

War Era Story Project 2012

Submitted by: Cynthia Stephenson

Current home town: Vandalia

Age: 63

I am the daughter of a WWII veteran. My father, Harry L. Roberts, died four years ago, just two days before his 84th birthday. The following is a story that we believe appeared in the *Stars and Stripes* news. We are not totally sure since our copy doesn't include the heading of the paper or the date.

Brothers Reunited After 20 Months

Who said there wasn't such a thing as Brotherly Love? Well, Pfc Lawrence E. "Buzz" Roberts of Dayton Ohio and HQ Battery has proved that to be wrong, and here is his proof.

Lawrence has a brother who enlisted in the Army just one week before Lawrence was drafted. "Buzz" and his brother had their last get-together in November of 1943 when they had their furloughs planned to coincide. The brother, Pfc Harry L. Roberts who is also from Dayton, landed in France on D plus 11 with the 826th Aviation Engineer Battalion of the 9th Engineer Command. When we were holding the Germans in the Lorient Pocket, the two brothers corresponded regularly, but due to censorship regulations, Harry could not give "Buzz" the location of his unit. The only information "Buzz" was ever able to get were map coordinates of his brother's unit from an A.P. O. in Rennes. Before he could use this meager information to locate his brother, we moved to the Western Front.

After V-E Day, when censorship rules were lifted, "Buzz" was able to get the location of the unit he had been so anxiously waiting to find. Then we moved to Czechoslovakia. Again "Buzz" had to figure out how far and in what direction his brother was from our location.

Then came the moment of a life time. "Buzz" was chosen to take an officer to a point very near Frankfurt. He knew then that he would be able to see his brother. When he arrived at the Battalion C.P., he found that Harry was out of town on Detached Service. Had his one chance to see his brother been foiled?

"Buzz" left the C.P. and was on his way back to Winterberg when he met a big "semi" burning up the gravel. When the truck went by, he recognized his brother and turned around to follow him. Sure enough, the pursued vehicle went to the exact place that "Buzz" had just left. But there was only enough time left to give his brother the location of our unit and make plans for an early meeting.

And this week Harry got a three day pass which he spent here in Winterberg with "Buzz." They had plenty to talk about after that hectic ordeal of trying to locate each other. Now they're both "sweating out" as to which one will be a civilian first and how long it'll be before they'll both be back in Dayton, Ohio.

Three other brothers in the family also served during WWII. Sadly, there are only three surviving children from this large family today: The eldest brother James, a U. S. Marine veteran; a younger sister, Wanda and younger brother Jack. There are however, many, many cousins and extended family members to carry on their stories, and there are plenty of those to go around.