

## Taped Interview

Cincinnati Reunion 2008

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### Cranston R. Rogers, Co. G 409<sup>th</sup>

I live in Midway Massachusetts. I go by the nickname of Chan. I joined the 103<sup>rd</sup> G Company, 409<sup>th</sup> in March of 1944. I was born on February 10, 1925 in Charleston, South Carolina. When the war started, I remember the announcement very vividly. I had taken my grandfather, who was in his early 70s, over to the East Coast of Florida for a photographic assignment. He was a photographer. We were driving on our way back when we heard the announcement on the radio that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. On that day I happened to fall asleep driving back and the car swerved off the road. I tried to turn it back and in the process it rolled over. Nobody was injured but the combination of that car incident and the news that Pearl Harbor had been attacked made it a very significant day.

I was inducted right after I graduation from high school. I was drafted because I turned eighteen. You were allowed to finish high school even though you had turned eighteen but you had to register. I registered before and qualified for ASTP after taking a test at the time of registration. Just after registration I took the AGCT test and qualified for ASTP. I went

into the service in June of '43. I had two weeks back home and reported for duty around July 7<sup>th</sup> at the Army induction station for Basic Training. The procedure was that you had Basic Training first and then ASTP. I went to Fort McClellan, Alabama for Basic Training. From there I went to ASTP at Texas A&M. Because I was a recent graduate I entered the freshman stage of ASTP. You had a choice of various fields of engineering and I chose Civil Engineering. I had five months of ASTP so just one full term of three months and a portion of another. In five months we were sent from College Station, Texas to Gainesville, Texas, to Camp Howze to the 103<sup>rd</sup> Division. I was assigned to G Company 409<sup>th</sup> Infantry. I ended up in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. It was a rifle platoon. Basic Training was very intense with a lot of hikes and physical conditioning exercises; all the basics elements of infantry training. The hiatus of ASTP was strictly classroom with a little bit of PT associated with it but very little military. They changed from the brick dormitories at College Station, TX to the tarpaper shacks at Texas A&M. That was quite dramatic. That was the basic change, very profound. I have visited there and nothing remains of the camp of any structure. The site has been returned to farmland, which it was before the camp was established. There is a concrete water tower, the only remaining evidence of Camp Howze. That is visible from the interstate highway as you go south on I-35

as you go from Oklahoma into Texas. I stayed in the rifle platoon all the way through. The commanding officer was Captain Rodger Craddick of G Company, 409<sup>th</sup>. It just so happened he remained Company Commander throughout the training and the wartime period. He was a very competent officer throughout the war. Later, I emulated him as far as my military career was concerned. I remember the train very well. It was a trip of much anticipation and excitement for a kid going from Texas to New York by train. Of course we didn't know where we were going. We kept track of where we were by reading the signs at the stations the train passed through. They didn't tell the troops where they were going. The train moved pretty steadily. It took us parts of three days to get to Camp Shanks in New York. The men were at ease. I can't remember about eating on the train. We knew we were going overseas but we didn't know where we were going to start from. It was not crowded in the coaches. When we got to Camp Shanks we got passes to New York City. Some of these guys who attended Texas A&M with me went into the 4<sup>th</sup> Weapons Platoon. We were kids that grew up far away from New York. So going to New York was a highlight. It was evident that we were excited. We got passes to New York with several guys. One guy's father was a lawyer and was pretty well off. He in essence gave us his credit card to go to the Waldorf Astoria for dinner. The

guy made arrangements through his father for the five of us [the other four guys end up in the 4<sup>th</sup> Weapons Platoon] to go into the city. This was excitement in itself. This added to the excitement of going overseas. We looked at it with anticipation, as something that was going to happen. We weren't in any way down. We were more or less up. I stayed late that night and came back from Manhattan late after the specified hour. Instead of being in any way in trouble, I found out that there was a craps game going on in the back of the barracks with a candle under a blanket. I won all the money, four hundred dollars. That was a good sum of money. Our pay at that time was only twenty-one dollars. I was able to finance another trip with the same five guys to go into New York City.

It came time for us to board ship which everyone was looking forward to. That meant a train ride and a ferry ride across the Hudson River over to the pier. We boarded the ship and the ship sailed. The ship was the USS Monticello; it was a former Italian luxury liner. I understand there were about 10,000 troops which meant it had to have had at least two regiments. I know it had the 409<sup>th</sup> and all division troops plus part of either the 410<sup>th</sup> or 411<sup>th</sup>. There were bunks five high with steel pipe frames and canvas beds strung on the pipe frame. You slept on that canvas with a blanket. Moving around was quite crowded. We had to work together to move around

between bunks, undress, and get into the bunks. We were in what used to be the ballroom though there was no evidence of that. It had been completely gutted and filled with these frames holding these bunks. I figured there were 1,000 men just in that one room. The routine was you only had two hours up on deck a day. We found out that you could volunteer for duty, as in our case, chipping paint so that they could repaint the deck. If you volunteered to paint you would be up on deck all day. A few of us volunteered for that. After a few days we found out you could volunteer for table waiter at the officer's mess. I and several of my buddies volunteered for that. That was a real bonanza because you got to eat three meals a day. Otherwise you were eating two meals a day. And to eat one meal took three hours. You had to stand in line, which was the routine. The compelling thing that happened was the hurricane of '44 that hit the New England coast had come across the ocean and we had to go through it. That impacted the voyage for three days. The swells in the ocean were so great that this huge ocean liner could drop down in a swell and not see any other ships in the convoy. A big percentage of the troops were seasick. That made a real mess with men vomiting. Fortunately, a group of us didn't get sick. There was so much food left in the officer's mess because men didn't eat. I would say a third of the men were seasick during this period of three or four days; something you will not

forget. As a waiter we would get three meals a day and much better food. I remember literally taking pies from the officer's mess because they were sick but there were not enough of us that were well to eat the pies.

It was fourteen days before we landed. On the twelfth day we saw Gibraltar. Because we were table waiters and had the run of the ship we could go up on deck and see Gibraltar. It was very dramatic, Gibraltar to the port and the coast of Africa to the starboard. That was our first understanding that we were going through the Mediterranean Sea. We did not know where we were going as young soldiers. We were never told where we were going. Even then we weren't sure where we were going to land. We knew that when we went through the Straits we could see both shores. We stayed close to the African shore for quite awhile maybe for the rest of that day. Maybe in the night it turned north to Marseilles. They may have told us we were going to land in Marseilles. I don't recall. But at no other time were we told where we were going. But as fairly educated young kids we knew enough geography to know what was going on.

