

1108 Elmira Street
Williamsport Pa 17701

Dear Mrs. Mauter:

Enclosed is information about my uncle who served in the 103rd. I wrote it for a WWII edition of a paper near his hometown of Big Run, Pa.

I know your Albums of Remembrance are about living veterans' experiences. What about those KIA? I hope you find a way to include it.

He was in the 411th Regt
"I" Co., 3RD Batt.
1ST Plt., 1ST Squad

He is buried at Arlington.

Sincerely,

James Stuckell

Blaine M. Hollopeter Killed In Action In "Nordwind" Attack

(Submitted by his nephew, James E. Stuchell, Williamsport)

Pfc. Blaine M. Hollopeter lost his life on Jan. 20, 1945 in Sessenheim, France. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Born in Big Run, the son of Mr. and Mrs. C.S. Hollopeter, Blaine M. Hollopeter began his military service at the age of 19 when he joined the 103rd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army at Camp Hauge, Tex. in March of 1944.

In October, 1944 the 103rd Division saw its initial action at St. Die, France as part of the U.S. Seventh Army. Pfc. Hollopeter was a BAR man, manning a Browning Automatic Rifle.

His nephew relates that an Army buddy recalled that "the platoon sergeant used to depend upon him to keep the boys together and steady the new men. He could always be depended upon to accomplish his job of cleaning out a bunch of houses or a pillbox and not lie down and seek cover like some did."

On Dec. 16, 1944, near Wissembourg, his platoon was the first unit of the Sev-

enth Army to crack the Siegfried Line and cross the German border. In anticipation of a new German thrust into Alsace, his regiment was placed on reserve. On New Year's Eve, the German attack, code named "Nordwind" commenced.

On Jan. 20, the 411th Regiment was called to stop a German breakthrough at the small village of Sessenheim along the Rhine River.

At 6:30 in the morning, on the coldest day of that winter, his company attacked across open fields to recapture the village. It was unknown that during the night the German forces had been reinforced with tanks and self-propelled 88s.

The action was over in two hours, and most of Pfc. Blaine M. Hollopeter's members of I Company were caught in town by the strengthened German forces. Later in the day, I Company reported a strength of only 30 men from among the 200 who had made the assault.

His nephew states that he has made it a hobby to find as much as he can about his un-



Pfc. Blaine M. Hollopeter.

cle's service record. After over 50 years, he said there are few of his uncle's family remaining who knew him personally. Mr. Stuchell said he is so afraid the service and sacrifice that his uncle and thousands of others made will be forgotten, explaining his interest in his uncle's service record and the "uncovering of the story of this one brave soldier."