

GEORGE AND ME

**The Saga of an Infantryman in
World War II
and
The Company With Whom He Fought**

by

Tom Bourne, Jr.

Copyright © 2002 Henry T. Bourne, Jr.

Poem "There You Stand" on page vii is used by permission of the author.

The maps on pages 72 and 73 are from *When the Odds Were Even*, by Keith E. Bonn and are used by permission.

Most of the material in Chapter XIX is adapted from an unpublished oral history and is used by permission of Hugh Gillin.

All of the material pertaining to *Combat Company* on pages 153-170 is used by permission of all the members of the original editorial staff.

DEDICATION

To the memory of the members of Company G who went into Hell with us, but who could not come back. They are truly our "loved ones" as they would be if they were our brothers, as they were in all but blood.

From the last page of the original *Combat Company*:

IN MEMORIUM

*Pfc. Rudy Amezcua
Pfc. Adam J. Arzo
Pfc. Seth A. Cockrell
Pfc. Carl E. Henry
Pfc. Alby J. Kapsner
Sgt. Vincent Q. Kelly*

*Pfc. Donald W. Rector
Sgt. Warren T. Schneider
Pfc. Vito Sciara
Pfc. George R. Tetterton
Pfc. Francisco J. Vasquez
Pfc. Paul E. White*

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

CONTENTS

I.	Background	1
II.	The Beginning	4
III.	The Army	6
IV.	ASTP	8
V.	The “Century”	10
VI.	More Training – May & June	17
VII.	And Still We Train – July & August	26
VIII.	Making Overseas Preparations	32
IX.	Overseas and France	36
X.	Combat – First Blood	47
XI.	Prisoners of War	67
XII.	Winter Campaign (1)	74
XIII.	Alsace	79
XIV.	Winter Campaign (2)	83
XV.	A Replacement	89
XVI.	A Friend	92
XVII.	A Purple Heart	94
XVIII.	Breakout and Movement	109
XIX.	Hepatitis	119
XX.	The Beginning of the End	122
XXI.	Occupation	129
XXII.	Some Reflections and Observations	136
XXIII.	Berlin and the MPs	141
XXIV.	MP Routine	144
XXV.	Two Adventures	146
XXVI.	The End	149
	Epilogue	150
	Acknowledgements	152
	Appendix	154

There You Stand

There you stand
Tall and brave
Hand held in a four finger salute
Eyes straight ahead
Determined
Fierce

There you march
Strong and bold
Feet set in a pattern
Wind brushing against your face
Steady
On beat

There you watch
Scared and unsure
Rifle at your shoulder
Friends around you falling
Shaking
On the verge of breaking

There you cry
Mourning and sorrowful
Head bowed down
Eyes brimming with tears
Somber
Melancholy
Shattered

There you stand
Proud and tired
You have served your country
Made a difference
Boastful
Yet regret overcomes

You are a hero
And shall ever be remembered
By those who love you
Those who care
Forever

Hannah Goldfield, age 12
Veterans Day 1999

