

10

Lloyd C Newson
13 Vanderpool Drive
Morristown, NJ 07960

April 9, 1997

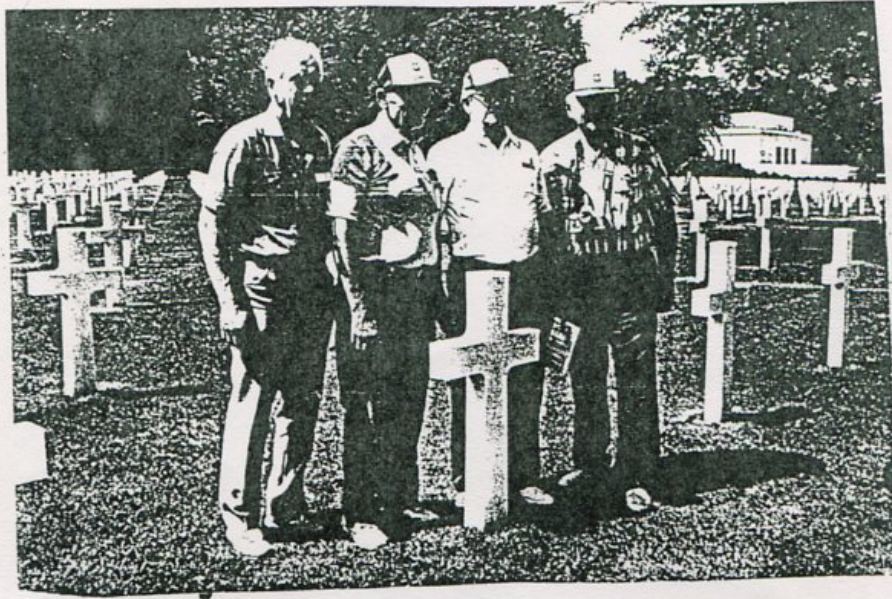
Mr. Luke Martin
K Co. 409th
103rd Inf WWII

Dear Luke:

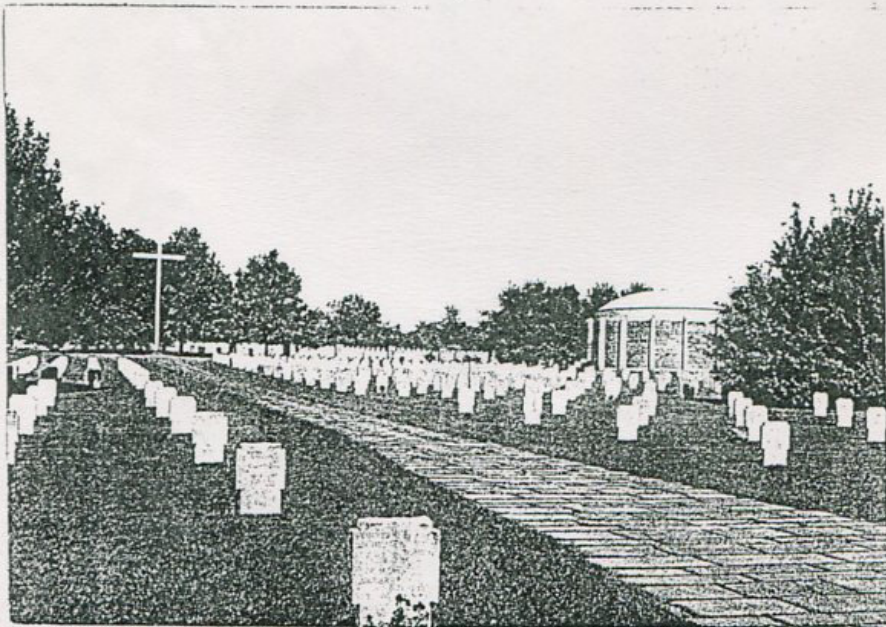
Prior to going overseas in October, 1944 I was with K Co. . I was then transferred to battalion intelligence and spent most of my time with Joe Bell of K Co. as a scout.

The enclosed store tells about an experience that happened when I was temporarily assigned to L. Co. I thought you might be interested.

Sincerely
Duch Newson



Lloyd Newson
American Military Cemetery, Epinal France



German Military Cemetery, Niederbronn, France
Soldiers buried Four/Marker (2 in front; 2 behind)

Progress

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Pages 6-9

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1989

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45th anniversary of liberation

Return to memories

AREA — Lloyd C. Newsom of Montclair recently attended a very unusual reunion, during which he received a heartwarming surprise. This summer, 40,000 people lined the streets of Pfaffenhoffen, a small town in France, to welcome the 175 American soldiers who were invited back to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the liberation of France.

Newsom, who lived in Essex Fells and North Caldwell for many years, recounts in detail the events of years ago that led up to his surprise at the reunion this year.

"During World War II, on or about Thanksgiving Day, 1944, I was participating in an attack on the Alsatian village of Diefenbach. My company, L company 409th infantry, 103 division, was pinned down by heavy German fire until dusk, when I was ordered to take a patrol into town to see if the Germans had withdrawn," he recalled.