I am going to repudiate Paul Fussell. I am disturbed with his attitude. He has always had an attitude that because of his superior intellect he should never have had to serve in an infantry unit. Somebody has to fight the war. Maybe there are not enough places for all the people who have more

intelligence. I just took it as our lot to be fighting in the infantry. I always felt that there was no reason that I should not have to fight and somebody else of different intellect should. In those days I didn't really look at it. Post war period, I now realized because I am conscience of Fussell's attitude that yes there is a big difference. My family had attained higher education. As far as my own thoughts, I was very active in sports and had been offered a scholarship to University of Georgia. I had thought about going to college. It had never occurred to me that I wouldn't go to college. I didn't think about whether my family could afford it. That was never discussed. I may not have gone if the GI Bill had not made it possible.

In Marseilles we got a pass into the city one time. But we did get to go in there periodically to help unload the ships. The march from the ship to the plateau was very confusing and frustrating. The company commander was confused. I don't know whether he was confused about where we were going. He finally said just bed down. We were in an open field and it was lightly raining. The confusion went on into two or three o'clock in the morning. The next day we did go to where we officially pitched pup tents in a row, very military. I never understood that. They would have these pup tents lined up very methodically in rows. There was a mixture of cultures in Marseilles; I found that very difficult. I was disappointed maybe. It was full

of foreign troops, North African people, and French military units. Maybe we just met the lower scale people. Maybe the upper levels of society had fled or gone somewhere else to live. We convoyed up the Rhone River Valley. We were moving for parts of three days. The first few days were all day by truck. It rained the second and third day very steadily. Finally, at the end of the third day we did bivouac. That night the rain poured providing a downer for everybody's personal attitude. Because you were wet and knowing you were close to seeing combat the rain made it uncomfortable. In relieving the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division we hiked up mountain trails. That was something we found very traumatic. It had rained and the next day we had to repack our duffle bags deciding what we were going to keep and what we were going to put aside for storage. Also, dramatically discarding our overcoats and preparing our packs to take with us. Then we had a long march and it was uphill all the way. I had occasion forty, fifty years later to drive that in reverse. I found it was seven miles uphill. During that same march the rain turned to snow after we had started marching. I had grown up in Florida and trained in Alabama and Texas and had never seen snow. That night three of us were put on an outpost and we were not prepared being early November that the nights were quite long. We couldn't believe that the night period would be longer than twelve hours which it was. We



were in much higher latitude than we had ever experienced before and had no reason to know that the nights were longer than twelve hours. On November 9 we went on line, interfacing with 3<sup>rd</sup> Division soldiers, seventh infantry I think it was. We had one sergeant from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division take myself and two of my buddies out to an outpost that we manned that night. We were out there by ourselves that first night, very unknowing about where anything was and what was up. It took us two or three days to get oriented. Then of course our own people switched around and we were moved. Instead of being on the top of the hill --the road that led out of St. Die up that hill that went all the way west to Ramervillas?? we were on the top of the high ground where there is a monument today to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. We were moved downhill about half of the way from the top to the bottom. I and two others were to man an outpost to guard the road coming up the hill. At that time I was a PFC. I don't know what happened to the two other men. They were new men in our platoon but they had not been with us very long. The whole 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment of 409th relieved the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment. We heard a lot of artillery back and forth. We were not directly involved the first two or three days. The real affects of war did not really set in until we went into an offensive mode which was a week later on November 16<sup>th</sup>. At that time I had volunteered for what was called "battle patrol". I was then assigned

with my platoon lieutenant but I was assigned to a separate unit which was made up of a squad of men that was made up from each of the three line companies. We kind of operated as a separate unit not with the company for about two weeks in that mode. We were assigned missions by the battalion with this officer directing us. Frequently we would be on patrol or go this, that and the other place to do reconnaissance type things. When G Company jumped off and in the attack one of the platoons was caught in a open field. There were eight men killed crossing this open field. That occurred before we had been assigned to then cross that field. I was the first one to cross and was told to get to the other side. There was no direct fire at that moment. There was a lot of artillery going on. From the hill on the other side you could hear a lot of small arms fire. But in crossing that field I saw that near the other side there were five or six lumps on the field. I couldn't tell what it was but as I got closer I could tell they were GIs. Then as I got closer they all appeared to be dead. They had been killed crossing this open field. They were all out of the second platoon of G Company. There were eight of them that had gotten killed. As soon as I discovered that they were dead I kept on going. I got to a stream on the other side of this open field and crossed the stream and went up a hill into a wooded area. I had been told to get to the other side of the steam and wait. I was to let

them know once I got across that it was OK for them to cross. At this point I did not have any opposition but I was kind of shaken up seeing these dead guys because they were all friends and people I had bunked with from the second platoon on the way over. One of the very dramatic things was that I had to jump in the stream to get across. It was ice cold. I was not anticipating it was going to be ice cold. I had to wait until the rest of them crossed the field. Then we had to go up the hill to meet up with the rest of the platoon. This platoon supported G Company. Then I was sent back that evening because I was wet. They wanted me to go back for a couple of reasons. One, to take a message back to Headquarters. In the process I was able to get dried out, hang my clothes up in front of a fire, and sleep in the Headquarters. But one of my more compelling moments early... the other reason I was sent back early was because I had identified these eight guys who had been killed. And the First Sergeant called me in after I had given the Company Commander this message from the platoon leader. The First Sergeant had called me up to find out who I had identified. That was part of the process of confirming. In that context of telling him the names of these guys I started to cry because I was upset. The company First Sergeant, big tall Texan, six foot guy, was telling me you got to get control of yourself or something like that; war is tough! The bottom line is I don't think I cried

