



Spring, 2018

Hello Everyone; It's been a long winter, up until recently; I was running out of places to pile the snow.

2 Members Added, 1 Returning & 1 New

Reading through some of the old Ram News newsletters of the 1970's, there's one name that pops up over and over -- A Co.'s Leo Heroux. Dad and Leo also corresponded a few times back in the 60's and 70's; I still have a postcard that Leo sent to Dad in 1969.

Leo's interesting story begins the day after D-Day when he was sent to ask a farmer to move his cattle. Leo became acquainted with the farmer and his family, especially after Leo met his daughter. They were married after the war and lived in Bayeux, France where Leo operated a driving school. Leo returned to the US after his wife passed away, his sons and a daughter are living in France and his other daughter lives in Canada.



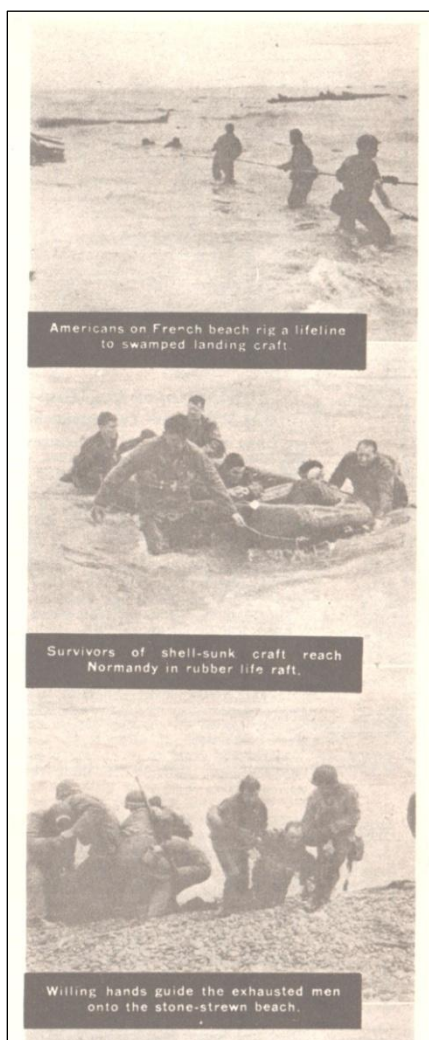
On a whim, I searched for Leo on the internet and found that he is living in Rhode Island and was recently presented the French Legion of Merit award. Since then Leo and I have exchanged several letters and phone calls. Graciously, Leo has sent several photos from his personal collection and a roster hand-

signed by the members of A Co. The photo on the left side of the page was taken in Germany in 1945; 3 German boys who worked in the kitchen with the A Company cooks pose with Leo.

Thanks to Leo and we're glad he's back in the 348th family.

Welcome to our newest member, Dan Schmitt of Grand Haven, Mich. Dan is the son of Eugene Schmitt, a member of H&S Co. Just like most veterans, Dan says his father didn't say too much about his experiences during the war.

Don't forget the 50th! Reunion coming up next year. Lonnie & Patti Sedillo are hosting the event, which will be held in Canyon City, CO, just uphill from Colorado Springs. They're busy planning activities, there's a lot to do in the Canyon City-Colordo Springs-Pueblo area.



Terry and Jane Mathisen sent a copy of a story written by Terry's dad, James, to the Atlantic (Iowa) News-Telegraph about his D-Day experience. It's a long story and James writes about a scene he witnessed on D+1 (June 7, the day after the landing). German snipers and artillery were still active. His company, B Co., had been able to regroup and James was handling communications on the beach. James writes: "I saw one of the officers under whom I served, but now with another line company in the battalion, plunge into the icy water of the channel, towing with him a heavy rope. He was bent on a mission to rescue a group of five men who had been afloat throughout the night in a disabled raft. He succeeded in the attempt. He exhibited great courage and daring in his work." James had described the dramatic rescue by Walter Sidlowski and Morris Selfe of the 348th. The rescue was also caught by photographer Walter Rosenblum and became a series of the most recognizable photos of the D-Day landing. Rosenblum's photos of the rescue on the left are copied from YANK newspaper, Walter can be seen in the middle photo

leading the raft to shore; Morris Selfe is behind Walter's left shoulder.

Photographer Rosenblum described the scene: "I saw this magnificent man swim out and bring some people off the sinking ship and bring the back in to shore and to me it was the picture of heroic beauty." For their actions on June 7, 1944 Sidlowski and Selfe were awarded the Bronze Star.

Francois writes that he is in the process of updating the 348th.com website. The Forum wasn't used on the old website and has been discontinued; the photos from the previous site and a link between the names in the roster a photos have yet to be added. If you were previously registered or would like to sign up, follow these steps to register for the new site:

1. Go to 348th.com
2. Click on "Members" at the top of the home page.
3. Click on "Register". Here you will enter your user name, first and last names, email address, and password.
4. Click on "Inscription" to register. Francois will reply granting you full access to the site.

NEWS FROM THE 40TH ENGINEERS

Command Sergeant Major Douglas Galick left the 40th in July for the 555th Eng. Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington. CSM Galick was instrumental organizing the Sgt. Art Sedillo promotion room at Fort Bliss. Replacing him is CSM Sean McGlensey, we wish both success at their new Engineer homes.

The 40th is currently at the midway point in their current deployment. Engineers of the 40th have been sent to 7 countries, including Kuwait and Iraq.

PHOTOS FROM THE 40TH



SGT. Eric Coney of C Co. conducted a week-long driving school at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Members of his company improved their proficiency operating and main-taining tactical wheeled vehicles in a variety of scenarios.



Congratulations to Captain Kelley, Captain Murray, and Major Weaver who received the de Fleury Medal at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The medal is named after Francois-Louis Telssedre de Fleury, a French engineer in the early American Continental Army and is awarded to individuals who have rendered significant service or support to more than one element of the Engineer Regiment. More photos and videos from the 40th can be found on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BatteringRams/>

That's about all for now. If you have a story, photos, etc. that you'd like to contribute to the next news letter, please send them to me. You never know--I might run out of ideas someday.

Tom Bryan