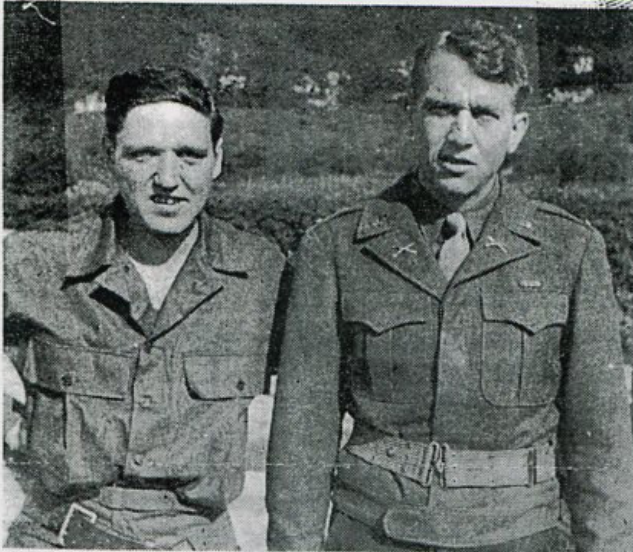
"After checking about seven houses, we were fired on while crossing an opening into the next house. Part of the patrol retreated back to L company, which by then had begun to enter the town. Heavy fire broke out, preventing me and my partner, Lloyd J. Brown of Newark from returning to our unit. We ducked

into a basement waiting for a chance to get back. An Alsatian family of about ten people was in the basement. We stayed there for several hours, talking to the Alsations and sharing our K-rations with their two small children, aged about 10 and 12. When the shooting stopped,

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NOW — This summer, Newsom, center, posed with two 'children' whose family sheltered him during a 1944 German attack on their village of Diefenbach.



10/5/89

THEN — Lloyd C. Newsom, right, with friend Lloyd Brown of Newark, as they appeared in uniform in May, 1945.

France

(Continued from Page One)

Brown and I decided to go upstairs and try to get some sleep. The little girl offered us her bed, because we had shared our chocolate with her.

"Early the next morning we were awakened by her father excitedly telling us that the German soldiers were all around. I looked out to see about seven German soldiers ... trying to locate Americans.

"After ascertaining that our company had gotten into town, we decided to open fire on the enemy soldiers, killing two and wounding two. L company sent a squad to help us. In the meantime, two German medics, bearing a large red cross, came up the street to our house and asked permission to pick up the dead and wounded, to which I agreed. We talked with one of them and discussed the fact that both his family and mine had relatives in Bremen, Germany, and how sad it was that we were killing each other. After about two days, we cleared the town and went on with the war.

"This summer, my division was invited by an Alsatian organization known as 'Friends of the Liberation' to return to France to celebrate the 45th anniversary of our liberating

Alsace. While celebrating a magnificent week in Pfaffenhofen and surrounding towns, a friend and I went back to Diefenbach to see if we could find the house and the family with whom I had spent those two days in 1944.

"After some difficulty, because of changes in the town, I located an older Alsatian man who knew the story of my 'visit' to the house. Meanwhile, he sent his son to bring the boy and girl whose basement I had shared. The little girl, now about 57 years of age, came running up to me and threw her arms around me. She said, "You are Lloyd Newsom." I was stupefied. I asked her how she knew my name. She said she had remembered me for all of these years and had wondered what had happened to me since leaving their home. I asked her if she had written my name down. She said 'No, I just remembered.'

"Then her younger brother appeared, carrying a German helmet bearing a bullet hole. He said, 'This belonged to the German you killed in front of our house.' He gave me the helmet which I now hold. He also told me that I fired eight shots. Eight is the number of rounds in an M-1 Girand rifle that I carried. Inscribed in the helmet is the name 'Neumann.' Two days later, while visiting the

cemetery of German soldiers killed in that area in Niederbronn, we found what I believe to be the grave of that soldier.

"I would like to visit his family and tell them how sad it is for me to have killed their son, despite the fact that it was so necessary at that time to stop the insane ravaging of the world that Hitler was perpetrating."

Newsom received a battlefield commission on March 16, 1945, in Pfaffenhoffen, the town that organized the celebration 45 years after liberation.

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SOLDIER BOYS—There are clear similarities between Buck Newsome, left, in 1943, before he received his battlefield commission as a second lieutenant in World War II, and his son, actor David Newsome, right, in his role as Hank Metcalf, a soldier returning home after the war, in ABC-TV's new show "Homefront."

Here's Looking At You, Dad

Actor Mirrors Father's Wartime Spirit On TV

BY LUCINDA SMITH

When Montclair resident Lloyd Newsome watches the ABC-TV premiere of "Homefront" later this month, he'll see more than the network's new drama about soldiers returning home from World War II. Newsome, 68, will see some of himself in the character played by his son, David.

In "Homefront," actor David Newsome, 28, plays Hank Metcalf, a young man changed by the war, but eager to reclaim the life he had before it.

