort Sam Houston,
Texas

Continued onto the back

Medals and /or commendations:

1. Combat Infantry Badge w/wreath
2. Bronze Star Medal
3. European - African - Middle Eastern Campaign Medal w/1 Bronze Battle Star
4. American Campaign Medal
5. World War II Victory Medal
6. Army of Occupation Medal w/German clasp
7. Good Conduct Medal
8. Marksman Badge
9. Honorable Service Lapel Button

Enclosure #1

I vividly remember my first night in combat. I do not remember the name of the small towns that we were occupying, but we were close enough to the front lines that we could hear and see aerial flares and small arms firing. It was extremely dark, with poor visual sight. My partner and I were assigned a guard post on the outside perimeter of the town, as the night progressed we could hear these strange noises--sounded like someone strangling a little baby--a most disturbing sound. Our imagination got the best of us, and we became petrified every time we heard this screeching - agonizing sound. To make matters worse, we soon realized we had gone on guard duty, in the darkness part of the night without any ammunition for our rifles. It was near morning and sunrise when we discovered we were guarding an old church and the weird sounds were a pair of nesting storks, who adopted the church for their nest on top of the roof the church. To this day, I do not know who was more frightened, two 18 year old GI's or a pair of large storks.

Enclosure # 2

Another unique experience I had was within the city of Haguenau. Here again I am not sure this was Haguenau, because I was not familiar with the many small communities and towns, but we had entered the town with columns of troops on both sides of the narrow street, it appeared to be a rural or farm community. Suddenly we were being fired by a hidden sniper. I took refuge behind a pile of wood and remained there until we received orders to advance again. As I started walking again a fellow GI told me I was bleeding through my right hand glove, upon examination, it was discovered that a small piece of metal (like two squares from a hand grenade) had hit my glove striking a new Cameo ring that my sister had given me for high school graduation gift. The ring in turn cut my finger, which caused the bleeding. I still have the piece of metal and had the ring repaired. I still don't know where or when I cut my finger, or where the dark green piece of metal came from.

Enclosure # 3

As the 411th Regiment of the 103rd Infantry Combat team was walking down a rural road near the Hagenau Forest area they were receiving some heavy resistance from the German Army. Our Company L was given the task of going to our right flank and clear the heavily wooded area where the opposition had set up bunkers and foxholes. We soon became the targets for the German Army. It's a good thing that they were poor shots because they missed their targets badly, and soon the Fighting 411th had taken control of the entire area, only to find out their opposition was a large group of young boys about 12-16 years of age.

Enclosure # 4

I was a scout for the 411th Combat team , First Platoon, Company "L", 103rd Infantry Division, and on 27 April 1945 our task was to secure the Dam and Powerhouse and then proceed into the town of Landsberg and take control of the city. However, something went wrong and we became disoriented. It was dark when we entered the powerhouse tunnel and we came under fire from civilian workers who were operating the electrical instruments in the dam. When we left the Dam, we must have turned the wrong direction, because after walking most of the night we realized we had walked on to a peninsula or point on the Lech River. Our only exit was a narrow suspension bridge. We were trapped from any forward movement. Every time we made a move we were immediatly under attack from a machine gun and small arms fire from the high bluffs or hills adjacent to the river. We had lost contact with the rest of Company "L". Our only escape was the suspension bridge. I discarded all my personal items such as, my backpack, blankets, gas mask, and some personal items, and safely ran across the bridge. Very early in the morning we were able to proceed into town, where we were asked to escort hundred's of Hungarian troops who wanted to surrender to our troops. We proceeded through the city of Landesburg to the location of six concentration camps where victims of the Super Race had died by the thousands, victims of starvation and exposure. The camp was littered with the bodies of Jews, Poles, Russians, French, and Germans. Many of the victims were still alive, they appeared to be living Zombies, weighing 50 - 60 pounds. Just skin and bones. Living conditions were intolerable. The Landsburg Prison Camp was also the site where Adolf Hitler organized "The New Order" and wrote his book "Mein Kampf". The camp contained many devices for killing people like gas chambers, crematoriams, open graves, and torture chambers.

Enclosure #5

The 411th Regiment of the 103rd Infantry Division was given the task of clearing the area between Innsbruck and Brenner Pass as soon as possible. We were to secure the pass and establish contact with the Fifth Army which was approaching the Pass from the south from Italy. On the 3rd of May 1945 the 411th Combat Team moved by motor vehicles through freezing weather and falling snow through the narrow Alpine roads for the Italian border. The 411th seized the Brenner Pass at 0150 on May 4, 1945 without opposition. The 175 motor vehicle motorcade travelled the entire route with all headlights on high beam. The historic meeting of the 411th Regiment of the 103rd Division and the United States 88th Division took place about 8 miles south of Brenner Pass. Major General Anthony McAuliffe and Colonel Donovan Yeuell, who were officers in charge of the 411th participated in this meeting. I had the privilege of riding in a Army Half-track to a point a short distance from the meeting place of 103rd Infantry, the 411th Combat Team and the 88th Infantry Division of the United States Fifth Army.

Enclosure #6

During the month of June 1945, I was transferred from the 103rd Infantry Division to the 45th Infantry Division. The 45th had just liberated Dachau Prison camp on April 29, 1945. Dachau was Hitler's first concentration camp which opened on March 22, 1933. It was called Hitler's School of Murder because it was the prototype for all of his concentration camps. I arrived there approximately thirty days after it was liberated. I served in the Army of Occupation at Dachau and Munich which was about five miles from the camp.

At the time Dachau was liberated, the troops of the 45th Division found forty freight cars containing two thousand corpses parked on a railway siding. There were thousands more bodies stacked like cordwood near the crematoriums. Hundreds more of starving survivors struggled out of fifty barracks to greet the Americans. Bodies and body parts were scattered throughout the camp. When I arrived there in June you could still see evidence of torture and death in the gas chambers, crematoriums, and torture chambers.

—Original Message—

One day, a Soldier, a Sailor, a Marine, an Airman and a Coast Guardsman got into a fight about which branch of the service was best. The fight became so heated that they killed each other.

Soon, they found themselves in Heaven. They saw St. Peter walk by and asked him, "Which branch of service is the best?"

St. Peter replied, "I can't answer that, but I will ask the Lord what He thinks the next time I see Him."

Sometime later, the five see St. Peter again and asked him if he was able to find the answer to their question. Suddenly, a dove landed on St. Peter's shoulder. The dove was carrying a note in its beak. St. Peter opened the note and read it out loud to the five servicemen:

"All the Branches of the Service are Honorable and Noble. Each one of you has served your country well. Be proud of that."

Signed,
GOD
U. S. Army Retired

Steve