again for twenty years. Our battalion never went near St. Die. We went north and headed due east. We skirted St. Die to the north then went more or less due east, all the way to Selestat. For most of that time until the time we got to Selestat, I was in this battle patrol is what they called it. But what we were really doing was reconnaissance for the battalion then reporting back for them to move up the companies. I remember for awhile we would be with F Company and then with E Company. It seemed that very seldom we were with G Company. Selestat was hard. I know now what happened to B Company in Selestat. We went across the bridge the night of the 1st. But then we withdrew before night fall. I think what happened with B Company is they got trapped in there and the Germans attacked early in the morning of the 2nd. For some reason we pulled back and there was a river with a bridge that we could go over as infantry but you couldn't bring any equipment or vehicles across. It had been shelled and there were a lot of holes in the bridge. The infantry could pick there way across. The next day there was general advance and some small arms fire but no real fighting at that time. Now with the benefit of maps and study I know as soon as we had hit Selestat we had been going east almost in a straight line for about a week, maybe ten days. Then when we got to Selestat we turned north to go north past Strasburg all the way up into the Hagenaut. I remember Trukershime

was one town that is about due west of Strasburg. Then Agenell. Then on up to Weissenberg. By this time north of Agenell, we were moving steadily north without much opposition. One day we were moving single file along the road and the company commander called to me to take a patrol up to the top of the ridge to see what the Germans were doing in the next town. In that case the road was going more or less east/west and then going around the ridge and coming back on the other side. From this point he wanted me to go up the ridge to observe down in the town and report what they were doing. He said take a radio and a couple of men and tell me what is going on. The company commo?? sergeant heard this conversation and volunteered to go with the radio. We started up the hill. At this time, I am still a PFC I am not a sergeant, but he asked me to do this. About halfway up to the top of the ridge I heard a mortar go off in the town, a mortar round being fired over the ridge. I said we better find out what is happening here. We could hear it incoming. I said let's get down in the ravine that we were paralleling. That part of the hillside was deeply rutted. Difference in elevation from flat open ground down into the ravine was about 12 feet. All three of us almost dove down. The commo sergeant sat with his legs dangling on the break with the backpack radio on, talking on the radio. A mortar round went off only about ten feet away from him and the cone went

right up across his head. It killed him; literally blew the top of his head off. And he had volunteered to do this. Zack Zeigler has since researched and found one of his children that had been born and is now living in Kansas. I knew him. He had been one of the original cadre for the company. It was just one of these incidences that war is made of.

We went up to Wiessenberg and just north into Germany into the Siegfried Line. It was the worst fighting situations that I had in the whole war. It was four days and four nights; ninety-six hours of constant contact with the Germans. It was fighting, firing. At one point I fired at a German that was less than five feet away from me. He fired at me but we both missed. They were counter attacking almost hourly. We had eighteen men killed and over thirty wounded in the four days. One of the real disasters was we had to tie our own dead on the mules that were brought up to bring us ammo, rations and water. Then we had to skin the mules down to the bottom of the hill. The mule skimmers unit brought the mules to the bottom of the hill. It was almost a forty-five degree slope from the top to the bottom. We were not experienced in skinning mules but we had to do it. We came down off the hill and moved that night. We got on trucks and moved a short distance. We pulled down that hill and the regiment of the 45<sup>th</sup> division relieved us. We moved a short distance and waited there for a

while and then got on trucks. Then we moved that night all night long. Of course we did not know where we were going until we got there. We ended up in the Lorraine province. I found out later that we had moved about one hundred miles in the period of a night. In my own study now of what had happen, I found out that the 7<sup>th</sup> Army had moved troops from its right flank to its left flank to take over a portion of the line vacated by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army at the seam between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Army. Eisenhower had ordered Patton to take his right flank troops and move them to the west, to his left. So that he could take those troops and move them north to Bastogne. So there was a big, what I call a leap frog of units that was the key to the Allied containment of the Bulge by the prompt movement of twelve divisions. Basically, the flanking armies like the 7<sup>th</sup> moved troops into their left flank to take over position's Patton's left flank had pulled out to apply pressure directly at the Bulge. By leap frogging units the maximum distance in a unit moved was roughly 100 miles. While it required more units to move around it was able to be done in a short time and that contributed to the Bulge being contained.

I was in Lorraine roughly two weeks as it turns out. For the 409<sup>th</sup> and G Company that movement was great because we had two weeks, we were now in reserve. We had been for almost a month on the attack and now

when we moved to Lorraine 409th was in the reserve posture for the Division and the other two regiments were on line. I happen to know that some of my buddies in 411<sup>th</sup> got beat up pretty bad with that move but the 409<sup>th</sup> was pretty tame for two weeks. It was maybe the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> of January before we moved east. What happened was that the whole 7<sup>th</sup> army pulled out of Germany. We had been attacking into Germany with the Bulge. Eisenhower ordered the Seventh Army to pull out of Germany and cease the attack. These are major tactical overview of what happened that we as soldiers didn't know anything about. When we got to Lorraine things were very quiet and we were in a reserve mode. There was very little evidence of any war going on. We were not committed so we were probably five or so kilometers behind the lines. We started getting replacement in December and again in January because there were four intense days in late where December when we lost over 35 men in killed and wounded who had to be replaced. I later charted this many years later and came to a conclusion that the line company in my case our company was always typically 10 to 15 percent under strength. Casualties would be replaced but in a tardy fashion so that you were always 10 to 15 percent under strength. Your squads would never be twelve anymore. They were now eight to nine men in a squad. After Lorraine we moved back into Alsace. Again G Company moved into



a very quiet sector near Climbach. I remember directly having dug a foxhole that was only forty feet outside the front of a three story building that was kind of like the command headquarters for the Maginot Line. It was a non tactical building but that was where our command headquarters was. We had dug in outside the building in defensive positions. It was a quiet sector again. I presumed now that the battalion was in reserve and the company was part of that reserve at that moment. It was a quiet sector and the only time I got sick. I got to spend one night in that three story building. Late that night which was the second night we had to leave. We walked. What I didn't know is that we retreated. The whole regiment had to withdraw. G Company was the rear guard unit and we had to walk the whole eighteen miles. It was the worst conditions the roads were icy. One tank just slid off the road into a ravine. Once it started sliding because of the ice on the road it had no traction. If I fell down once in the eighteen miles I fell down fifty times. Near the end the guys were just giving up. I ended up carrying about four rifles. The guys would say they couldn't go anymore. At that moment I was a buck sergeant. While I was promoted to buck sergeant as assistant squad leader, I was also alternately acting as squad leader. Otherwise I would not have been responsible for carrying some of these rifles. You did it for your buddy but in my case I had a squad of men.

