

6

**A Personal  
Account Of  
WWII  
By Draftee  
#36887149**



1 - 5  
*A Personal Account of WWII By Draftee #*  
*36887149* is Published by:  
Clarence Blakeslee  
17 River Street  
Rockford, Michigan 49341

Copyright © 1989 by Clarence Blakeslee  
All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form  
or by any means without the prior written consent of the Publisher,  
except brief quotes used in reviews.

First printing: August 1989  
Second printing August 1991. Third printing Sept 1993.  
Printed in the U.S.A.



CAMP WALTERS  
1943

# Forward

I am writing of my war experiences from memory and the censored letters I wrote home. Writing material was scarce and difficult to keep dry and usable, and often my paper was smudged from smoke the few times we found shelter in covered foxholes. Some details, names and dates could be slightly in error, but still true to the event.

The extreme physical demands and hardships were as much a part of war as the horror of the moment, or the terror of the unknown ahead. I am speaking for the many who marched, crawled or prayed beside me in all of these experiences. A few I have mentioned in my notes, but many names were forgotten through time, and others I hardly got to know before we were separated by the fortunes of war.

My baptism of fire started very early in August 1944 south of St. Lo, France. I was assigned to a rifle company (Co. F 112) after three or four weeks of fighting and chasing the enemy across northern France. I was evacuated as a battle casualty - LIA (lightly injured in action). On returning to duty, I was assigned to Co. D 109 with whom I served all through the "Green Hell of the Hurtgen Forest." Then, I was sent to Co. M 112 in time for the Battle of the Bulge and the rest of the war. Because of my many assignments, my records, mail and pay didn't catch up with me for five months. It was a lonesome, but busy time.

I was awarded the "Combat Infantry Badge"; "The Bronze Star" medal, the EMETO Campaign bar with four bronze battle stars (N. France, Rhineland, Bulge and Central Europe) and the "Good Conduct Medal", which was the hardest for me to come by.

I fought with the 1st French Army in the stubborn Colmar Pocket. Our 112 Regiment received the Presidential Distinguished Unit citation for Extraordinary Heroism in Military Operations Against an Armed Enemy.

Cover painting by  
Tom Lea - Life Magazine



This picture shows 'the combat stare'. The first time I noticed it was in the Hedge Rows of Normandy. Soon I had it myself.

Dear Charlie, as company runner  
and messenger you must have had  
many experiences. I always felt  
glad that I did not have to leave  
my foxhole like the Co. runner -

You and I will always remember  
Aran, Hurtgen, Uelsalm, Trosspont  
and the Voges mts. I thank the Lord  
that he spared me to come back.

Your friend  
Clarence Blake



CLARENCE BLAKESLEE

17 River St.

Rockford, Michigan 49341