

V -- BAR-LE-DUC TO MOSELLE POSITIONS

"Somewhere between Commercy and the Moselle River, I was told to report to the 318th CP. Starting out in the dark, our crew proceeded to the place on the road that had been marked on our map as the CP location. There was no one there, nor had we passed anyone since we left the 314th area. Thinking the infantry must have advanced farther down the road, we kept going. After another mile or so we came to a small road or lane that led off to the right. There were no signs or markers to indicate that the CP was down the lane but we decided to try it for a short distance. We were more than a little edgy at this point. A hundred yards or so down the lane we saw silhouettes of several buildings just ahead. We stopped and listened. Not a sound; not even a barking dog. Then we heard voices. They were not speaking English and didn't sound a bit like my high school French teacher. With pounding hearts we got the hell out there fast.

"Heading back to the rear we stopped again at the spot where the CP was supposed to be. Still no sign of life. Continuing on to the rear we found the CP in a grove of pine trees a good two miles or so from where we had been told it was. I was never so glad to see a GI in all my life." --- John Beard

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" Four of us were pulling guard duty: Walter Young, Wesley Dunaway, myself and another fellow whose name I just can't remember. We were stationed off to one side and some distance from the battery area. We operated in pairs. Young and I were off duty and I went to sleep in a nearby haystack. At some point Dunaway and his buddy thought they heard something and immediately called us. I was so sleepy all I could do was raise my head a little. The unnamed fellow thought he saw some movement in the haystack and had raised his carbine to fire when Young yelled: 'Don't shoot, I think that's Scarberry!' What they heard was a cow coming over the hill." --- Edward Scarberry

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"One day I accompanied a patrol whose mission was to advance into a dense forest (Foret de l'Avant Garde ?) and try to locate German outposts or positions. The patrol proceeded single file along a path which led down a very long hill. A deep, narrow ravine was on the left side of the path. All went well for the

first half mile or so. Then we saw another patrol coming up a path on the other side of the ravine just opposite our position. Both patrols simultaneously realized that those other guys had on a different color uniform. A few shots were exchanged and the German patrol quickly withdrew down the hill.

"Not long afterwards our patrol started back up the hill. We had not gone very far when we started to receive scattered rifle fire from our left. A pretty good fire fight then developed. After several minutes there were shouts in English and the firing stopped. Our adversary turned out to be a unit of the 319th which was on the 318ths right. Fortunately, there were no casualties." - John Beard

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"In the advance from the Commercy area to the Moselle, I was with "I" Co when Hill 326 was taken. It was here that I, like other FOs at different times and places, learned to hate fighting in a forest.

"Advancing through the patches of woods, our forward visibility was often limited to short distances. German fire was very intense and at one point the leading elements of "I" Co were pinned down. I was able to fire a mission but had to adjust with smoke in order to see where the rounds hit. Then I switched to HE and fired for effect.

"A little farther on I was on the ground with my FO Crew about ten feet or so from Lt.Col.(John) Snowden (CO 3rd Bn). He turned and said: 'Spread out and get away from me; when I go I want to go alone'.

"A day or so later, "I" Co moved down the east side of the hill in order to go into Marbache from the rear. We were moving through the forest and the sniping from across the Moselle was so intense at times that we had to stop and take cover. One of these times I squatted by a large tree. I looked at the tree and a few inches above my head was carved: 'Cleveland, Ohio - Sept 10, 1918.' The current date was Sept 10, 1944.

"Sgt (Leland) Treap, who was from the Cleveland area, was with me at the time. He wrote home to have someone check the veterans posts to see if anyone remembered carving the tree. They were unable to locate anyone. I've always wanted to go back to that tree and under the 1918 inscription carve: 'Savannah, Georgia - Sept 10, 1944.' History had repeated itself." --- Richard Lee

When we were in position in a wooded area somewhere just after Bar-le-Duc but before we crossed the Moselle, several of us came across the name and address of a WW 1 soldier that was carved on the side of a tree. We were thrilled. I wondered if the man was still alive and wrote him a letter. Somewhat to my surprise, he answered it a few weeks later.

Several years after the war was over, my firm transferred me to Kentucky. One day I went to visit him at his home in Richmond, Ky. We spent a very enjoyable afternoon talking about our experiences in the Service, particularly those overseas in two different wars some 25 years apart.

We never corresponded after that as I recall, and, unfortunately, I can no longer remember his name nor the army unit he was with.

--- Francis Moon --

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