We ended up near Pfaffenhofen. Pfaffenhofen was one little village away. We were immediately west of Pfaffenhofen. G Company and my platoon were out in a farming village. A little farm house was about away and we were digging in a defensive line. Later that day they let us sleep. We didn't get there until 7 or 8 o'clock in the morning. They let us sleep for awhile. Then we had to start digging in. The Moder River was just south of where we were. This was because of Northwind. To account for Northwind having made a penetration. Northwind resulted in five entire line companies of the 45<sup>th</sup> Division, 157<sup>th</sup> to be wiped out.

As I was digging in I had somebody yell, "Rogers", and I had to report into the farmhouse to the Company CP. The word was to get your gear, you are leaving. The cryptic description of where I was going was probably to train anti-aircraft artillery men for infantry. As it turns out myself and another man who was in the picture in the *Cactus Patch* with me, Bill Ham from the 4<sup>th</sup> platoon, also a buck sergeant, were being sent to another division. We didn't know this until later that night. What we didn't know was that each company in the entire Corp. Every company in the division was assessed two NCOs per company. We were being sent to replace the cadre of one of those companies in the 45<sup>th</sup> Division that had been wiped out. All of these things didn't unfold until later. We got on the

truck and moved no more than 15 kilometers. We ended up going from our battalion to our regiment to their regiment and then to their battalion. That was only about 15 to 20 kilometers away. Until we got to where we were going we had no idea where we were going or any idea of what was happening. So I had been transferred to another division. I remember sitting in a kitchen of a farmhouse being assigned to a platoon and its company. Regarding the other three guys that were with me; some of them did not even know if they had been promoted or not. We were all supposed to be NCOs with some sergeant's rank. One of them had no record of a promotion. Of the four guys I was documented as having the oldest promotion so I was made the platoon sergeant at first and the other three were made squad leaders. We bedded down in that farmhouse, not introduced to the men yet. The next morning when we got up I was told that a staff sergeant had come in from the third division. He was assigned to this company and this platoon. He outranked me. He became the platoon sergeant and I became the platoon guide. The other three men, I now know came from the third battalion. I have run into people as late as two years ago. I am now sure that the other three guys came from the third battalion of the 409<sup>th</sup>. One guy died. We had a reunion in Schaumburg, in '04. He visited me. He lived in Chicago. He came out to the hotel. He had been my

squad leader for that next six months. And he never knew what company he came from. I found out later that it had to be one of the letter companies in the 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion. He passed away less than a year later of natural causes. Then another guy who passed away fifteen years ago never knew or could remember what company he had come from. I had found them after the war and communicated. I found the guy in Texas who passed away fifteen years ago quite by accident. My family visited with him. He was only living forty miles west of where I was living at that time in Texas.

After I was assigned to the 45<sup>th</sup> we went back on line; we trained with the troops. They had all green privates that came from the reppo depot. We trained with them to get familiar with each other for a week in the snow a yard deep in the field. We went back on line for about a week in one place then moved to another in defensive positions. And in this other place I volunteered to take a patrol out. When you did that all the guys that went out got a day in Nancy on pass for one day. So I spent my birthday in Nancy on a pass. Except for being away there wasn't much to do. About the 18<sup>th</sup> of February which was now about 3 weeks after I had been transferred. The whole 45<sup>th</sup> division was pulled off the line and we had a three week rest period so they could rest and recoup. I found out later that this guy came from the third division had been sent because he was a

malingering. I didn't know and didn't realize it until I started putting things together in 1993; that he was never to be found and he was always hiding. What I did find out in 1993 to cement the whole problem. This guy got a battlefield commission. After the war ended he put himself in for a Silver Star for doing what I did in Shaupenberg, Germany later. The complete description of the Silver Star Award was to just remove his name. The words had been the Platoon Sergeant's. It should have been Rogers in terms of what it said. And Kirby got the Silver Star. After this happened there were two major events in which I took over. We never could find Kirby. I took over and did whatever needed to be done and never thought anything about it until I now found out he had put himself in for a Silver Star. But in the meantime, when we were in the rest period our platoon had to put on a demonstration to the whole regiment for how to attach a fortified position. The reason my platoon was picked was because we had a brand new lieutenant from Fort Benning who knew the doctrine and coached us to put this demonstration on. And Kirby acted as a narrator with the microphone for the whole regiment sitting on the side of a hill with a regimental commander in attendance. I was the provisional squad leader to put the demonstration on. Kirby was sent back to get awarded a direct commission because of the excellence of the performance of our operation. Then when

we jumped off on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March we got caught. I organized what was left when we got trapped. I organized all the remnants of our company and we chased the Germans off. G Company was basically a reserve company in an attack; the objective was the top of the hill. The Germans dug in but when the E and F companies went through the Germans were asleep. E and F companies achieved their objective. G Company came along an hour later, single file following E and F Company. The Germans dug in at the top of the hill. We get to a ravine where a tree line was and they find a German who had gotten up out of his foxhole intercepted by this line of G Company. They started arguing about what to do. He let go. He did not bring his weapon with him. And the officers shouting and talking loud woke all the Germans up. They started firing at us. The first two platoons had been moving anyway when this German appeared. That stopped the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> platoons. We got into a big fire fight. My platoon leader was shot in the stomach. The fourth platoon leader which was his OCS buddy went over to help him with the medicine and the medic. We were only about 100 yards from the Germans as we were walking. They fired a Panzerfaust. We were behind a little where the road went parallel out in a side hill configuration. You had a ridge that was about four or five feet and we were behind that for protection. They were dug in on top of the hill. The Panzerfaust killed the

two lieutenants and the medic. That left me the ranking officer. I didn't even think where Kirby was. I realized later that he was gone; he was hiding. We got through the Siegfried Line. We drove the Germans off. I held everybody there because I did not know what the objective was. I didn't want to go wandering around not knowing. Sooner or later they sent a whole company of men back to find us. They brought us out. I reported to the company commander. I never said anything about Kirby. We went all the way to Aschaffenburg which was east of the Rhine. Even when we went through Siegfried Line where it was very tough I didn't know where Kirby was. I more or less commanded the platoon. In Aschaffenburg, when it took us seven days to take the town the regiment had fifty men killed. We lost three killed and about fifteen wounded. Some fanatical major, SS, was defending the town. The forward elements were more than fifty miles beyond while we were back trying to take Aschaffenburg. The demonstration that we put on, Kirby was awarded a direct commission. When we got to Aschaffenburg he was still the platoon sergeant. Another platoon leader got killed in Aschaffenburg, second one. The incident in which he got killed I would have been killed if I had kept on running. But I fell flat on my face running up an eight foot high pile of brick. Because of the bombing the bricks in the street had been windrowed up. We had to go

over that window of bricks. I fell down but the lieutenant kept running and he got killed. We were trying to take the schoolhouse. I stopped everybody when the lieutenant got killed. The Company Commander came out and wanted me to find Kirby. I sent my men out looking for Kirby. Nobody could find him. That is when I realized that Kirby had been hiding and was now hiding. The commander told me to take the men and go through the church, go around the other side and attack the school from the other side which we did do. We took the building. Kirby went back to get his commission. I was recommended for a direct commission then. But they shut them off for all of Europe because they were coming in the pipeline with the war ending. But I did get my commission in 1948. I stayed in the reserves after the war.

