

Luke

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First I want to thank you for the 113rd patch. I know our VFW will like to put it in their display show case. I'm also sending you a couple pictures and three negatives if you'd like to make duplicates. I don't need anything back.

When we organized our unit at Claiborne in Dec. 1942. Sgt. Selby was our Communicator sergeant. Howell was the wire chief. Then Sgt Selby became 1st Sgt. of the whole Hq. 3rd Batt. Howell was advanced to communicator Sgt. and I became Sgt. of the wire section with 12 men. I file still at Claiborne. Sgt. Vickman was charge of about 6 men in Radio section and Sgt. Anderson charge of about 8 men in message center.

My memory of places over seas is very poor but I do know it was somewhere in France when ~~the~~ Cpl Isaacson ^{and I} were stringing a

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wire line to L Company. I was reeling a spool of light wire out and Isaacson was carrying a field telephone. Artillery shell landed close to us and his whole face and telephone were blown to pieces. I think he was from Nebraska. He wasn't one of our original men but was a replacement like you and Jim C. Cpl. Stage was also a replacement but we had to send him home at the time at the Siegfried from shell shock.

I guess you and Jim know all about the artillery and mortar fire that came in while we tried to get thru in Siegfried line. We were all trying to keep the wire lines in contact during that bombardment and at the same time Herskov who was with Lt. Cornell Reynolds sprained his ankle and the Colonel was calling for a radio operator and good old me who had schooling in

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radio communication was summoned
to take over. I did get a minor
shrapnel wound so I guess that's
when I was awarded the Silver Star

My wife Hazel's balance is very good and
has fallen a number of times. I once had to
take her to the emergency room at the hospital
to have some stitches on her head but she's
fortunate that she still hasn't
broken any bones.

I called Howell right after I came
home from the reunion to tell him who was
there and his son answered the phone
telling me Howell just got home from the
hospital. He had a heart attack but is
home again.

Take care and I don't think we will get
to any more reunions.
Leroy & Hazel

From: Leroy Schneller
Southeast City, WI

Former Sgt, Wire Section
Communication Platoon
Headquarters Co, 3rd Bn
409th

Silver Star recipient
Recommended (in 409th
History book) for
action at Reisdorf
but never received.

Dear Gary,

I'm sorry I didn't write back to you before. I got your letter for Feb and in March I had rotary cuff surgery on my right shoulder so that took care of any letter writing for some time. I'm still going back to the hospital twice a week for therapy but it's improving (so they say)

Your Dad sent me this yellow sheet with a number of questions and I filled it out to the best of my memory of 66 years ago. He also asked me to tell about the incident with Sergeant Silley when we were being strafed by German planes.

I don't recall where in France we were when one of the few times our Sergeant Monk and his kitchen crew caught up to us with a hot dinner. Sgt. Silley usually stayed with the kitchen crew but while we stopped at some farm yard in France for our noon dinner these German planes flew over strafing us. We all headed for cover some place and Sgt. Silley got so excited he was trying to crawl under a wagon in the farm yard by crawling trying to crawl thru the spokes of the wagon until some one had to rescue him and get him under the wagon. In the mean time we had a negro tank unit attached to us as they sprayed

bullet at the three planes. One plane
went away smoking.

one other incident I can recall.

In late Dec. 1944 when we tried to
enter Germany at the Siegfried line ^{with heavy} ~~and~~ ~~head-on~~
we pulled back to Paffenhauffer France to
regroup and dig in a defense line. K Company
called and said the telephone wasn't working
at their outpost across some river. I and
Burdette went to fix it and while we were there
we saw we Germans coming out of the woods.
We were asked to help circle around them and take
them back to headquarters for interrogation but
know sooner than that a whole company of
Germans came out so we and the K Company
scouted, rushed back across the river where
the our engineers had the bridge ready to
blow up. So we got back but without any
enemies for interrogation.

You need not include this inste
incident. I lost my wife last Sept. so I don't
plan to go to Schaumbur for the next reunion.

Thank you for all your work on
this Album of Remembrance

a fellow comrade

Teddy Schuller

P.S. My spelling and hand writing
could use some help.

Silver Star recipient Sgt. LeRoy Schneller Hdq. Co. 3rd Bn. 409th remembers,

“ We were in France and one of the few times Sgt. Mann and his kitchen crew caught up with us with a hot dinner it turned sour.

Our First Sgt. Sillery usually stayed with the kitchen crew but he was with us that day we stopped at some farm yard for our noon dinner meal.

Out of nowhere, 3 German planes came over strafing us. We all headed for cover but Sgt. Sillery got so excited he was trying to crawl under a wagon by going through the spokes. Someone ran out and rescued him and was able to get him under the wagon. In the meantime, we had a Negro tank unit attached to us and they sprayed the planes with 50 caliber bullets. One of the planes went away smoking .”

OVER



Wire section
comm. platoon, Hdqts Co. 3rd Bn. 409th Inf
wire section

? , Martin, Hicens, Pop. De Cesser
switch hood operator, Summers
Tobin Almoski, ~~Almonti~~ Almonti, Priest, Schuller
Glaze, Bardette, Cerretane
P. Baffenhofen, Alsace
Jan 1945
Our only beer ration

OVER

1965



1st 103rd reunion in 1965
Schneider, ? Twarogyski Bragg
Sillery, Schmelke Vickman Ellsworth
Hrdlovick
Hdqtrs. Co 3rd Bn 409th

Schwaz, Austria

May 1945

"A right to smile"

L-R Luke Martin, PFC

Bob Burdette, PFC

Gene Howell, LT/SGT

COMM. PLATOON

HDQTRS CO.

3rd BN

409th INF

103rd INF DIV