Set in a small city in 1945, "Homefront" is a one-hour dramatic series with an ensemble cast of 14. It premieres with a 90-minute show on Sept. 24 at 9:30, then airs Tuesday nights at 10 beginning Oct. 1.

"For my character," says the young Newsome, "the story is about a guy losing his innocence. When Hank

comes home from the war, the world that he knew is gone. He's a total optimist. He really cares about other people."

He could be describing his dad.

Known as Buck, the soft-spoken Lloyd Newsome is a no-nonsense investment banker who does volunteer work with offenders at the Essex County Jail Annex in North Caldwell.

Married twice, he's the father of eight. He and his first wife had five children; David was the youngest. Divorced in 1976, Newsome remarried a year later and adopted the three children of his second wife.

Now single again, he remains close to all eight of his grown children, readily admitting they're "the greatest

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Here's Looking At You, Dad

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source of pleasure in my life."

As with the TV character Hank Metcalf—and the roughly 16 million real Americans who served in World War II—Buck Newsome's years as a soldier left their mark on his psyche.

"It was a hell of an existence," he says.

Son David says: "What my dad has helped me understand about the war experience is that it was living every single day with both fear and boredom—the fear that you could die any minute, and the boredom of waiting and waiting for things to happen.

"I think a kind of bullheaded frustration got under the skin because of that. It's something I try to bring to bear within my character."

Another trait he sees in his dad and his character is "a resistance to change and compromise. If you survived the war, you came back with a sense that certain things were due you.

"There are pieces of my dad in my character," he admits.

Lloyd Newsome was 19 when he entered the military. Rejected by the Marines because of a football injury, he joined the Army in the Enlisted Reserves. Less than a year later, he was called to active duty.

A member of the 409th Infantry, 103rd Division, he served in Europe, most memorably the Alsace-Lorraine region of France, where he participated in the liberation of the

village of Diefenbach from German forces.

In 1945, he received a battlefield commission.

Says actor Newsome: "My father's route through Europe is basically the same as my character's. Both were infantry guys. Hank came out of the war a second lieutenant, so did my dad. Hank was overseas a few days before (the Allied landing in) Normandy; my dad was there two weeks before Normandy."

There are other similarities.

In "Homefront," Hank comes back after the war and finds his girlfriend's heart belongs to another guy, his brother.

When Buck Newsome returned to his Nudex home after the war, he found his girlfriend dating another guy, his cousin.

In "Homefront," actor Newsome says, "Hank learned a lot about sex when he was a soldier."

Buck Newsome recalls his main interest during wartime—and that of his soldier-buddies—was women. "We were always talking about women, looking for women," he says. "There was a lot of time with not much to do."

But there were also times of critical action.

When War Is Real

In an unusual incident etched in his memory, Newsome describes the time he entered Diefenbach in 1944.

A scout he had orders to patrol the town to see if the Germans, who had taken it over, had withdrawn. They had not.

Heavy fire broke out and Newsome was unable to return to his unit.

He ducked into a basement. Early the next morning, two local children came to the house and told him many German soldiers were now stalking the town.

From a second-floor window, Newsome saw two soldiers at the gate of the house where he and the children were hidden. Their weapons ready, the German soldiers moved as if to enter the house. Newsome fired.

"It was the closest I ever was to somebody I was shooting at," he says. "I could see their faces. I could see they were as young as I was, and as scared as I was. It really got me."

Newsome killed one of the soldiers and wounded one.

Meanwhile, other members of Newsome's unit, L Company, scattered through the town and engaged in battle. After 48 hours of fighting, the Germans withdrew.

Two years ago, Newsome returned to Diefenbach at the invitation of the Alsatian organization, Friends of the Liberation. One of the children who had helped him during that incident—a boy, now close to 60 years old—presented him with the helmet of the soldier he had killed. The name inside read "Neumann."

"I tried to find the family of the soldier, to express my sadness," Newsome says. "But it was impossible. I did visit a cemetery of German soldiers in the area, and found what I believe was the grave of that soldier."

Buck Newsome has accepted the part of himself that was a killer. "It's either you or them. It's sad that someone has to die, but I was always glad it wasn't me."

David Newsome sees his father's Diefenbach experience as "very affirming for him, bittersweet. It's amazing how it came full-circle and the people in the town remembered what he'd done and thanked him for it."

Young Newsome's TV character,



LLOYD NEWSOME

Hank Metcalf, "did some killing" in the war, he says. "He accepts it. If you don't believe that you killed somebody for a damn good reason, you begin to shake the faith that holds up everything else you believe about yourself.

"Hank never questions his way of life. He exists completely in the moment-to-moment of living."

Buck Newsome says that's pretty much the way it was for most soldiers.

The older Newsome may visit his son in California for the debut of "Homefront." He says he'd like to watch the ABC program with David.

Although David says he'd love a visit from dad, he isn't approaching the TV premiere with heroic enthusiasm. "I'll probably be hiding under my desk that night," he says.