There were a number of other incidences after that of intense fighting that we had in Nuremberg and then we took Dachau, the concentration camp. The 45<sup>th</sup> took the concentration camp, 157. I lecture a lot on that. I ended up the war in Munich. Dachau is about 20 kilometers from the center of Munich, northwest of Munich. Our objective the next day was Munich. The war ended for us 30<sup>th</sup> of April when we took Munich. I was then the platoon sergeant. I stayed in the Army because I didn't want to fight another war as a private in the infantry. I stayed in the reserves for



thirty years and went all the way to Full Colonel in the engineers. I transferred from infantry to engineers. I ended up commanding engineer reserve units. George and I ended up getting The Society of Engineers Wheeler Metal for outstanding contributions to engineer training.

The 45<sup>th</sup> was reconfigured to take the low point men and go to Japan. When that reorganization was done in July I became a First Sergeant of the Company. We got a lot of low point troops from the 410<sup>th</sup>. Honshu was the so called feint. It was the island of Honshu but that was in November. It was considered a diversion. It was a significant attack on Japan. The main invasion was going to come on the Main Island in the Tokyo Bay region. The 45<sup>th</sup> was going to be part of that. But of course we didn't have to. The bomb was dropped. We came on back because we had been processed when the bomb dropped. We actually landed in Boston on the ninth of September. The other two regiments of the 45<sup>th</sup> landed in New York. I think they were a little bit earlier than our regiment. I went on a furlough from Munich to England and met a girl in London. But once it was decided that we were coming home, the war ended. We had originally planned to get married on the basis that I was going to be assigned in Germany. We the war ended I simply told her goodbye. But we ended up getting married a year later. We were married twenty years. We have three adopted children. We divorced

in '66. The oldest of the children graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice. He is a Deputy Chief of Police in a small town in Massachusetts. At the time of the divorce the two youngest children were ten and eleven. I got into Civil Engineering from my ASTP involvement. I had a false start with a football scholarship with the University of Georgia which didn't prove out. Then I transferred to take Civil Engineering at the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, as a civilian student not a cadet. My father and both his brothers went to the Citadel. I finished pretty high academically and went on to MIT and finished with a Master's Degree. I worked until I was seventy-seven. I have just been made a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. There are only 193 living Distinguished Members.

I didn't know about the 103<sup>rd</sup> Association until 1986. There are a lot of things about that that I am lamenting, but nonetheless it happened. I had a lot of telephone numbers and addresses for many of my friends and I made contacts. But they were all fleeting more or less. Because of the contacts I did send a lot of Christmas cards in the early years to these addresses. And a couple of the guys, one of them in that picture, knew that I went to MIT. In the mid 80s he called the MIT Alumni and found my name and called me up in Houston. I lived in Massachusetts until 1981 then moved to

Houston for seven years. In that time he called me and told me about the reunion. The first one I attended was in Hot Springs Arkansas in 1986. From then on I was only intermittent in attending because I also got involved with the 157<sup>th</sup> Infantry of the 45<sup>th</sup> Division. They were the Colorado National Guard and they had their separate reunions, because the 45<sup>th</sup> Division was the Oklahoma National Guard. They had their reunions in Oklahoma City. They wanted to hold a reunion in the Boston area in 1980 because the whole Division was sent east in 1942 to go to Fort Devens and train at Devens. It ended up they married Massachusetts women so they wanted to have a reunion in 1980 in Massachusetts. The guy that ran it was the former Battalion Commander. Knowing that I lived in Massachusetts he called me and asked me if I would help stage the reunion; which I did. From then on I got involved in their reunion. When I got involved with the 103<sup>rd</sup>, I could not go to both reunions every year.

I was president of the 157<sup>th</sup> Regimental for about three years, '01, '02, and '03. I had been a chairman of their reunion in '00 and '01 in years. I attend their reunions and I am going there this year. Now that I am retired I have time. I retired in '02. I had 50 years of work. With my experience, President of the 103<sup>rd</sup> is pretty routine. The 157<sup>th</sup> will do their reunion with the 45<sup>th</sup> Division in Oklahoma City.

Additional topics:

.....or panic is the word I am trying to think of with the 103<sup>rd</sup>, however with 45<sup>th</sup>, my term was that these guys were battle happy. They have been in battle for a year and a half and turned over many times in terms of the people cycling through the infantry. The moral and the discipline was none existent. I was caught in the middle of this. My understanding of discipline was from the 103<sup>rd</sup>. I thought that was the only way to go so I applied that. And then later again in my reserve I treated it with discipline because. I rationalized it because you are not going to find yourself overseas in a difficult situation and not have any discipline. Contrary to other reserve units I applied strict discipline. It paid off in the effectiveness and particularly the reenlistment in reserves personnel. I had superb NCOs that were happy to serve and stay in. We were recognized for the outstanding work that we did and that we were a competent unit. We do a lot of community work through out Southern Massachusetts. I was born in South Carolina and grew up in Florida. Once I left Florida to go to college I never went back. My grandfather was a pioneer in Florida. He moved there in 1876. Orlando didn't exist at that time. He lived in a town.....miles northeast and moved to Orlando fifteen years later after he moved down there. He was a child when he moved down there. After MIT I fell into real exciting work and

never went back to Florida. Two of my eight children with my second wife are teachers and I have a son who is a Captain on a sailing schooner that sails up and down the Hudson River. They have school children come on in middle school groups that are tutored and taught how to sail the ship. They are also tutored in math and physics. My son is one of the chief tutors as well as Captain of the schooner. My older boy is not into teaching anymore although that was his education. He went to University of Virginia and got two degrees in 1992. He is still living there. He has severed his working commitment. He was employed by the school's athletic department in which he managed female athletic programs on all levels. He has left the school and is professionally the executive director of the Professional Lacrosse Association.

I am feeling very positive that I want to do something to refute Paul Fussell's position on a lot of things. I have read some of Standard. Standard has quoted him in his book and some of that stuff is terrible. What is terrible is his position on things. By coincidence, I have come in contact with some of Fussell's fellow officers who have confirmed some of my thoughts about Fussell. Fussell was 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 410<sup>th</sup>. Interestingly I was educated in engineering and you may know engineering curriculum is pretty crammed with engineering material. I was a few years into my career before I realized

I had to learn to write. Fortunately, I had a good mentor. But it was after my formal education that I learned to write. Mainly the engineering curriculum does not leave much room for writing. Most engineers don't know how to write.

Company G 409th Infantry 103rd Division  
European Theater of Operations - WWII  
EXCERPTS from COMPANY MORNING REPORT  
September 21, 1944 - May 8, 1945

CRRNSTON R. ROGERS

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21 Sept Departed Camp Howze, TX @ 1750 for Camp Shanks, NY.

24 Sept Arrived Camp Shanks, Orangeburg, NY @ 1755.

5 Oct Left Camp Shanks - Arrived NYPOE @ 2030.

6 Oct Departed NYPOE @ 0907 on the USS MONTICELLO for ?. The Monticello was the former Italian luxury liner "Conte Grande".

20 Oct Arrived MARSEILLES, France @ 1542 - landed dockside via lighters & departed docks at 1745 by foot for staging area.

21 Oct At 0200 company bedded down - awoke @ 0600 & continued to Staging Area #2, arriving @ 0800.

5 Nov Departed Staging Area #2 @ 0830 by motor convoy on move to 7th Army front - stopped at VALENCE in bivouac for night.

6 Nov Continued motor convoy North-bivouac near DIJON for night.

7 Nov Continued motor march North in driving rain (open trucks) - moved into assembly area near CHARMES @ 2100 after 3-day motor march of 400+ miles.

8 Nov In bivouac @ 1700 vicinity of BROUVELIEURES - allowed to build fires to dry out clothing & equipment-issued LIVE AMMUNITION! THIS IS IT!!!!

9 Nov Departed assembly area @ 1100 by motor convoy w/light rain which turned to snow prior to detrucking @ 1500(had moved 15 kilometers to edge of VOSGES MTS) - Continued move to front (UP-HILL) by foot to relieve elements of the 7th Inf of the 3rd Div. @1700 in vicinity of LeHAUT JACQUES w/heavy snow now falling - E & F on line w/G in reserve.

16 Nov PURPLE HEART HILL, vicinity of TAINTRUX, G Company in ATTACK (entire 103rd Div) to secure hill mass to immediate front and suffered heavy mortar barrage evening of 16th and then moved to next hill with light opposition and relieved on the 20th by the 411th Inf. KIA(14): Ashton, Ballesteros, Brown, Daoust, Early, Edgell, Hanks, Hernandez, Lancaster, Maurer, Perrymen, Potter, Sabotta, Snyder; DOW(1): Dorgan; WIA(25): Randall, White, Herbert, Cooley, Todarello, Hiss, Thomas, Frey, Baker, Sawery, Camp, Dobbetin, Whittington, Ankowitz, Foltz, Compton, Taylor, Wilkins, Hougland, Milobar, Armstrong, Jackson, and Medics Blaske, Kitzman & Slavens.

20 Nov

21 Nov Continued to move east; Received 14 replacements-First of many.

23 Nov Thanksgiving Day-vicinity of LaBIERE; established road block vicinity of COLROY LaGRANDE. WIA(1): Fisher

24 Nov KIA(2): Friedlander, Teschendorf;

25 Nov Vicinity of LUBINE, France; WIA(3): Bloomfield, Hatcher, Mays.

26 Nov Vicinity of LaLAYE, France

28 Nov Vicinity of WIELERN, France - assigned objective of SELESTAT; Received 10 replacements.

29 Nov THANVILLE - received 8 replacements; WIA (4): Lt Holz, Yacinich, Caballero, Post

2 Dec SHERWILLER-KIA(1): Fitzgerald; WIA(8): Lt Hoaglin, Pierce, Bradshaw, Scoles, Meese, Wallin, Johnson, Weston

3 Dec Attack to take SELESTAT (largest town G Company took to-date); WIA(4): Lt Robertazzi, Lt Hall, Aguirre, Cogozzo

5 Dec DIEFENTHAL-Regiment in Reserve

7 Dec TRUCHTERSHEIM (Alsace)

9 Dec SHALKENDORF

10 Dec BITCHOFFEN

11 Dec FORSTHEIM - received 21 replacements

12 Dec KUTZENHAUSEN - in the attack

13 Dec WIA(1): Dapper

14 Dec BROMBERBACH

15 Dec OBERHOFFEN - KIA(1): Atterbury

16 Dec WEILLER - WIA(1): MacDonald

17 Dec RECHTENBACH, GERMANY!!!!!! (First of 3 7th Army Divisions to cross border)

18 Dec PILL BOX HILL - mountainous & heavily wooded - Company captured two Seigfried Pill Boxes & then spent 4 days fighting off bitter and constant counterattacks supported by tanks.

22 Dec KIA(13): Anicker, Chance, Gartrell, Havlichek, Higley, Howard, Kingsley, Lohman, Miller, Murphy, Nordland, Smith, Schmidt; WIA(22): Anderson, Armstrong, Congrove, Cramer, Daily, Eulinger, Grey, Harper, Harris, Harstad, Horkey, Johnson, Kochan, Kulish, Lehman, Leri, Miller, Nauman, Reno, Sylla, Tomaheck, Whetsell.

23 Dec Relieved by 179th Inf of 45th Div - Departed by foot to Rechtenbach and then to WISSEMBOURG - then 75 miles by night motor march to DIFFENBACH, France (Sarr Region due to "Bulge" shuffle)

24 Dec Received first showers(bath) since leaving Marseille-clean clothing issued; departed by truck for GUENVILLER

25 Dec A BEAUTIFUL & PEACEFUL DAY! (Witnessed huge flight of B-17's)

26 Dec Received 11 replacements - 409th Inf in reserve

27 Dec GUENVILLER - 103rd spread thin due to concentrations in the Bulge. Daylight hours spent digging-in thru alternate defensive positions in case of breakthru - at night there was constant patrol and outpost duty.

10 Jan WIA(1): Lt Brecht (Jan 2)

11 Jan MERLEBACH

12 Jan Departed Merlebach by motor convoy to LEMBACH (75 miles-back to Alsace) - occupying Maginot thru Line positions in defense; WIA(1): Scott (Jan 15)

20 Jan WIA(6): Born, Gajda, Kiddle, Moseley, Reno(on patrol), Sigglekow (all on the 20th)

21 Jan Withdrew starting @ 0500 from positions at Lembach, we were the last company of the regiment to leave and the engineers blew each bridge as we went 17 miles over icy roads with heavy snow and the men were constantly falling down. (Entire 7th Army was in a "Strategic" withdrawal) Arrived SHALKENDORF @ 1300 - began digging in defensive positions. WIA(1): McDonald (Jan 22)

25 Jan Defensive positions were continued to be improved and patrol in snow suits. WIA(1): Basara (Sgts Hamm & Rogers transferred to 157th Inf of the 45th Div)



30 Jan	BUESWILLER, France	Reserve
1 Feb	OBERMODERN, France	Defense
2 Feb	ZUTZENDORF, France	Defense
6 Feb	BUESWILLER, France	Reserve
8 Feb	Co. G given mission to raid enemy held town of KINDWILLER, France 2 kilometers behind enemy MLR. Co moved to la Walck and set out on foot at 0100. Enemy unusually alert. Resisting strong MG, burp gun, and S.P. fire. Artificial moonlight by searchlights helped us to reorganize. Ten PWs taken - 20 enemy dead and undetermined number of enemy wounded. WIA(19): Lts Hall & Ebel, Schoor, Pohlman, Murray, Cook, Vega, Olivas, Jofko, Bostick, Ferrere, Arnold, Wilks, Wade, Fowler, Olsen, Palacios, Phelps, Shepherd; KIA(7): Lacy, Cockrell, Fiamingi, Guck, O'Rourke, McQuarrie, Slavins (Medic).	
16 Feb	LA WALCK, France - Received 7 replacements WIA(1): Parton	
21 Feb	OBERSULTZBACK, France - Received 15 replacements	
24 Feb thru	Dawn of New Era - Passes: BJ Miller went to Nancy, France on pass	
15 Mar	Regiment in Division Reserve	
15 Mar	SCHILLERSDORF, France	
17 Mar	FROESCHWIELLER, France - vicinity of-preparing to attack	
18 Mar	Relieved 2nd Bn/410th Inf at GUMBRECHTHOFEN. Attacked to vicinity of FROESCHWIELLER and continued to LEMBACH, France (which we left Jan 21). WIA(3): Lt Edwards, Scoles, Kleman	
19 Mar	CLIMBACH, France - Received 5 replacements	
20 Mar	SIEGFRIED LINE - Co in reserve in support of 1st Bn - Rough going for them! WIA(1): Jackson	
21 Mar	Mobile reserve on tanks to exploit any break through. WIA(1): Fraise	
22 Mar	<u>TASK FORCE RHINE</u> -Company committed, broke through Siegfried, took villages of BIRKENHOST & BELLENFORN, Germany after taking REISDORF by storm.	
23 Mar	KLINGENMUNSTER, Germany - After a wild ride on tanks through the night, serious fights with enemy were encountered. Nevertheless advanced steadily killing and wounding an unestimated number of enemy. 100 PWs taken. Advanced from RECHTENBACH (which we left on Dec 17) through BERGZOFEN to Klingenmunster, Germany. WIA(14): Armstrong, Moseley, Eisenminger, Moreno, Winchester, Mays, Herbert, Roughley, Nunes, Tichy, Tapp, Nauman, Pond, Benfield; DOW(1) Sprague(4/3/45); KIA(2): Napolitano, Demars	
28 Mar	LUDWIGSHAFEN on the Rhine - Relieved 66th Inf Regt (71st Div) - Received 10 replacements	
1 April	Received 8 replacements	
2 April	HARXHEIM, Germany	
7 April	SCHAAFHEIM, Germany	
9 April	BAD ORB, Germany on Occupational Duties	
15 April	Received 11 replacements	

21 April Motor convoy by ducks to MERDELSBACH, Germany

22 April Moved by foot at 1015 - 21 April from MUDELBACH to SCHORNBURG - arrived 0145 - approx 5 miles then 2 kilometers to SCHLEICHTER.

23 April Company moved by foot from JESCENGEN to BRUCHEN committed and meeting little resistance (Relieved 2nd Bn/410th Inf); WIA(3): Lt Hoaglin, Shimek, Andrade

24 April Left positions at ERKENBRECHTWILLER, led attack, took HUBLEN and led attack to take URACH, Germany.

25 April Motor convoy from Urach to GEISLINGEN and by shuttle to BERNSTADT.

26 April From Bernstadt to LONGENAU by foot.

27 April By foot and motor to ALTENSTADT.

30 April Administrative to GARMISCH-PARTINKIRSCHEN - Reserve on Task Force

1 May MITTENWALD by truck - 10 miles

2 May Moved by artillery trucks - 17 miles to SEEFIELD, Austria

4 May Company left Seefield, Austria 1030 2nd May on foot, took towns of TELFS, MOSERN, PLATTEN, OB RETTNAU, LEIBILFING, DIRSCHENBACH and AIGENHOFEN. Arrived ZIRL 2030. Arrived INNSBRUCK by motor 2330 with lights blazing.

5 May AMPASS, Austria

7 May ALDRANS, Austria

8 May VE DAY (worked?)

TUNE - MY BLUE HEAVEN

Two companies had tried  
They got blasted outside  
"G" Company went in  
To Old Kindwiller

I turned to the right  
To shoot at a light  
That started the fight  
In Old Kindwiller

Just then a hand grenade  
Hit me on the head, A slug or two  
When I awoke, A burp gun spoke  
A mortar too

Just Jerry and Me  
And my old M1 made three  
They scared the hell out of Me  
In Old Kindwiller

N.B.: The foregoing has been copied verbatim from the Morning Report with no change except an occasional punctuation and parenthetical reference.  
Revised Aug 4/99

# Orlando Morning

ORLANDO, FLORIDA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1944

## Patch's Divisions Smash Into Nazi Industrial Area

### German Lines Pierced At Three New Points

PARIS [AP] Three divisions of the U. S. Seventh Army drove into Germany's industrial Palatinate yesterday at three points along a 12-mile front, four months to the day after they stormed the Mediterranean shore and began chasing the Germans 500 miles across France.

The first to make the crossing was the 103rd Division, which pushed across at 1:05 P. M. against sporadic opposition north of Climbach and four miles west of the French frontier city of Wissembourg in the northeastern corner of Alsace.

Forty-five minutes later the 45th Division crossed the border along wooded ridges at an undisclosed point, but in the same general area.

#### RIVER LINE BREAKS

Ten minutes later, the 79th Division burst the Lauter River line at the frontier near Scheibenhart, nine miles east of Wissembourg, and plunged into the fastnesses of Bien Wald Forest on the Rhine Plain some 11 miles west of the Baden Province capital of Karlsruhe.

A late front dispatch said the vanguards of Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's divisions, which moved up to the frontier while the Siegfried Line's guns were singularly silent, had come under fire of the fortifications and were pressing against outpost bunkers and pillboxes.

Other elements of the 103rd Division, overrunning at least seven towns in their path, were within a mile and a half south of Wissembourg, standing at the entrance of a gap leading into Germany.

Forces of the 79th Division smashed into Lauterbourg, at the east end of the invasion front between the Vosges and the Rhine, and were fighting within 10 miles of Karlsruhe, which is across the Rhine.

**Company G - 409th Infantry Regiment - 103rd Division - World War II  
Casualty Summary**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Casualty</u>			<u>Replacements</u>		<u>Net Company</u>	
	<u>KIA/DOW</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strength</u>
11/16	15	25	40				<del>148</del>
				11/21	14	14	162
11/23	0	1	41				161
11/24	2	0	43				159
11/25	0	3	46				156
				11/28	10	24	166
11/29	0	4	50	11/29	8	32	170
Nov Total	17	33	50		32	32	170
12/2	1	8	59				161
12/3	0	4	63				157
				12/11	21	53	178
12/13	0	1	64				177
12/15	1	0	65				176
12/16	0	1	66				175
12/22	13	22	101				140
				12/26	11	64	151
Dec Total	15	36	51		32	64	151
ToDate Total	32	69	101		64	64	151
1/2	0	1	102				150
1/15	0	1	103				149
1/20	0	6	109				143
1/21	0	1	110				142
1/25	0	1	111				141
Jan Total	0	10	10		0	64	141
ToDate Total	32	79	111		64	64	141
2/8	7	19	137				115
				2/16	7	71	122
				2/21	15	86	137
Feb Total	7	19	26		22	86	137
ToDate Total	39	98	137		86	86	137
3/18	0	3	140				134
				3/19	5	91	139
3/20	0	1	141				138
3/21	0	1	142				137
3/23	3	14	159				120
				3/28	10	101	130
Mar Total	3	19	22		15	101	130
ToDate Total	42	117	159		101	101	130
				4/1	8	109	138
				4/15	11	120	149
4/23	0	3	162				146
ToDate Total	42	120	162		120	120	146

## THE ROUTE OF COMPANY G - 409TH INFANTRY - 103rd DIVISION

In Europe During World War II

From Marseille, France to Innsbruck, Austria

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Scale</u> <u>Inches</u>	<u>Air</u> <u>Miles</u>	<u>Road</u> <u>Miles</u>
Marseille	Valance	7.7	121	133
Valance	Dijon	10.4	163	180
Dijon	Charmes	6.3	100	109
Charmes	Brouvelieures	1.9	30	35
Brouvelieures	Vicinity of LeHaut Jacques	1.0	16	18
LeHaut Jacques	Selestat	1.9	30	40
Selestat	Rechtenbach, Germany	3.6	56	73
Rechtenbach	Diffenbach, France	3.2	51	71
Diffenbach	Merlebach	0.7	10	15
Merlebach	Lembach	2.8	44	57
Lembach	Shalkendorf	1.0	16	20
Shalkendorf	Ludwigshafen, Germany	4.0	63	82
Ludwigshafen	Harxheim, Germany	2.0	31	41
Harxheim	Bad Orb (via Schaaheim)	4.0	63	82
Bad Orb	Shorndorf	6.2	97	125
Shorndorf	Erkenbrechtwiller	1.1	17	23
Erkenbrechtwiller	Geislingen	1.7	27	35
Geislingen	Altenstadt	4.7	74	96
Altenstadt	Garmisch-Partenkirchen	1.7	27	35
Garmisch-Partenkirchen	Innsbruck & Worgl	4.2	66	86
<b>Total Distance</b>			<b>1356</b>	
<b>Move to the Front</b>			<b>457</b>	
<b>Occupation Moves</b>			<b>248</b>	
<b>COMBAT MOVEMENT</b>			<b>705</b>	

**Cranston R. Rogers, P.E., Dist.M.ASCE**, is known for his contributions in designing transportation projects that pose unusual challenges. A retired colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, Rogers has at least 15 significant transportation projects to his credit, including bridge, tunnel, rail, and interstate highway endeavors.



Rogers's life has been punctuated with a number of firsts in transportation engineering. In 1955 he managed the design of the nation's first underground highway that met interstate standards and featured ramps between portals. He was also the first to use shear studs, reinforced earth, and pipe piles as foundation and pier columns on the interstate system. He proposed and planned the first long-distance overland movement of a nuclear reactor to its plant site, proposed and managed the first use of jacked highway tunnel boxes beneath railroad tracks in the United States, and was the first to suggest the use of Japanese soil mix for foundation support in this country.

Rogers also oversaw the work of U.S. Army Reserve engineering units in rehabilitating the army's training railroad at Fort Eustis, Virginia. He spearheaded the merger between ASCE and the Boston Society of Civil Engineers and has been the director, chair, or vice president of five national ASCE committees.

Rogers's projects have earned him numerous awards, including the Society of American Military Engineers' Wheeler Medal in 1979, the 2002 International Award from the British construction industry, ASCE's 2003 Charles Pankow Award for Innovation, and the Construction Innovation Forum's 2004 NOVA Award. The *Boston Globe* once stated that Rogers "shaped Boston for half a century."

He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from The Citadel and a master's degree, also in civil engineering, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A registered structural engineer in Massachusetts and a registered professional engineer in eight states, Rogers is also a graduate of the U.S. Army War College.

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